Welcome to the latest news from our EFCNI team. We are still thrilled by this year's World Prematurity Day which raised awareness all around the world. Many countries participated for the first time. It is so great to see what we can achieve, working together. We were very happy about our third SOCKS FOR LIFE exhibition at the hospital Dritter Orden in Munich which was opened that day by Bavarian Minister for Health and Care Melanie Huml. Happy Reading!
Your EFCNI-Team

World Prematurity Day 2014
This year’s World Prematurity Day was really exciting – with countless events and activities that happened all around the world. Thank you to all of you who contributed with so much energy and commitment! As usual, we have a concise list of happenings on our webpage, so be sure to check it to see what our partners globally achieved. If your event or activity is missing in our list, please send us a short summary and photo to news@efcni.org.

View more

SOCKS FOR LIFE in Munich
The final stop of our SOCKS FOR LIFE exhibition for preterm babies opened its doors at the hospital Dritter Orden in Munich November 17th - just in time for World Prematurity Day! A big thank you to Bavarian Minister for Health and Care Melanie Huml, who opened the exhibition and was also patron of this event. Our partner for the exhibition was the hospital Dritter Orden.

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SOCKS FOR LIFE wins Price
The art activity was awarded the European Best Event Award (euBea)! A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this project. A special thank you to all the parent organisations, artists and everyone who helped to make this successful Europe-wide campaign!

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EAPS Congress in Barcelona
“Firmly established yet dedicated to thinking outside the box” with
this motto, the 5th Congress of the European Academy of Pediatric Societies (EAPS) took place from October 17 - 21 in Barcelona, Spain. Around 3,700 paediatric professionals from around the world gathered to gain insights in recent scientific research programmes. For the first time, EFCNI was Collaborating Partner of the Congress and our Chairwoman Silke Mader gave a session on “The Parents View on the NICU Care”, advocating for family centered care. We warmly thank the Organising Committee, especially Prof. Mats Blennow and Prof. Luc Zimmermann, for their trust and support.

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Implement Family Centered Care in China
Silke Mader was invited to join the Neonatal Intensive Care and Brain Development conference in Shanghai China September 23-24 this year. Special thanks to Prof. Heideliese Als who made this collaboration possible. The conference introduced Chinese health professionals to the benefits of developmental and family centered care. Silke Mader was the first patient representative to give a talk at a professional conference.

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First ever jENS Congress - 50% off registration at World Prematurity Day
On World Prematurity Day, participants had the unique opportunity to register for the first joint congress of European Pediatric societies jENS – and save 50% off the registration fee. We warmly thank the congress agency MCA for their kind offer to donate the same amount of money to EFCNI and thus support directly projects for preterm babies and their families.

View more (about the first jENS congress)

NIDCAP Trainers Meeting in Spain
The 25th annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting was held October 25 – 28 2014 in Segovia in Spain. This year’s topic “Nurturing Emotional Relationships within the Newborn Intensive Care Settings” united professionals all over the world. Together they discussed methods and exchanged best practices to improve the relationship between parents and their preterm baby. As members of the director’s board Silke Mader and Mandy Daly, President of the Irish Neonatal Health Alliance, held a workshop together with Marni Panas, Coordinator Engagement & Patient Experience at Alberta Health Services. The participants reflected about “Nurturing the Relationships between Infants, Families and Staff in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit”. The Spanish Minister of Health supported the event.
Neonatology Conference in Budapest

EFCNI was happy to attend the National Conference of Neonatology in Budapest, Hungary September 25 -27. One day of the conference was dedicated to parental topics and Hungarian parents organisations were invited to speak about their work. Nicole Thiele stressed the importance of working together and the need for family centered care at the plenum.

Prix Courage 2014

Dr. Auma Obama was awarded the Prix Courage October 16th in Munich. The German TV magazine ML Mona Lisa and Clarins awarded Barack Obama’s sister for her dedicated work for Kenyan teenagers. Obama is the founder of the Kenyan foundation „Sauti Kuu“ (strong voices). She and her team help young people in by teaching them how to read and write and organizing trainee positions for them. As last year’s winner Silke Mader also attended the celebration and again received financial recognition for the work of EFCNI. (Foto: ZDF/Astrid Schmidhuber)

Kangaroo Chairs for Cyprus

Cyprus has the highest preterm birth rate in Europe. Approximately 15% of neonates are born too soon. The island only has one NICU in the capital Nicosia. The resources are very limited there. EFCNI donated two kangaroo chairs to the hospital, to support the ward and enable parents of preterm children to bond with their babies. The donation was funded by the price money from Silke Mader’s Prix Courage which she receives last year from the cosmetics company Clarins and the public tv show ML mona lisa. Warmest thanks to the company Febromed for their support, enabling the delivery of the two chairs.

Preemie Voices

The challenges of extreme preterm babies, described by extreme preterm babies. Dr. Saroj Saigal, a neonatologist in Canada, recently published this very interesting book. Ex-preterm babies now in their thirties speak about their daily life, the difficulties they face and the pride they feel about mastering obstacles no one ever thought they would be able to.
10th anniversary in France
SOS Préma, our French partner organisation, celebrated their 10th birthday on October 15th, 2014. The organisation was founded in 2004 by Charlotte Bouvard, mother of a preterm baby herself. Like many parents, she started out to change the conditions for preterm babies and their families in France after the traumatizing event of giving birth to a baby born too soon. The anniversary of the organisation was celebrated in Paris with a charity dinner.

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Campaigning in Lithuania
The Lithuanian parent organisation Padedu Augti initiated a blood donation campaign for newborns in the city of Kaunas. The campaign is named "Be generous, the resident of Kaunas City". The project started with a launch event on October 6 – and many followed the call: Even celebrities contributed. Furthermore the organisation did a parade in Kaunas city to raise awareness for preterm babies.

View more (Lithuanian)

Collaboration for Information
The Belgian parent organisation VVOC is working together with the Belgian Health Care Knowledge Centre to inform about the risk factors for preterm birth and possible prevention measures for women at risk. The material is available in three different languages (Dutch, French and English).

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Promoting Maternal Health in Italy
Under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, a Ministerial Conference on "Women's health" took place beginning of October in Rome, Italy. The event was an opportunity to discuss, compare and share experiences on this issue among the 28 Member States in order to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment strategies. Martina Bruscagnin from our Italian partner organisation VIVERE Onlus had the great opportunity to highlight the preterm birth topic and called for concrete action.

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DIP 2015 Congress
EFCNI is proud to be a partner of the 8th International DIP Symposium on Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome & Pregnancy taking place April 15 - 18, 2015 in Berlin, Germany. Silke Mader will deliver a talk on pre-eclampsia and its consequences for the preterm child, mother and the whole family.

Information on suspected side effects now available online
The European Medicines Agency (EMA) extended the website www.adrreports.eu in October 2014. The website contains information on suspected side effects (also known as suspected adverse drug reactions) of an additional 1,700 active substances contained in medicines approved in the EU and by national authorities in the EU.

Grand challenge: All Children Thriving
Creating and Measuring Integrated Solutions for Healthy Birth, Growth, and Development: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is launching this new Grand Challenge. It focuses on new measurement tools and new combinations of approaches to ensure all children thrive – that they not only survive, but also have the chance to live healthy productive lives. The application deadline is January 13, 2015.

Mark your calendar
Receive an overview on congresses and conferences in 2014 and find out where to meet EFCNI.

Special thanks to our corporate partners for their kind support: