

## **Call for Authors: Transcultural Aspects of Perinatal Health Care**

Sharon Chesna, Immediate Past President, NPA

The National Perinatal Association began the development of the resource guide: *Transcultural Aspects of Perinatal Health Care* – a compendium document of culture-specific chapters to help obstetrical, pediatric and other providers – in the mid-90s and has published in partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics since 2004. The purpose of this guide is to raise the consciousness of health care providers regarding the potential impact of culture and religion on the health and well-being of mothers, babies, and families. The NPA Committee on Transcultural Perinatal Care is undertaking the development of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this guide with the goal to publish an updated edition by Fall, 2010 and is inviting interested individuals with appropriate knowledge and expertise to assist the Committee with current chapters review and development of new chapters.

The current edition of the *Transcultural Aspects of Perinatal Health Care* includes 15 chapters, 4 of which focus on specific religious/faith-based practices. The other 11 chapters are culture-specific and include: Cambodian, Chinese, Cuban, Jamaican, Japanese, Korean, Mexican, Native American and more. Content of each chapter typically begins with a general introduction which provides an overview of the culture including some demographic and geographic information and follows with discussion of culture specific practices, traditions, beliefs on the following: health and illness, pregnancy/prenatal care and testing, labor and birth, postpartum and newborn care, psychosocial/spiritual characteristics, prenatal nutrition/cultural foods/diet and breastfeeding, pregnancy-related beliefs/taboo, neonatal care, family involvement, pregnancy termination/miscarriage and death/burial rites. The material is presented in a combination of narrative and outline form in order to provide both detailed and quick answers to common questions regarding cultural and/or religious beliefs and traditions. Author guidelines are available on the NPA website: <http://www.nationalperinatal.org/trans.php>.

Thousands of copies of the second edition of the *Transcultural Aspects of Perinatal Health Care* Resource Guide have been sold over the past five years. It is used as a reference publication, an ongoing resource for training needs and is required reading in many medical and nursing programs. NPA has been pleased with our publication partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics and expects that the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition will continue to be available through AAP. Consider lending your expertise to this important initiative, or encourage a colleague or anyone you know with expertise on a particular culture to contact either Cristine Glick or Sharon Chesna – Co-chairs of the Transcultural Committee for more information: [cglick@comcast.net](mailto:cglick@comcast.net), [schesna@mothersandbabies.org](mailto:schesna@mothersandbabies.org), or Kristy Love, NPA Operations Manager @ 888-971-3295 or [npa@nationalperinatal.org](mailto:npa@nationalperinatal.org)