



Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter in 2014. We hope you returned from a wonderful, relaxing Christmas holiday and we wish you good health and every success for the year ahead! In this edition, we would like to relive with you some important moments of the end of 2013. At the same time, you will find some highlights for 2014 which are already taking shape and are just around the corner, in particular the opening of the SOCKS FOR LIFE exhibition in the European Parliament or the global movement Every Newborn Action Plan. Enjoy reading! Your EFCNI team



## 7 April 2014: Exhibition Opening

7 April 2014 should be marked as a very important day in your calendar: It is the opening of the SOCKS FOR LIFE exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels. One highlight will be the formal handover of the votes for our European Call of Action for Newborn Health. Don't miss this unique opportunity to see all the famous SOCKS FOR LIFE artworks, to meet people and to show your support for improvements in maternal and newborn health.



## SOCKS FOR LIFE exhibition countdown

SOCKS FOR LIFE, our European art campaign for preterm babies is gaining speed for the exhibition in April. Have a look yourself and find out more at our blog on the latest exceptional artwork donated by Mecky Mattern, Jens Thiele (Germany) or Roberto Cavalli and Paolo Staccioli (Italy). Initiators for the Italian artworks are our partnerinig parents associations Vivere onlus and Piccino Piccino onlus. Thank you!



In January, the winners of the Bulgarian drawing contest and the Italian photo contest for SOCKS FOR LIFE were nominated. The juries in both countries had a most difficult task and making a final choice was not easy at all. Judge yourself: You will find the winners and their work on our blog.

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## Do as Cristiano Ronaldo and Mariza do: spread the word about voting for preterm infants



Warmest thanks to [Cristiano Ronaldo](#) and [Mariza](#) who asked their Facebook fans to give their voice to the smallest, most fragile babies at [www.enemenemini.eu](http://www.enemenemini.eu).

The Portuguese parent association XXS made these particular contacts possible. Join in and help spreading the word for the voting for the *European Call to Action for Newborn Health*: Every single vote will make a difference when we hand over the 10 demands for improvements in maternal and newborn health to European politicians this coming 7 April!

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## Thank you for a wonderful World Prematurity Day 2013

The outreach for World Prematurity Day 2013 was incredible: Messages about prematurity reached about 1.5 billion people globally. People in more than 60 countries showed their support. Governments and Ministries of Health in high burden countries engaged in awareness activities, organizations, societies and private companies joined in and everywhere hospitals, parents groups and individuals added their forces to a meanwhile truly worldwide movement, honouring preterm babies and their families.

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## World Health Organization asks for your opinion

The *Every Newborn* Action Plan aims to be a roadmap for change, focussing on newborn health and identifying actions for improving their survival, health and development. A draft of the Action Plan has been developed under the lead of the World Health Organization and UNICEF. It has now been placed online for everyone to comment. The online public consultation process for is open until 28 February 2014. Take this key opportunity to let the World Health Organization know what you think on the draft plan! The final draft of the ENAP will be presented to Member States at the Sixty-seventh World Health Assembly, in May 2014.

[Link to the consultation](#)



## MEP Mariya Gabriel invites to conference "Newborn Health"

In November 2013, Member of the European Parliament, Mrs Mariya Gabriel (EPP, Bulgaria) was hosting the conference "Newborn Health - a challenge for Europe". The event, held in partnership with EFCNI, brought together panelists from a variety of national and professional backgrounds: Prof. Mats Blennow (ESN), Charlotte Bouvard (SOS Préma), Prof.



Linda Johnston (COINN), Nadine Krysostan (EPF), Dr. Gunta Lazdane (WHO), Dr. Thilo Mohns (Maxima Medical Center), Nina Nikolova (Our Premature Children), Silke Mader (EFCNI). A summary of the interesting conference and the presentations will be available soon.

## Interest Group on Maternal and Neonatal Health welcomes new members

The European Parliamentary Interest Group on Maternal and Neonatal Health receives new, strong support by

[MEP Biljana BORZAN](#) (S&D), Croatia

[MEP Dubravka ŠUICA](#) (EPP), Croatia

[MEP Sandra PETROVIC JAKOVINA](#) (S&D), Croatia

[MEP Oreste ROSSI](#) (EPP), Italy

[MEP Angelika WERTHMANN](#) (ALDE), Austria

Sincere thanks to the group and its members for your commitment to mothers and newborns in Europe!

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## MEP Angelika Werthmann questions Commission on prematurity

MEP Angelika Werthmann (ALDE) questioned the Commission about the situation of preterm and newborn infants in Europe, demanding figures for Europe and for each Member State and for the average cost (social services/health costs) of a preterm birth in the European Union. Concerned about the safety situation of preterm- and newborn infants she asked for a statement regarding safe medication and hygiene standards. Answers to her question were given by Mr Borg on behalf of the Commission beginning of January.

