In May, we focused on the topic of NICU design and on how to welcome parents to neonatal units. We asked healthcare professionals and parents what needs to be considered when designing a neonatal intensive care unit. We launched a factsheet and new website content providing information for parents in the NICU. One of our partners successfully advocated 24/7 opening hours for parents in their country. Welcoming parents in neonatal units is possible. Let’s put it into practice together.

Your EFCNI team

Parents of Preemies Day 2016
The first Sunday in May is dedicated to parents of preterm born infants. On Parents of Preemies Day, individuals, organisations, and hospitals realise countless activities dedicated to parents of preterm infants. This year, EFCNI created a social media series featuring the ten most important rights of parents and newborns. EFCNI has developed these rights in close collaboration with partnering parent organisations. We also published a new factsheet and website content on Parents in the NICU. In a very personal interview EFCNI’s Chairwoman Silke Mader spoke about her experiences as a mother of a preterm child in the late 90s.

EFCNI Rights of parents and newborns

Review on Parents of Preemies Day by Graham's Foundation
1 May 2016 marked the fifth annual Parents of Preemies Day, the global day of awareness created by Graham’s Foundation to recognise the courage and commitment it takes to stay strong when a preterm birth turns a family’s world upside down. Christa Terry from Graham’s Foundation gives a short recap on their activities.

View more

Interview with a mother of a preterm baby
On the occasion of Parents of Preemies Day, we spoke to Mindy, mother of four. One of her children was born preterm. In the interview Mindy describes her experiences during her son’s stay in the NICU.

View more
New collaboration partner DSKN
We welcome our new collaboration partner Deutsche Stiftung Kranke Neugeborene (German Foundation for ill Newborns). Founded in 2014, the aim of the charitable foundation is to improve the provision of healthcare not only of preterm infants but also of ill newborns.

View more

EFCNI at the European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
From 19 to 21 May 2016, the 24th European Congress of Obstetrics and Gynaecology took place in Torino, Italy. About 700 participants saw the EFCNI booth. Besides this, we had the honour to participate in this congress with an own session on preeclampsia and its prevention and treatment.

View more

EFCNI at the SHIPS project meeting
From 14 to 15 March 2016, the team of the SHIPS research project organised the second project meeting in Porto, Portugal. EFCNI gave a presentation about the involvement of parent representatives in the research project assessing the impact of follow-up screenings and prevention programmes in preterm born children.

View more

Video in French
We proudly present the video of our 12th Parent Organisations Meeting with French subtitles. EFCNI warmly thanks our partnering parent organisation SOS Prêma for the translation!

View more (Youtube)

New content on the EFCNI website
During the last weeks, we launched new content on the EFCNI website. We proudly present the new section on Parents in the
NICU including a factsheet for (affected) parents for free download. Another new section deals with The neonatal intensive care unit including a description of the equipment in the NICU.

- The neonatal intensive care unit
- Parents in the NICU

EFCNI at the ESPGHAN Congress

The 49th Annual Congress of ESPGHAN was held from 25 to 28 May 2016, in Athens, Greece. EFCNI had the honour to participate in this congress to provide information on the nutrition of preterm born babies. We were proud to have our Greek partner Ilitominon with us.

View more

Meet EFCNI @ these congresses

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

Meet the EFCNI team @

- 42. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin (GNPI) from 02 to 04 June 2016 in Frankfurt a. M., Germany
- 25th European Congress on Perinatal Medicine from 15 to 18 June 2016 in Maastricht, Netherlands
- 15th World Congress in Fetal Medicine from 26 to 30 June 2016 in Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- Conference Nutrition and nurture in infancy and childhood bio-cultural perspectives from 23 to 25 August 2016 in Dalarna, Sweden
- Conference The Power of Programming 2016 – Developmental Origins of Adiposity and Long-term Health from 13 to 15 October 2016 in Munich, Germany
- 6th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies from 12 to 25 October 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland
- Global conference on maternal infant health from 4 to 6 November 2016 in Florence, Italy

From Louise with love - letter to
French deputies
The French parent organisation SOS Prêma has realised two remarkable projects to raise awareness for this topic respectively to improve the situation for preterm born infants: a moving postcard, written by the preterm born baby Louise (born at 26 weeks of gestation), and a two-day advanced training with 300 participants from all across France.

