



Silke Mader (l.) EFCNI, and Dr. Jennifer L. Howse , March of Dimes, at the meeting in New York.

## Press Information

### New alliance for preterm life

EFCNI and US-Organization March of Dimes fight for preterm infants

**Munich, August 7 2009 (ps) – In Germany one out of ten children is born prematurely, in the US one out of eight: The European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI) and the renowned American organization March of Dimes (MOD) have decided to join forces in the battle against prematurity. The new strategic alliance is a further step towards an improvement of the situation of preterm infants worldwide and was decided upon during a joint meeting with March of Dimes president Dr. Jennifer L. Howse in New York.**

#### Exchanging experiences can save lives!

Exchanging experiences between the young European foundation EFCNI, which was set up in 2008, and the established March of Dimes is an important part of the cooperation in order to formulate common goals. Both EFCNI and MOD urge the creation of a global council in order to strengthen the prevention of preterm births globally and to improve the care of preterm infants around the world. At the beginning of October March of Dimes in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) will present the first worldwide report on the situation of preterm infants in 190 countries at an international conference in

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Delhi/India. A joint effort in order to have the International Prematurity Awareness Day recognized and supported by the WHO was formulated as well during the meeting in New York.

Chairman of the Executive Board Silke Mader commented: „We are very impressed by the professional and successful work of March of Dimes. Together we can move things forward and establish vital measures for the protection of preterm life.“

### **First International Prematurity Awareness Day on November 17, 2009**

One of the major topics during this meeting were the preparations of the activities for the first International Prematurity Awareness Day which will be held on November 17, 2009 together with the US-Organization March of Dimes and the Australian Organization Austprem. On this day and during the weeks before and after numerous international events on the topic of prematurity will take place in cooperation with national parents' organizations and medical societies such as GNPI. EFCNI will host a charity concert with the renowned Swedish piano player Robert Wells in Munich on November 12, 2009. Further information can be found at [www.efcni.org](http://www.efcni.org).

EFCNI is a network for those involved in the care of preterm or sick newborn infants as well as a forum for scientists. It was set up to effect long-term improvements in the care of such infants, and to give the largest group of child patients in Europe the attention and support it deserves.

US-president Franklin D. Roosevelt who suffered himself from a severe form of polio founded March of Dimes in 1938. The stemming of polio was one of the major topics of the organization whose current campaign aims at preventing prematurity and improving the situation of preterm infants.

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With friendly support from



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