



Welcome to the summer edition of the EFCNI newsletter. Weeks full of activity and intense work lie behind us. After our second joint meeting, the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health project has moved an important step forward. In addition, EFCNI warmly welcomes PD Dr Dietmar Schlembach as newly elected member of the Trustee Board. We are happy to launch the long-term and year-round campaign "Socks for Life" where people join forces to make a difference for preterm infants. The peak of this campaign will be celebrated on World Prematurity Day. We wish you a pleasant summer vacation to recharge your batteries before meeting you in autumn at the first Congress of joint European Neonatal Societies (jENS) in Budapest, Hungary. Enjoy reading and have a nice summer!



Your EFCNI team

European Standards of Care for Newborn Health project meeting

The second Chair Committee meeting of the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health project took place from 15 to 16 June 2015 in Eching near Munich, Germany. We are delighted that all members of EFCNI's Parent Advisory Board as well as the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the project's working groups could attend the meeting. During the two days of intense work, the project has moved an important step forward. We thank everyone for their valuable input and strong commitment.

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Interview on jENS pre-congress course "family-centred care"

On 16 September, the healthcare professionals and researchers Dr Aleid van Wassenaer-Leemhuis and Dr Björn Westrup will give a session in a pre-congress course on "family-centred care" at the first Congress of joint European Neonatal Societies (jENS) in Budapest. In this six sessions pre-course, participants will receive an overview of the basis of family-centred and developmentally supportive care as well as the topic of follow-up after discharge. We were delighted to have the opportunity to talk to both of them to get a glimpse of this course.

[Read the full interview here](#)



PD Dr Dietmar Schlembach new EFCNI Trustee Board member

EFCNI has the honour to welcome the newly elected member PD Dr Dietmar Schlembach MD, Head of the Clinic of Obstetrics (Vivantes Klinikum Berlin-Neukölln) and faculty member of the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena (Germany), Dept. of Obstetrics and Gynecology, as a new member of the EFCNI Trustee Board.

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Launch of Socks for Life and World Prematurity Day 2015

After the successful introduction of Socks for Life as an international art activity, it now continues as a long-term and worldwide campaign: Throughout the entire year, people join forces to raise awareness. At the same time they work in partnership to make a difference for preterm infants, affected families and the care teams. Socks for Life is an initiative by EFCNI and national parent organisations. The umbrella campaign is kindly supported by the medical and safety company Dräger.

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This year's World Prematurity Day will feature the highlights achieved over the year with Socks for Life activities. Are you interested to join? Special sections on our website will provide you with toolkits in English and German and material free of charge in 35 languages. To visualise the difference you make, we warmly invite you to add your event or activity to the new "EFCNI Changemaker Map". On this occasion, we warmly thank the agency COMEO for the designs and their valuable support.

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EFCNI at World Congress in Fetal Medicine

Professionals in the field of fetal-maternal medicine met up at the 14th World Congress in Fetal Medicine (FMF) in Crete, Greece. It was a great honour for EFCNI to participate in this conference and to provide information on the vital importance of prevention during pregnancy. Silke Mader, EFCNI Chairwoman and Nicole Thiele, EFCNI Vice Chair, distributed our "A healthy pregnancy" booklet. Our very special thanks go to the many interested visitors and to Prof. Kypros Nikolaidis who invited us and made it possible to include the booklet in the conference bags.

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EFCNI at Conference of the Dutch Neonatal Follow-Up Working Group

Nicole Thiele, Vice Chair, represented EFCNI at the 6th Conference of the Dutch Neonatal Follow-Up Working Group (LNF) in

Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The agenda included the presentation of results of the follow-up of preterm infants in the Netherlands before and after the introduction of the new guidelines. Early and late consequences of extremely preterm birth and consequences of these findings for the infrastructure needed were presented and commented by international experts in the field, such as Prof. Neil Marlow, member of the EFCNI Board, Prof. Mats Blennow or Prof. Saroj Saigal. Warm thanks to the organising committee and in particular to Dr Nynke Weisglas-Kuperus, who not only hosted this interesting conference but also celebrated her 65th anniversary.



Meet EFCNI at...

We will participate in several congresses within the coming months and would be happy to see you there! Meet us at...



- the [first Congress of joint European Neonatal Societies \(JENS\)](#) from 16 to 20 September in Budapest, Hungary
- the [Second Transatlantic Conference on Personalized Medicine](#) from 8 to 9 October, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- the 5th [Scientific Symposium of the European Association for Developmental Care](#) from 1 to 2 October in Brescia, Italy
- the 12th [World Congress on of Perinatal Medicine](#) from 3 to 6 November in Madrid, Spain
- the [German Congress on Perinatal Medicine \(DGMP\)](#) from 1 to 3 December in Berlin, Germany

Neišnešiotukas celebrating the summer

Recently, our Lithuanian partner organisation Neišnešiotukas initiated a press conference on prematurity in the Government of the Republic of Lithuania together with Ms Alma Monkauskait, the head of the Committee on Health Affairs. They launched a White Paper which analyses the current situation of preterm infants. Neišnešiotukas also organised an amazing summer festival for children and their families. Children created fairy wings and jewellery, drew fantastic paintings and played various ball games. An amazing picnic, self-made artworks and a band completed the programme. EFCNI congratulates to a great policy action and a unique event!