Conference for healthcare professionals and therapists
During March and April 2016, Lahav Association from Israel collaborated with the Children’s Medical Center MEDIKIDS and held two Academic Conferences for healthcare professionals and therapists.

Padedu augti helps establish first Lithuanian mother's milk bank
Inga Budriene, Chairwoman of our Lithuanian partner organisation Padedu augti presents a variety of innovative projects, ranging from the establishment of Lithuania’s first mother’s milk bank, a mind nesting box, for emotional support of families, their project Tree of Life, and a guidebook for parents of preterm children.

Vivere Onlus achieves 24 hours parental access to Italian NICUs
Vivere Onlus is an Italian national coordination of associations for neonatology. In February, they held the first joint assembly, a major two-days work meeting in Padua, Italy. In addition, in May, the Italian Ministry of Health signed a recommendation paper which had been developed by the Technical Operating Table for the promotion of breastfeeding (TAS), the Italian Society of Neonatology (SIN), and Vivere Onlus. This effected a change towards 24 hours parental access to Italian NICUs. Congratulations!

Sharing tears and hopes - an emotional Mother’s Day event
To celebrate Parents of Preemies Day and Mother's Day, the parent organisation El Bebek Gul Bebek from Turkey put together an event full of joy, tears, and further awareness.
Follow-up and continuing care

We’re happy to present you guest articles by our collaborating partners featuring our newborn health topic Follow-up and continuing care, looking at the care and treatment of babies after discharge from hospital.

- Top programme, by Karen Koldewijn and Marie-Jeanne Wolf, Academic Medical Center Amsterdam
- Follow-up care in Germany, by Bunter Kreis e.V.
- The road to specialised, systematic and multidisciplinary follow-up for preterm born children in Belgium, by Yannic Verhaest, VVOC

NICU design

These contributions deal with the newborn health topic NICU design, looking at how the design of a NICU should be to optimally support the provision of family-integrated and developmentally supportive care.

- Why NICU design matters, by Dr Robert White
- When a neonatal intensive care unit becomes your first children’s room, by Silke Mader
- New website content about the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), by Monika Buchberger

11 months - 11 topics

In our series 11 months - 11 topics, we interviewed Dr Aleid van Wassenaer-Leemhuis and Professor Dieter Wolke on Follow-up and continuing care. In our second Chair Team Interview, Dr Atle Moen talked with us about pressing issues in NICU design.

- Interview Dr Aleid van Wassenaer-Leemhuis and Professor Dieter Wolke
- Interview Dr Atle Moen

New research on labour induction

A new study by Walker and colleagues was published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The research group conducted a randomised, controlled trial involving pregnant women at 35 years of age or older to investigate the caesarean section rate following labour induction.

Launch of the SHIPS webpage

SHIPS is a new European research project that aims to improve...
follow-up programmes for children born very preterm by studying their impact on the children and families followed in the EPICE cohort. EFCNI is contributing to the SHIPS project by providing a link between researchers and parents. Visit the new project website for more information about the study, the EPICE cohort, the participating regions, and latest research results from the study.

www.epiceproject.eu

Study on mothers’ experiences with expressing breast milk
Ikonen and colleagues recently published a study in the American Journal of Maternal/Child Nursing describing mothers’ experiences with expressing breast milk for preterm infants or infants small for gestational age. They concluded that expressing breast milk should be considered as a helpful factor for mothers and that the separation between mother and infant should be avoided.

View more

Recommendations for psychological support of NICU parents
Under the lead of Guest Editors Sue L. Hall, MD, MSW, FAAP and Michael T. Hynan, PhD, the Journal of Perinatology publishes a set of recommendations on the support of parents and staff working in the NICU. The recommendations were developed by a workgroup of multidisciplinary professional organisations and NICU parents. The articles are published as open access articles that can be read and downloaded without a subscription to the journal.

View more (Journal of Perinatology)

Update of webpages for patients and consumers
The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is pleased to announce an update to their webpages dedicated to patients and consumers. The aim was to update the content, highlight existing helpful information as well as to launch the ongoing series entitled ‘EMABasics’ in the training and resources section.

View more (European Medicines Agency)

Mark your calendar
Receive an overview on congresses and conferences in 2016 and find out where to meet EFCNI.

Awareness days in 2016
Special thanks to our corporate partners for their kind support:

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