

# Coast-to-Coast Conference

## 2026 Theme: Mechanisms to Metrics

*Translating Discovery from the Gulf to the Sound*

March 16-18, 2026

## Schedule

Monday, March 16, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:00 AM	Registration	Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute (NRI) Building 7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby 1250 Moursund St
8:30 AM	Welcome Addresses	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
8:50 AM	Introduction of the Kinney Lifetime Achievement Awardee	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
9:20 AM	The Hannah C. Kinney Lifetime Achievement Award Winner Lecture   Dr. Torliev Rognum	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
10:05 AM	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10:20 AM	Trainee Trailblazers	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
11:25 AM	Beyond the Cause of Death	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
	Parent Programming   Stars of Love: A Parent Gathering*	Respite Room
12:25 PM	<b>Lunch (Provided)</b>	
1:25 PM	Prevention in Practice	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
2:25 PM	Pathology in Transition: From Description to Discovery	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
	Parent Programming   Beneath the Same Sky: Parent Connections	Respite Room
3:25 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
3:40 PM	Prevention in Perspective	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
4:40 PM	Care in the Aftermath	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
5:40 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
5:55 PM	Memorial Service   Barb Himes and Nancy Maruyama	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium

### \*Stars of Love: A Parent Gathering

Parents are warmly invited to join us for a special gathering to create stars in honor of our children. Together, we will personalize stars that will become part of the "Coast to Coast Constellation," a moving tribute that recognizes the enduring love we carry for our babies and children. This is a quiet, supportive time to be among other parents who understand. All supplies will be provided.

### \*Meet the Researchers

During lunch, tables will have the name of a researcher in the middle. Parents will have the opportunity to choose which table they'd like to eat lunch at and chat with that researcher about their work and any other questions they may have about SUDP.

### \*Beneath the Same Sky: Parent Connections

Though our stories are different, the love for our children connects us. Join other parents where compassion, memory, and support meet.

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Tuesday, March 17, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:00 AM	Registration	7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby
9:00 AM	Counting SUID: Epidemiology, Equity, and Accuracy	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
10:30 AM	Death Scene Investigation: Methods, Measurement, and Meaning	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
	Parent Programming   Threads of Love*	Room of Remembrance
11:45 AM	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>	Lounge
	<b>Parent Programming   Meet the Researchers*</b>	Lounge
12:45 PM	Beyond the Variant: Genetics and Mechanism	
1:30 PM	Coffee Break	
2:00 PM	Workshop: Forensic Classification & Certification Under Uncertainty	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
3:15 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
3:30 PM	Workshop: Biological Triggers and Proximal Causes of Death	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
4:45 PM	<b>Banquet (dinner and drinks provided)</b>	Lounge

### \*Threads of Love

Parents, come create a Memorial Quilt Square in honor of your child, for the First Annual Coast-to-Coast Memorial Quilt. We will supply the quilt square and fabric markers. The squares will be sewn together, and we will add to them at each Coast-to-Coast Conference.

We will also have an opportunity for you to “Write your child’s story”. Though it seems like you will never forget anything about your child, our memories dim a bit as the years pass. Writing your child’s story can also be a legacy for your children and grandchildren. There will be a list of prompts to use, or you can use whatever is in your heart.

### \*Meet the Researchers

During lunch, tables will have the name of a researcher in the middle. Parents will have the opportunity to choose which table they’d like to eat lunch at and chat with that researcher about their work and any other questions they may have about SUDP.

Wednesday, March 18, 2026		
Time	Event	Location
8:00 AM	Registration	7 <sup>th</sup> Floor Lobby
9:00 AM	Neurophysiologic Mechanisms of Sudden Death	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
10:15 AM	Serotonergic Mechanisms of Vulnerability in Early Life	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium
11:30 AM	Closing Remarks	Blue Bird Circle Auditorium

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### Program

Monday, March 16, 2026			
<b>Kinney Award Lecture</b> Moderator: Nino Ramirez			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
9:20 AM	Torliev Ole Rognum, MD, PhD	University of Oslo	Kinney Award Lecture
10:05 AM	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>Trainee Trailblazers</b> Moderator: Nancy Maruyama			
10:20 AM	<i>Deborah Robinson</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
10:25 AM	Ryan Budde, PhD	Seattle Children's Research Institute	Development of infant apnea and drowning reflexes
10:35 AM	Andrew Bossert, BS	Boise State University	Modeling the Infant Head-Neck Complex to Investigate Positional Asphyxia Risk in Inclined Environments
10:45 AM	Holly Olvera, Graduate student	Boise State University	Quantifying the Relationship Between Breathing Biomechanics and Body Position in Infants
10:55 AM	Nicoletta Memos, PhD	Baylor College of Medicine	Elucidating the role of mu opioid receptors and their splice variants in neonatal autoresuscitation dysfunction to inform upon SIDS/SUID and Nows risk
11:05 AM	Emma Kotelnicki, OMS-I	Boston Children's Hospital	5-HT3 Receptor Binding and Hypoxia in the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
11:15 AM	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Beyond the Cause of Death</b> Moderator: Joanna Garstang			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
11:25 AM	<i>Darci and Robert Torres</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
11:30 AM	Adam Nack, BA Student	Boston Children's Hospital	Investigating Seizure Biomarkers in SIDS: A Study of Hippocampal Neuropeptide Y Expression
11:45 AM	Pulkit Khandelwal, PhD	Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital	High-resolution multi-model postmortem MRI tissue segmentation and cortical reconstruction of the human infant brain: Implications for SIDS Research
12:00 PM	José Otero, MD, PhD	Florida International University and Miami Neuroscience Institute	The Autopsy in SIDS and SUID: What It Can — and Cannot — Tell Us
12:15 PM	<b>Discussion</b>		
12:25 PM	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>		
<b>Prevention in Practice</b>			

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Moderator: Xaviera Bell			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
1:25 PM	<i>Eric Sage</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
1:30 PM	Shannon Paul, MCH Specialist	Bo Paul Project	Maternal Health Advocate in Rural Communities
1:45 PM	Destiny Stokes, MPH	Program Director, First Candle	From NICU to Community: Reinforcing Safe Sleep Prevention Across the Care Continuum
2:00 PM	Devon George, MSN, RN	Chief Program Officer, Cribs for Kids	Prepared Professionals, Protected Infants
2:15 PM	<b>Discussion</b>		
Pathology in Transition: From Description to Discovery Moderator: Nicoletta Memos			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
2:25 PM	<i>Shannon Paul</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
2:30 PM	Panagiotis Kratimenos, MD, PhD	Children's National Hospital	Regional Vulnerability in the Preterm Brain
2:45 PM	Robin Haynes, PhD	Boston Children's Hospital	Neonatal Screening Card Proteomics Reveals Developmental Deficiency – associated Biomarker Candidates for SIDS Risk in Preterm Neonates
3:00 PM	Rita Machaalani, PhD	University of Sydney	Regional Brain Pathology in SIDS: What We See — and Where to Look Next
3:15 PM	<b>Discussion</b>		
3:25 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
Prevention in Perspective Moderator: Devon George			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
3:40 PM	<i>Tisha Dolby</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
3:45 PM	Mary Nyantaro, PhD	MRC/UVRI&LSHTM Uganda Research Unit	Missed Prevention Opportunities: A Qualitative Study of Health Worker Knowledge and Counselling on Infant Safe Sleep and Sudden Unexplained Infant Death in Uganda
4:00 PM	Christy Schunn, LSCSW	Executive Director, The KIDS Network, iNC	Reaching Critical Mass in Safe Sleep Messaging to Shift Behavior: Strategies and Barriers
4:15 PM	Gina Lowell, MD, PhD	Rush University Medical Center	Gimme Shelter: Preventing SUID - More than Just a Crib Away
4:30 PM	<b>Discussion</b>		
Care in the Aftermath Moderator: Gina Lowell			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
4:40 PM	<i>Carmel Harrington</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>

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4:45 PM	Allegra Bonomi, BS	Semi per la SIDS - The Italian Parents Association	Discreet Video Support for Bereaved Families After Sudden Infant Death
5:00 PM	Barb Himes, IBCLC, CD	Director of Education and Bereavement Services, First Candle	Burdened Beyond Loss: Families Navigating Grief Amid Medical Decisions, Social Scrutiny, and Systems of Fear
5:15 PM	Xaviera Bell, MS, PFP, cHET, CBD, CLE	Executive Director, Zeal of Xander, INC	Grieving While Black
5:30 PM	<b>Discussion</b>		
5:40 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
5:55 PM	<b>Memorial Service</b>		<b>Barb Himes and Nan Maruyama</b>