[View more](#) (in Lithuanian)

Ilitominon knits for preterm infants

The Greek parent organisation Ilitominon started the fabulous activity “The knitted clothes of Ilitominon”. They invited volunteers to knit caps, socks and blankets for preemies in order to express their support for preterm babies and their families and to raise awareness for the special needs of preemies, like the difficulties to maintain their body temperature. The initiative turned out to be a great success. All over Greece, individuals, formal and non-formal groups, are now knitting for preterm babies. The first packages with knitted clothes were already delivered to families. One of the highlights was the “Worldwide Knit in Public Day”. Supported by local shops that donated knitting yarn, sweets and refreshments, people knitted in the center of Athens, Greece, following the slogan “Each stitch is a wish for preterm babies”. Our congratulations on such a great call to action!

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Charity Ball of association El Bebek Gul Bebek

This spring, our Turkish partner organisation El Bebek Gul Bebek hosted a wonderful gala called “Gül Balosu”. More than 100 people enjoyed a tasty dinner, dance, a live performance by the Turkish singer Yesim Salkim and a vibrant live auction. The donated money will support the neonatal care unit at the Cerrahpasa Faculty of Medicine in Istanbul. Besides that, a captivating film by volunteers investigating the knowledge on prematurity in the streets of Istanbul, was screened. EU Minister Volkan Bozkir, himself grandfather of preterm born twins, gave a rousing speech and underlined the importance of sensitising the public to the topic of prematurity. Congratulations on this great achievement!

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Unu si Unu: Marching, swimming and winning for preemies

This summer, our Romanian partner association Unu si Unu organised some remarkable charity events to draw attention to the impact of preterm birth on newborns, their families and society. Parents, healthcare professionals, NGOs, VIPs, representatives of civil societies, journalists and other interested persons enthusiastically joined their first “march for preemies”. Participants were asked to wear oxygen masks identical to those found in the NICU to raise awareness of the respiratory system of preterm infants. Encouraging their audience to hold their breath for some moments in order to empathize with a preemie who can't breathe, Unu si Unu also picked up this issue at the “Social Projects Gala” where they were awarded the first prize for their campaign. Finally, they won in a community competition called “Swimathon” raising the highest amount of money ever achieved in this event. This will help launch the first Romanian prematurity call centre “Hello, Prematurity”. Our heartfelt congratulations!

[View more](#) (in Romanian)



World Breastfeeding Week 2015

World Breastfeeding Week, August 1 - 7, 2015 will again be celebrated with numerous events in all counties across the globe. On this occasion, we will release extensive information on breastfeeding and nutrition for preterm infants on the EFCNI website – including a factsheet for free download. Don't miss to visit our website during World Breastfeeding Week!



Neonatal complications and gestational diabetes mellitus

D. Mitanchez, C. Zydorczyk and U. Simeoni recently published an overview article in the World Journal of Diabetes on possible complications in infants whose mothers had gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM). GDM is one of the most common diseases during pregnancy. However, the short and long term consequences for the infants are not yet well understood. The review addresses the current knowledge on short term outcomes related to GDM. The authors concluded that women's health is essential for the infants' outcome and promoted the new WHO criteria for the diagnosis and definition of hyperglycemia.



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No differences for extremely preterm infants enrolled in clinical trials

The Journal of the American Medical Association published a research letter by Elizabeth E. Foglia and colleagues from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Neonatal Research Network (NRN) who analysed the in-hospital outcomes for preterm infants enrolled in randomized clinical trials (RCT). The study investigators compared outcomes between extremely preterm infants participating in a RCT and those who were eligible but did not participate. They found no differences between the two groups in mortality and neonatal morbidities, including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, brain injury, retinopathy, late-onset sepsis and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC). The authors concluded that participation in an RCT did not lead to negative outcomes for the infants.



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Progress report on Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health

The progress report "Saving lives - Protecting futures" recently published by "Every Woman Every Child" discusses the outcome of the "Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health" from the year 2010 to 2015. The Global Strategy is a campaign to improve health and well-being of mothers and children in the poorest countries of the world. It brings together more than 300 partners from different sectors such as politics, civil societies, academia as



well as professional associations, and other national and international organisations. The report describes the process of reducing preventable deaths among women and children since 2010.

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Launch of Global Financing Facility

The United Nations, the World Bank Group, and the Governments of Canada, Norway and the United States joined country and global leaders at the Third International Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to launch the Global Financing Facility (GFF) in support of Every Woman Every Child. The GFF aims to bring an end to preventable maternal, child and adolescent deaths by 2030 through smart, scaled and sustainable financing. It supports the United Nations Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health and the Sustainable Development Goals.



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G7 Summit in Elmau

The heads of state and government of the G7 member states met at the 41st G7 summit from June 7 to 8 at "Schloss Elmau" in Germany. In addition to global economy and policy topics, they discussed health issues and the economic empowerment of women. We are happy that the leader's statement includes ending preventable newborn deaths and improving maternal health. Both issues of the final Parliamentary Appeal, which was also signed by EFCNI and handed over to German G7 Sherpa, Mr Lars-Hendrick Roeller, at the International G7/G20 Parliamentarians' Conference "she matters" in April 2015.



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New Corporate Partner: Vygon

We are happy to announce a new corporate partnership with Vygon. Their corporate philosophy is: "Since 1962, Vygon grants a preeminent importance to the respect of patients. However small they are. Because premature neonates require our greatest attention, Vygon focuses its efforts in developing single-use products in several fields: respiratory tract, nutrition, vascular access, etc. Innovation is the key to offer to a very fragile infant the best start in life. Present in more than 100 countries, the French family-owned company is committed to providing health-care professionals with the best possible solutions to treat and care for their patients. Helping a preterm infant to grow up in good conditions: that is the challenge we face every day!"



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Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2015](#) and find out where to meet EFCNI.



Awareness days in 2015

Special thanks to our corporate partners for their kind support:



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