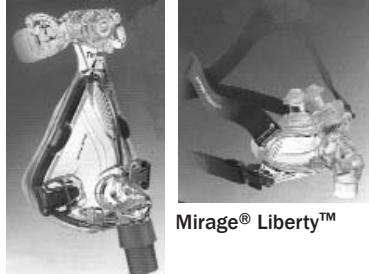


From Around the Network

Judith R. Fischer, IVUN Information Specialist, info@ventusers.org



Mirage® Quattro™

New Interfaces

Mirage® Quattro™, a new full face mask from ResMed, is similar to the Ultra Mirage®. The Quattro's newer design reduces possible discomfort at the nose and chin. Dial-in settings enable a comfortable fit and seal. www.resmed.com

Mirage® Liberty™, also from ResMed, is a combination mask that offers nasal pillows with a dual-wall mouth cushion. Easy to clean and to take on and off. User is able to wear glasses for unrestricted vision. www.resmed.com

V2™, a newer model full face mask from Hans Rudolph, Inc., is now available. The V2 is a one-piece completely flexible face mask that fits below the chin. New interior sealing flanges conform to facial contours. www.rudolphkc.com

Bravo™ Nasal Pillow System from TeleFlex Medical, offers three sizes of pillows and headgear with four points of adjustability. Contoured reservoirs enable multiple sleep positions. www.teleflexmedical.com

Custom Mouthpieces in Canada

Connie Brooks, University of Alberta in Edmonton, writes, "Several dentists in Alberta, Canada, make custom dental mouthpieces. They cost about \$300-700 Canadian, but they last for several years. The province of Alberta covers the cost. I am dealing with Adams Denture Clinic in Ponoka, Alberta, 403-783-6665, and the University of Alberta Hospital Dental Clinic in Edmonton, 780-407-6854." For more information, contact Connie.Brooks@gov.ab.ca.

Sip (Mouth Intermittent Positive Pressure) Ventilation

Louie Boitano, RRT, Josh Benditt, MD, and the team at Northwest Assistive Breathing Center in Seattle, Washington, produced a new edition of their *Resource Manual on Noninvasive Mechanical Ventilation* that details ventilator setups for the "sip" or mouth intermittent positive pressure ventilation system. To request a manual, email boitano@u.washington.edu.

A Question of Choice

Two booklets called "Long-term Ventilation in the Home: A Question of Choice" are being distributed by Rita Trojni, RRT, MA, Training and Development Consultant, National Program for Home Ventilatory Assistance (NPHVA), McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

One booklet targets families; the other is written for clinicians. Both are published in French and English. Trojni states, "The production of these booklets results from a specific need that was identified in a study published in 2006 (See Carnevale, F.A., Alexander, E., Davis, M., Rennick, J.E. and Trojni, R. Daily living with distress and enrichment: The moral experience of families with ventilator-assisted children at home. *Pediatrics*, 117(1), 48-60.) The goal is to disseminate the actual testimonials of families"

If you would like to order booklets, please contact Trojni at rita.trojni@muhc.mcgill.ca.

New Model

The **Vest®**, the airway clearance system from Hill-Rom, now offers a ramping feature and Spanish language option. www.thestvest.com

Pediatric Trach Care

Matt and Melanie Dragovits are the parents of a child with a tracheostomy. They have produced a pediatric tracheostomy care video program called "Breath of Life," available for free online viewing. www.patienteducation.tv/trach_video.php

Acquisitions and Spinoffs

VIASYS Healthcare is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Cardinal Health**, a manufacturer of medical and surgical products worldwide. VIASYS, which had acquired Pulmonetic Systems, Inc., will become part of Cardinal's Medical Products Manufacturing segment. www.viasyshealthcare.com, www.cardinal.com

Tyco Healthcare (recently spun off from Tyco International) is now operating as **Covidien Ltd.** Tyco's **Puritan Bennett** division, manufacturer of the LP10 and Achieva®, continues operations. www.puritanbennett.com

