



BC Children's Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, provides expert care for the province's most seriously ill or injured children, including newborns and adolescents. BC Children's is an academic health centre affiliated with the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, and the Child & Family Research Institute. For more information, please visit [www.bcchildrens.ca](http://www.bcchildrens.ca).

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) plans, manages and evaluates selected specialty and province-wide health care services across BC, working with the five geographic health authorities to deliver province-wide solutions that improve the health of British Columbians. For more information, please visit [www.phsa.ca](http://www.phsa.ca).

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## MEDIA RELEASE

September 22, 2008  
For immediate release

### International experts on shaken baby syndrome (SBS) and victims' families convene at 7th annual SBS conference Oct. 5-7

**Vancouver, B.C.** – This year's North American Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) Conference will be held October 5-7, 2008 in Vancouver, B.C. at the Westin Bayshore Hotel. Medical and legal experts from around the world will present the latest research, medical practices and investigative techniques used in the field of SBS/AHT. The conference is considered the source of the most comprehensive scientific reports and training on SBS in the world.

Shaken Baby Syndrome, also referred to as abusive head trauma (AHT), is caused by shaking babies. It is a common and leading cause of infant mortality. Each year in British Columbia, five to 15 children will suffer a traumatic brain injury from shaking requiring hospitalization. One in four will die. Of those who survive, approximately 80 per cent will suffer from some form of life-long brain injury, such as cognitive impairment, developmental delays, blindness or cerebral palsy.

Prevention is possible and B.C. has implemented The Period of PURPLE Crying® program to help new parents and caregivers understand normal crying patterns in young infants and provide strategies to help cope with periods of inconsolable crying. More information is available at [www.dontshake.ca](http://www.dontshake.ca).

Conference highlights include:

- Other Theories: Is it Shaken Baby Syndrome or Something Else?
- Missed Cases: Twins, One Was Shaken, One Was Not, or Was She?
- Abusive Head Trauma-the BC Children's Hospital Experience
- Incidence of SBS/AHT: Results of a World Symposium
- SBS/AHT Cases: Circumstances and the Stressors of Military Life
  - Medical panel including parents of victims
- Research results regarding current studies into the eye, brain, and pathology of SBS/AHT
- Research results regarding prevention efforts

Media interested in attending are asked to contact Brian Lopez at the National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome at 801-627-3399 or [blopez@dontshake.org](mailto:blopez@dontshake.org) to register. Media opportunities can be arranged with leaders in the field and parents of victims.

Conference Sponsors:

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Prosecutors Research Institute  
BC Children's Hospital Foundation  
BC Ministry of Children and Family Development  
Fraser Health Acquired Brain Injury Program  
National Association of Medical Examiners  
Prevent Shaken Baby Syndrome British Columbia  
Rhode Island Hospital  
The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation  
The National Child Protection Training Center

-30-

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