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## Decision-making for extremely preterm infants

Decision-making on behalf of extremely preterm infants is an incredibly difficult process for all who are involved. The ECCF brought together neonatologists, neonatal nurses, ethicists, psychologists and parents to discuss how to better support families and other decision-makers in a situation of acute stress.

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## Silke Mader awarded with German Prix Courage

Beginning of November last year, Silke Mader was 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 is given to women who are distinguished by their special commitment to children and adolescents.



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## EFCNI launches German booklet on healthy pregnancy

Many renowned experts worked together to provide expecting parents with the most important information about how to have a healthy pregnancy - to give newborns the best possible start in life. The information booklet started off as a pilot project for Germany and is freely available through gynecologist offices and the EFCNI website. Following the great demand, a second and larger edition is already planned for 2014.



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## "Preterm birth experience" book now available in Serbia

Olivera Zivaljevic of the Serbian parent organisation "Mali Div/Little Giant" wrote a book called "Rodjeni pre vremena" / "Born too soon - The diary of fear and hope" about her experiences of preterm birth. The book was presented at the "International Belgrade Book Fair". The funds from the selling of the book will be donated to "Little Giant".



## 24/24 transport service in Ireland

Thanks to advocacy efforts of parents in collaboration with many of stakeholders in the field of neonatology, Ireland now has a 24 hour neonatal transport service that transports the sickest and tiniest babies to specialist centers for lifesaving intensive care treatment. A video summarises why a 24 hours transport service must be part of fundamental care for newborns as well as challenges and issues to be taken into consideration when establishing such a programme.



[view video](#) (password: keely2007)

## French-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce raises funds to help



## preterm babies

Over 100 guests as well as the French Ambassador followed the invitation of the French-Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce in December 2013. The money raised in the yearly traditional fundraising event went to the Bulgarian parents association "Our Premature Children". It will be used for the purchase of medical equipment for neonatal wards in Bulgarian hospitals.



## Welcome: Prof. Linda Johnston

Prof. Linda Johnston was the first Professor and Chair to be appointed in Neonatal Nursing Research in Australia. Her programme of research over the last 20 years has focused primarily on the assessment, and management, of pain in babies requiring neonatal intensive care. More recently her work has begun to explore the longer term outcomes for surgical babies and their families who experience a neonatal intensive care stay. As a member of the Council of Deans of Health UK Executive, her policy interests include clinical academic career pathways and the advancement of nursing research in the discipline. We are honoured to welcome her as the newest member to our Scientific Board.

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## Welcome: International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) is the only worldwide organisation that groups obstetricians and gynecologists. It has member associations in 125 countries/territories. Its vision is that women of the world achieve the highest possible standards of physical, mental, reproductive and sexual health and wellbeing throughout their lives. Its mission is the improvement of women's health and rights, and the reduction of disparities in healthcare available to women and newborns, as well as to advance the science and practice of obstetrics and gynecology. The organisation pursues its mission through advocacy, programmatic activities, capacity strengthening of member associations, education and training.

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## Study: Preemies healthier when cared for by parents during hospital stay

Dr. Shoo Lee, Paediatrician-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital, Canada, developed a new model of caring for preterm infants by positioning parents as the daily care providers in the neonatal intensive care unit. This new model of caring for preterm infants has shown to have a significant positive effect on the baby's health (measurable by weight gain).

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## Meaning of „term pregnancy“ redefined

With the aim to improve newborn outcomes and expand efforts to prevent non-medically indicated deliveries before 39 weeks of gestation, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has redefined their terminology of term pregnancy. They are further dividing term deliveries into early term, full term, late term and postterm deliveries. This change of terminology shall make it clear for patients and health professionals that every day the baby is inside the womb is important to fully develop and have a healthy start in life.

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## "When diagnosing preeclampsia, think widely, be alert"

The diagnosis of preeclampsia, a leading cause of maternal mortality worldwide, no longer requires the detection of high levels of protein in the urine (proteinuria). The new diagnosis criteria are described in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) task force report on hypertension in pregnancy. The report reflects the last 10 years of research on preeclampsia and therapy. In particular, it reflects a growing understanding that preeclampsia is a multisystem disease that extends beyond high blood pressure and renal dysfunction.

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## OPENPediatrics™ - an interactive digital learning platform

OPENPediatrics™ is an interactive digital learning platform for physicians and nurses sponsored by Boston Children's Hospital and in collaboration with WFPICCS. It is designed to promote the exchange of knowledge between physicians and nurses around the world caring for critically ill children in all resource settings. The content includes internationally recognized physician and nursing experts teaching the full range of topics on the care of critically ill children. All content is peer-reviewed and open access-and thus at no expense to the user, for further information on how to enroll, please [send an email](#).





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## Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2014](#) and find out where to meet EFCNI.

[Awareness days 2014](#)



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