Education

"**Learning Opportunities for Your Child Through Alternate Assessments.**" This booklet introduces parents to the "big ideas" contained in school improvement efforts under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB)* and the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. It provides parents with information to help ensure that their children can benefit from these efforts. www.ed.gov/parents/needs/speced/learning/index.html

Advocacy Effort on Behalf of Veterans

Last fall, ventilator user Sandy Stuban, Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, US Army, initiated a proposal requesting an increase in Aid and Attendance for Veterans who use ventilation fulltime. (See *Ventilator-Assisted Living*, Vol. 20, No. 3, p. 8) The American Legion joined her campaign and sent the proposal to every member of Congress.

This June, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission included Sandy's proposal in a list of new benefits to be considered. IVUN wrote a letter of support asking for the increase in attendant care funds, making it possible for veterans who use vents to live at home instead of in an institution. The final decision has not been made.

Celebrating Dr. Augusta Alba

Coler Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility, New York City, celebrated 50 years of dedicated service to its patients and residents by Dr. Augusta Alba on July 19th, 2007.

Dr. Alba's dedication and service to the numerous polio survivors and ventilators users around the world and to International Ventilator Users Network is legendary.

Notes of congratulation and thank you may be sent to Karen.Gooding@nycdhc.org or mail a note to Dr. Augusta Alba, Coler Goldwater Specialty Hospital, 1 Main Street, Rm E3-3, Roosevelt Island, New York, 10044. ▲



Dr. Augusta Alba, Saint Louis, 2000

Noninvasive and Home Mechanical Ventilation Conference: ICU and Beyond, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, June 22-24, 2007

Maria Mastracchio, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, inner.sanctum@sympatico.ca

As a person who uses a BiPAP® unit, attending this conference was an enlightening experience. The international speakers, from England, Italy, France, as well as the US and Canada, presented an incredible overview of how physicians deal with the whole family when one member uses home ventilation. A good support system for home ventilation is extremely critical for its success.

What impressed me the most was the huge pressure put on the pulmonary doctors with limited resources to provide their patients a quality of life. Physicians, nurses and respiratory therapists asked excellent questions, discussed their frustrations, and exchanged invaluable successful experiences. Their patients are their first concern; regardless of cost, they know how to get the best for them.

The conference offered a variety of interesting topics. I was pleasantly surprised and happy to hear about "Sex and the Ventilator User: The Patient's Perspective." It reassured me that my married life could go on for years. It is a question of careful planning!

"The Role of Telehealth in Long-Term Mechanical Ventilation" was a fascinating presentation. Telehealth can reach many people spread over wide geographic areas. The home ventilatory program for my province of Quebec functions much more effi-

ciently through the use of telehealth. It can also serve as a vehicle for the self-management program at McGill University Health Center to help empower ventilator users from a distance.

A precious souvenir is my conversation during the conference with Bernard Gaudon, a polio survivor from France who had his home constructed according to his requirements. His table was made for his height. He eats standing up so that he can breathe better. He uses a bilevel unit only at night.

Exhibits of ventilator equipment gave me hope that I can always get another machine at a later date. Attending the conference reassured me about the high professional quality of my respiratory therapist and Quebec's home ventilation program.

Many thanks to the American College of Chest Physicians, IVUN, and Rita Troini, RRT, for affording me the opportunity. ▲

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 4-6. ALS/MND Nursing Symposium. Radisson Hotel, Chicago, Illinois.
www.lesturnerals.org/educationalactivities.htm#nursing

OCTOBER 20-25. CHEST 2007. American College of Chest Physicians, Chicago, Illinois.
www.chestnet.org

DECEMBER 1-4. 53rd International Respiratory Congress of the American Association for Respiratory Care. Orlando, Florida. www.aarc.org

2008

APRIL 10-12. 8th Annual Focus Conference. Gaylord Opryland Resort, Nashville, Tennessee. www.foocus.com