

Susan Albersheim MD, PhD

Originally from Winnipeg, Susan Albersheim did her Pediatric Residency at the University of Washington and after a Fellowship at the University of Manitoba, the west coast beckoned. She has been a Neonatologist at Children's and Women's Hospitals of British Columbia in Vancouver for over 30 years, and Clinical Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, University of British Columbia since 1998. After ten years of neonatology Susan began working and studying in the area of bioethics, which included undertaking the Certificate Program in Health Care Ethics through the University of Washington, Chairing the BC Children's Hospital Ethics Committee, serving on the BC Women's Hospital Ethics Committee and completing a PhD in Bioethics at the University of British Columbia. Her thesis was entitled: "Matters of Life and Death in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit: *Decision-Making for the Not-Yet-Competent*". In 2000 Dr. Albersheim started the Bioethics Interest Group at the Pediatric Academic Societies' annual meeting, and she has served on the Bioethics Committee of the Canadian Pediatric Society, continuing to author Practice Points, such as the Relationship between the Pediatric Practitioner and Industry. Since 2010 she has been the Program Director for the University of British Columbia Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship Training Program. In this role she has pursued her interests in clinical medicine, research, and teaching particularly in the area of bioethics, including a national collaborative for training in Bioethics for Neonatal-Perinatal Fellows.

Dr. Albersheim is involved in both qualitative and quantitative research around decision-making in the NICU, such as antenatal consultation at the threshold of viability. Her research has evaluated attitudes and beliefs of health care professionals and parents in the NICU, such as understanding what types of encounters are helpful for parents and rewarding for staff, and how these factors impact on decision-making. In addition her research evaluates the understandings of medical uncertainty in counseling parents in the NICU, and the utility, for parents and staff, of new initiatives in the NICU. She has completed projects involving neonatologists across Canada, and for over 15 years she has been involved in teaching and research in Israel and more recently in Okinawa, Japan.