



American Academy of Nursing

transforming health care policy and practice through nursing knowledge

Barry Eisenberg
202-777-1174
Barry_Eisenberg@aannet.org

American Academy of Nursing Designates Dr. Sarah Rhoads an Academy Edge Runner for Angel Eye Web-Camera System

Nurse Redesigned Technology System Provides Parents with Ability to Virtually Communicate with Hospitalized Neonates

Washington, D.C. (January 23, 2017) — The American Academy of Nursing today announced the designation of Sarah Rhoads, PhD, DNP, WHNP-BC as an [Academy Edge Runner](#) for Angel Eye Web-Camera System. Dr. Rhoads is the Primary Investigator and program director at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences, Center for Distance Health. The Edge Runner initiative recognizes nurse-designed models of care that impact cost, improve quality and enhance consumer satisfaction.

“The Academy is honored to recognize Dr. Sarah Rhoads for her remarkable work in using technology to improve communication and promote bonding between parents and premature or ill infants who are unable to go home from the hospital with his or her family,” said Academy President Bobbie Berkowitz, PhD, NEA-BC, FAAN.

Hospitalized infants frequently experience delayed developmental milestones because they cannot hear the sounds of their mothers and other family members. The [Angel Eye™ System](#) allows for a password protected, HIPAA-compliant and continual one-way video feed from the hospitalized neonate’s isolette to the user, as well as a one-way audio feed from the user transmitted to the neonate through an audio-controlled system that safely controls decibel levels. Angel Eye™ also implements a first of its kind two-way chat feature where parents and Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurses can communicate through the portal.

“These technological capabilities enable parents and family members to talk, sing or read to their neonate while watching the reaction of their neonate from a distance,” said Dr. Rhoads. Enhanced parent communication has been proven to decrease stress and anxiety in mothers and fathers, including the added financial stress associated with traveling to visit a hospitalized neonate. With the average NICU length of stay being 20 days at an average cost of \$3,000 per day, Angel Eye helps alleviate the additional financial hardship of travel to the hospital, often a significant distance away, while enabling parents and family members to bond with their baby.

From 2010 to 2015, 1023 families and over 2600 individuals used Angel Eye to connect and communicate with their hospitalized neonate at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Since its 2012 development into a company with the support of a venture capitalist, the total number of Angel Eye camera systems increased to 579 deployed throughout 28 hospitals in 14 states and two countries.

[A summary profile of the Angel Eye model of care is available here.](#)

Through its Edge Runner *Raise the Voice* campaign, the Academy is mobilizing its fellows, health leaders and partner organizations to recognize nurses who are leading the way with new ideas to transform the health system.

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About the American Academy of Nursing

The American Academy of Nursing (<http://www.AANnet.org>) serves the public and the nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge. The Academy's more than 2,500 fellows are nursing's most accomplished leaders in education, management, practice, policy, and research. They have been recognized for their extraordinary contributions to nursing and health care.