



Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN background of 33 years in Neonatal/Perinatal nursing and research center on high-risk infants and families. Dr Vittner is a process-oriented thinker, dedicated to innovative solutions to enhance learning and growth that upholds individuals' personhood. Dorothy's professional responsibilities focus on infant neurobehavioral functioning and training multidisciplinary healthcare professionals on infant behavior to improve outcomes for high-risk infants. She is a sought after educator, dynamic speaker and nurse scientist.

Dr Vittner's leadership to influence care of high-risk infants is recognized through NIDCAP Federation International, Board of Directors serving as Vice-President. The NFI is an international multidisciplinary professional organization that provides training and mentorship to professionals and healthcare organizations. Dorothy is a Senior NIDCAP Trainer and holds many certifications in various infant/early childhood neurobehavioral assessments.

Dorothy has a longstanding interest in reflective process implementation to support healthcare professionals' emotional well-being with repeated and prolonged stress exposure. Her research focuses on understanding how stress and burnout influence decision-making to implement family-centered care practices.

Dorothy received a Master's Degree in Nursing Education from University of Hartford and a PhD from the University of Connecticut. Dorothy has published many book chapters and manuscripts in peer-review journals and has lectured around the world. Dorothy currently holds a position as an Assistant Professor at Fairfield University, and Nurse Scientist, at Greenwich Hospital. Her research focuses on examining bio-behavioral mechanisms, specifically the role oxytocin and cortisol in modulating premature infants' behavioral, autonomic and stress responses utilizing individualized developmental care strategies to enhance parent engagement.