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<b>Tuesday, March 17, 2026</b>			
<b>Counting SUID: Epidemiology, Equity, and Accuracy</b>			
Moderator: Laura Gould			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
9:00 AM	<i>Allegra Bonomi</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
9:05 AM	Angela Bachim, MD	Baylor College of Medicine	Improving local SUID data through Harris County Child Fatality Review Team
9:20 AM	Richard Johnston, PhD	Data Scientist, Microsoft	US States paid leave impact on SUID rates
9:35 AM	Abby Collier, MS, DrPH	Director, National Center for Fatality Review & Prevention	Gaining a Deeper Understanding of Sleep-Related Deaths Through Fatality Review
9:50 AM	Barbara Ostfeld, PhD	Program Director, SIDS Center of New Jersey and Professor, Division of Neonatology, Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School	Variability in the Use of the Diagnostic sub-categories of Sudden Unexpected Infant Death
10:05 AM	Kyran Quinlan, MPH, MD	Rush University Medical Center	SUID Risk, Risk Perception, and Prevention
10:20 AM	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Death Scene Investigation: Methods, Measurement, and Meaning</b>			
Moderator: Kyran Quinlan			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
10:30 AM	<i>Savannah Lusk</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
10:35 AM	Yafa Benavidez, Graduate student	Boise State University	Preliminary Quantification of Positions, Proximities, and Airway Risks in the Bedsharing Environment
10:50 AM	Elaine Bouyer, MS, D-ABMDI	Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences	Pediatric Death Investigations
11:05 AM	Joanna Garstang, MBChB, MRCPCH, PhD	University of Birmingham and Chair, UK Association of Child Death Review Professionals and Chair, ISPID	How to involve families in Child Death Review.
11:20 AM	Laura Gould, MS	NYU Grossman School of Medicine	Expanding Our Investigative Lens: Crib Videos in SUDC
11:35 AM	<b>Discussion</b>		

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11:45 AM	<b>Lunch (provided)</b>		
<b>Beyond the Variant: Genetics and Mechanism</b>			
Moderator: Dipak Patel			
Time	Presenter	Affiliation	Title
12:45 PM	<i>Brandy Valentine</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
12:50 PM	Erik Buczkowski, MPH	Data Manager, SUID and SDY Case Registry Data Coordinating Center	SUID and SDY Case Registry Update on Phenotypic and Genomic Data
1:05 PM	Nino Ramirez, PhD	Director, Norcliffe Foundation Center for Integrative Brain Research at Seattle Children's Research Institute	Genetic Determinants of Physiologic Vulnerability
1:20 PM	Alexandra Keefe, MD, PhD	Seattle Children's Hospital	From Fragments to Full Stories: The Potential of Long Read Sequencing in Evaluating Cases of SIDS
1:35 PM	<b>Discussion</b>		
1:45 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>Workshop: Forensic Classification &amp; Certification Under Uncertainty</b>			
2:00 PM	Facilitated Discussion   Joanna Garstang		
3:15 PM	<b>Coffee Break</b>		
<b>Workshop: Biological Triggers and Proximal Causes of Death</b>			
3:30 PM	Facilitated Discussion   Kyran Quinlan		
4:45 PM	<b>Banquet</b> (dinner and drinks provided)	<b>Reception and Seating</b>	
5:15 PM		<b>Banquet Dinner and Program</b>	
6:15 PM		<b>Closing Statement</b>	

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<b>Wednesday, March 18, 2026</b>			
<b>Neurophysiologic Mechanisms of Sudden Death</b>			
Moderator: Elham Ahmadzadeh			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
9:00 AM	<i>Nancy Maruyama</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
9:05 AM	Taylor Parsons, Graduate student	Baylor College of Medicine	Loss of SERT Impairs Neonatal Autoresuscitation During Repeated Bouts of Hypercapnic Anoxia
9:20 AM	Dipak Patel, Graduate student	Baylor College of Medicine	The Role of Htr1B in the Neonatal Autoresuscitation Reflex and its Implications in Sudden Infant Death
9:35 AM	Isabella Caruso, Graduate student	Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital Case Western Reserve University	Delayed arousal responses in a rat model of SIDS
9:50 AM	Jeff Noebels, MD, PhD	Baylor College of Medicine	Channelopathies, Network Synchronization, and Sudden Death
10:05 AM	<b>Discussion</b>		
<b>Serotonergic Mechanisms of Vulnerability in Early Life</b>			
Moderator: Robin Haynes			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Title</b>
10:15 AM	<i>Darryl Heino</i>		<b>Parent Session Introduction</b>
10:20 AM	Elham Ahmadzadeh, PhD	Dalton Cardiovascular Research Center, University of Missouri	Maternal Serotonin Excess Reprograms Brainstem Serotonergic Development and Autonomic Regulation in Neonates
10:35 AM	Caroline Magnain, PhD	Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging and Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital	Localization of the infant serotonergic system in a multimodal, multiscale dataset
10:50 AM	Mark Olchanyi, Graduate student	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Serotonergic Defense Network I: Structural Connectivity among Serotonergic Medullary Nuclei
11:05 AM	James Leiter, PhD	Geisel School of Medicine, Dartmouth College	Serotonergic Defense Network II: Neural function and potential reconfiguration to support autoresuscitation
11:20 AM	<b>Discussion</b>		
11:30 AM	<b>Closing Remarks</b>		