



Dear reader,

It has been an eventful month and it is going to be even more eventful with World Prematurity Day (WPD) coming up soon. All of us have been very busy behind the scenes. Now we all are looking forward in excitement to 17 November and the many activities and events that are going to take place. We have come a far way since the first celebration of WPD back in 2009 and the day is growing in popularity with more than 50 countries participating last year. We keep our fingers crossed for your activities and an even more successful WPD 2013 and hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Your EFCNI team



## World Prematurity Day Countdown

World Prematurity Day (WPD) is just around the corner. Many inspiring activities and events take place everywhere around the world. Join us and follow our EFCNI World Prematurity Day page to keep up with activities around the world. We would be honoured to promote your activities and events for WPD on our website. No matter how small your contribution to this day might seem to you - please share it with us: It forms part of a big global movement! We would be delighted if you would share pictures of your activities in your country with us and tell us how you celebrate World Prematurity Day.

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## Give premature babies your voice

Have you voted yet? Help make a difference: Give preterm infants and their families your voice by voting online in your language and for your country for a European 10-points Call to Action for Newborn Health. Please also encourage your colleagues, family and friends to do the same. World Prematurity Day is around the corner, another big chance to collect votes in your language and for your country. Voting will continue until the beginning of April 2014.

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## Chinese artist Gu Gan's SOCKS FOR LIFE art

Famous Chinese artist Gu Gan art is exhibited in many



museums both in China and the West, including the British Museum and the Museum for Far-Eastern Art in Cologne. His SOCKS FOR LIFE artwork is painted in oracle bone script of the Shang Dynasty and shows the Chinese Word for premature birth. We are extremely honoured having Gu Gan participate in the cause for preterm infants. Have a look at more SOCKS FOR LIFE artworks at <http://www.socksforlife.org/blog>.



## Silke Mader receives "Prix Courage"

Silke Mader has been awarded with the "Prix Courage" by the public-service German television broadcaster ZDF television programme "ML mona lisa" and the French beauty brand Clarins. The award recognises the efforts of exceptional women who work tirelessly to help ill or underprivileged children. 300 guests, ranging from business, politics to culture, gathered at the evening of the award ceremony in the Allerheiligen-Hofkirche (Court Church of All Saints) in Munich. The event was hosted by Sibylle Bassler, the editorial director of "ML mona lisa", and Christian Courtin-Clarins, Chairman of the Clarins Group. Dr. Angelika Niebler, Member of the European Parliament, gave the welcome address while German actress Gesine Cukrowski gave the honourary speech.



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## Newborn Health workshop in the EU Parliament

Member of the European Parliament, Mrs Mariya Gabriel (EPP, Bulgaria) was hosting the conference "Newborn Health - a challenge for Europe". The event, co-organized by EFCNI, brought together panelists from a variety of national and professional backgrounds. Patient representatives, health experts, academics from different Member States and WHO met at the table to discuss the impact maternal and newborn health have on Europe's aging societies. At the same time, they showed possible ways how Member States could meet these challenges together. We warmly thank all speakers for their inspiration and strong messages. We were particularly proud to have the Bulgarian and French parents groups as speakers at the event. A conference summary will be distributed shortly.



## Petition on perinatal health standards

In October, Anna Spyra successfully defended her petition for

perinatal health standards in Europe. Amongst others, she demands equal rights and high quality care standards in maternal and newborn health everywhere in Europe; standards in education and training of healthcare professionals; help for families in cases of medical mistakes and quality in the care of disabled children. The petition remains open and will be brought to the attention of the ENVI Committee in the Parliament as well as to the Commission. Thanks Anna for your ambition and your strong will to move forward!

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## “Newborn Infants” workshop now available as E-Book

The report is now available free of charge as e-book (pdf) in the EU Bookshop. This report summarises the presentations and discussions at the Workshop on “Newborn Infants”, held at the European Parliament in Brussels, on Wednesday 24 April 2013. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the challenges related to neonatal mortality and morbidity as well as preterm births, which continue to pose serious concerns for public health and healthcare in Europe. Half a million babies are born prematurely in the EU every year and these infants are at higher risk of developing health problems later in life.

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## First EFCNI pregnancy brochure available as of December

EFCNI will launch its German information brochure for expecting parents “Gesund schwanger – Alles was jetzt wichtig ist” coming month at the 26th German Congress of Perinatal Medicine in Berlin: The launch on 5th December at 1pm will mark the beginning of the pilot phase of the pregnancy information project in Germany. The brochure has been developed together with renown experts in Germany and we are honoured to have the support and endorsement of many important organisations and professional societies. Our aim is that every woman receives as early as possible the most important information to have a healthy pregnancy. The brochure can be ordered and downloaded for free on the EFCNI website.

## EFCNI new member Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child



## Health (PMNCH)

We are pleased to announce that EFCNI has been welcomed as new member of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH). PMNCH commits to raising greater attention for the significant contribution of preterm birth to neonatal and child mortality, creating greater visibility, resources and partner engagement in this important aspect of reaching Millennium Development Goal 4, which calls for reducing under-five child mortality by two-thirds by 2015.



## “LIVES ON THE LINE – An Agenda for Ending Preventable Child Deaths”

“LIVES ON THE LINE – An Agenda for Ending Preventable Child Deaths” is a report by Save the Children giving a shocking inside of the state of child health worldwide. Especially the reductions in newborn mortality rates continue to lag behind.



Picture

© Save the Children

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## Welcome: The Alliance of Bulgarian Midwives

We are honored to count "The Alliance of Bulgarian Midwives" (ABM) amongst our cooperation partners. The Alliance's members believe that providing continuity of care is one of the strongest determinants of positive results in maternal and child health care. We believe women must be provided with opportunities to give birth to healthy babies in a safe, friendly, respectful and satisfying environment regardless of place of birth.

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## Maxima Medisch Centrum - model for family centred care

The Maxima Medisch Centrum in Veldhoven, the Netherlands, is a good example of what can be realized when all parties involved in the treatment and care for mothers and newborns are working hand in hand; from planning to realization and daily work. The hospital brought together all different stakeholders – from architects, healthcare workers, industry to patients. The result is fabulous! Warmest thanks to the healthcare team for the guided tour end of September.



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## Conference on development of the premature infant's healthcare program in Latvia

Indisputably, newborn care has improved in Latvia during recent years, but infant mortality unfortunately still remains high in Latvia, compared to other European countries. The Latvian Neonatal Society organised a public discussion on the "Development of the premature infants' health care programme in the Ministry of Health of the Republic Latvia" on September 27, 2013. EFCNI's Chairwoman Silke Mader gave an overview of the situation for preterm children in Europe, with a clear recommendation how to improve the situation in Latvia.

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## EFCNI at DAGG / ESGE / FOG Congress October 2013

The 3rd Congress of the German Academy of Gynaecology and Obstetrics (DAGG) together with the 26th European Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy took place in Berlin beginning of October where EFCNI participated. The DAGG congress provided many interesting courses about a broad spectrum of topics in gynaecology and obstetrics.



## 54th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR)

The 54th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Research- ESPR took place in Porto, Portugal. This year again, EFCNI was present with a booth and participants could recognize us from the large socks line that was hanging above us. We would like to thank the President, Chair and Organizing Committee of ESPR for their trust in EFCNI, giving us the opportunity to co-chair a session on NICU design and to start the lecture in the session "Parents' roles and experiences" as keynote speaker.

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## EFCNI participates in celebration of 1 year „Harl.e.kin-Nachsorge” in the hospital Josefinum, Augsburg

EFCNI was honoured to join the celebration of one year of „Har.l.e.kin“ continuing-care programme at the hospital Josefinum in Augsburg near Munich on 16 October and to contribute to this very informative evening with a speech on the challenges of parents with preterm infants. Harl.e.kin is a



very low-threshold programme that supports families of preterm infants or ill newborns in Bavaria to have a smooth transition from hospital and home. Its major aim is to strengthen the parents' competence to care for their child at home. Enabling a positive mother/father-child-interaction and a secure bonding development sometimes after months of stress and even traumatic experiences, this programme provides the basis for a good development of the child.

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## NIDCAP trainers & NFI board meeting

NIDCAP health care professionals from all over the world had the opportunity to learn new knowledge and share experiences at the annual NIDCAP trainers meeting. Very impressive was the focus on parent support and involvement as well as sharing different experiences and practices with the whole audience. Marcel Panas, parent coordinator and father of preterm born twins, and neonatologist Dr. Leonora Hendson from the Stollery Children's Hospital in Edmonton, Canada presented an impressive and unique project. Marcel Panas is a paid parent coordinator educating and training parents and the whole NICU team at the Stollery Children's Hospital in family centered care.

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## News by The European Medicines Agency

The Coordination Group for Mutual Recognition and Decentralised Procedures – Human (CMDh), has endorsed by majority the recommendations of the European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC), which concluded that hydroxyethyl-starch solutions (HES) must no longer be used to treat patients with sepsis (bacterial infection in the blood) or burn injuries or critically ill patients because of an increased risk of kidney injury and mortality.

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## Black inverted triangle shows which medicines are under 'additional monitoring'

Since 1 September, a black inverted triangle has started to appear in the product information of medicines that are being monitored particularly closely by regulatory authorities. With this measure, the European Commission aims to improve the safety of medicines and also to highlight to patients, the importance of reporting suspected side effects to the medicines they are



taking.

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## Life Study: UK's biggest birth cohort study begins

In 2014, the pilot phase of the biggest birth cohort study in the UK will begin. The UK-wide study will recruit already in pregnancy and collect data and consider factors before birth. It will give a picture of health and wellbeing of the British society. The findings of this huge cohort study will give the evidence base to inform medical practice as well as politics



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## Mark your calendar

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[Outlook on congresses and conferences in 2013](#)

[Awareness days](#)



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