



News

3rd edition 2018

The temperatures are still low but it is going to be a hot year for EFCNI: besides our 10th anniversary this spring, the launch of the *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* is continuously getting closer. In February, the fifth and final *Chair Committee Meeting* took place to firm up the remaining standards and their launch is scheduled for November. In this newsletter edition, we also highlight some remarkable lighthouse projects regarding the newborn health topic *Birth and transfer*. Apart from that, several global reports were released during the past weeks. We feature a small selection and wish you an interesting read.



Your EFCNI team

Standards in progress: 5th Chair Committee Meeting

The launch of the *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* this winter is getting closer. Therefore, more than 30 experts from 16 countries have met for the fifth and final Chair Committee Meeting in Freising, Germany, to discuss and finalise the last set of standards and prepare their launch.

[View more](#)



International congress on obstetrics

From 2 to 3 March 2018, more than 2,500 midwives, gynaecologists, paediatricians and neonatologists gathered together for the international congress *Geburtshilfe im Dialog* (Obstetrics in Dialogue) in Mannheim, Germany. EFCNI has benefited from a special donation campaign: our corporate partner Nestlé Nutrition Institute donated the day's takings from their coffee bar among others to EFCNI. We warmly thank Dr Ansgar Römer from the organisation team and Nestlé Nutrition Institute for offering EFCNI this great fundraising opportunity.

[View more](#) (Facebook)



Hospital visit in Mannheim

Our Vice Chair of the Executive Board Nicole Thiele had the opportunity to visit the neonatal hospital at the *University Medical Centre Mannheim* (UMM). The hospital is specialised in cardio-respiratory problems and a leading centre for paediatric Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO). We warmly thank Julia Heffner, Director of the initiative *Elternkreis Frühgeborene und kranke Neugeborene Mannheim e.V.* and Dr Steffen Hien, Senior



Physician at the neonatal hospital at the UMM for showing the unit.
(In the picture (left to right): Nicole Thiele, Dr Steffen Hien, Julia Heffner).

[View more](#) (UMM; in German)

New website content on parenteral nutrition

Preterm and ill born babies who cannot be adequately fed by mouth or through a feeding tube need parenteral nutrition. This therapy provides all necessary nutrients intravenously. If you want to learn more about this topic, please take a look at our brand-new web section. Image: © Baxter



[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 @

- *[51st Annual Congress of the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition \(ESPGHAN\)](#), from 9 to 12 May 2018 in Geneva, Switzerland*
- *[44. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin \(GNPI\)](#), from 7 to 9 June 2018 in Rostock, Germany*
- *[World Congress in Fetal Medicine](#) from 24 to 28 June 2018 in Athens, Greece*
- *[XXVI. European Congress of Perinatal Medicine \(ECPM\)](#), from 5 to 8 September 2018 in St. Petersburg, Russia*
- *[8th International Congress of UENPS](#) from 3 to 5 October 2018 in Bucharest, Romania*



Award for Padedu augti Chairwoman

This year in February, the mayor of the city of Kaunas in Lithuania, Visvaldas Matijošaitis, honoured outstanding personalities for their remarkable achievements. One of them was our Lithuanian collaboration partner Inga Budriene. She was awarded for her merits as a Chairwoman of the organisation *Padedu augti*. In a festive ceremony in the Kaunas city hall, Inga was handed over the *Crystal of Goodness* (Gerumo kristalas) Award. Warm congratulations!

[View more](#) (Facebook, in Lithuanian)



Music helps where language

reaches its limits

Music has always been an essential element of human existence. It is an important medium of nonverbal communication and supports people when language reaches its limits, like in the challenging situation of preterm birth. Based in Switzerland, the new non-profit association [amiamusica](#) aims at fostering music therapy for preterm and newborn infants and parents. A good example for the healing power of music is the Swiss musician and father of a preterm child Nils Burri who processed his experiences of coping with the loss of a twin child.

[View more](#) ([amiamusica](#))



Family-centred care in Romania

Unu si Unu, one of our partnering parent organisations from Romania, took the next step to establish family-centred care in their country. The organisation won a nationwide contest organised by a pan-European Bank. The funds will be used for the organisation's project *Little human in therapy* that aimed at the implementation of family-centred care. In addition, advanced training sessions in the *Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education* (FINE Level 1 and Level 2) programme will be organised and funded by *Unu si Unu* for 100 medical professionals in neonatology in hospitals in Bucharest and Cluj.

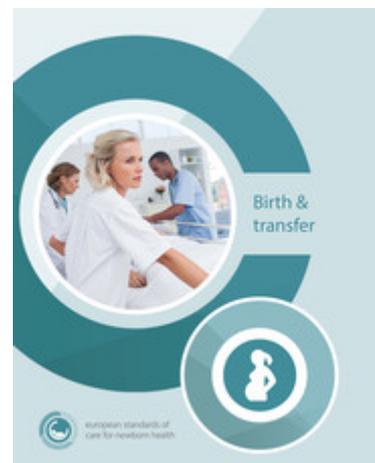
[View more](#) ([Unu si Unu](#))



11 months - 11 topics: Birth and transfer

February, a short month indeed, has turned into March. That means *11 months - 11 topics* features a new monthly topic: *Birth and transfer*. The related Topic Expert Group of the *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* project therefore focuses on the neonatal and postpartum phase. Stay tuned for more background information and articles.

- [Topic announcement](#) (Facebook)
- [Standard topics](#) of birth and transfer (Facebook)
- [Developing standards on birth and transfer](#) (website of European Standards of Care for Newborn Health project)



Lighthouse projects: Birth and transfer

As part of *11 months – 11 topics*, our communication concept of lighthouse projects continues in March. Each month you will get to know one or more lighthouse projects. These are projects realised by members of our network or others active in neonatal care which we would like to share with you. Please regard them as a source of inspiration, a motivator or a role model for your own organisation or your individual ideas:



When every second counts: IVENA eHealth in the ambulance service

sector

In our first lighthouse project report, Roland Dollmeier, Managing Director of the Munich Emergency Services Association, gives us insight into the interdisciplinary medical supply compass IVENA eHealth. Learn how this innovative tool improved emergency assignments significantly over the last five years. (Image: Wiesbaden112.de).

[View more](#)

The travelling NICU: transport of high-risk neonates in Portugal

Another lighthouse project: Professor Herclia Guimarães writes about a successful reform in emergency transfer policies of preterm newborns in Portugal.

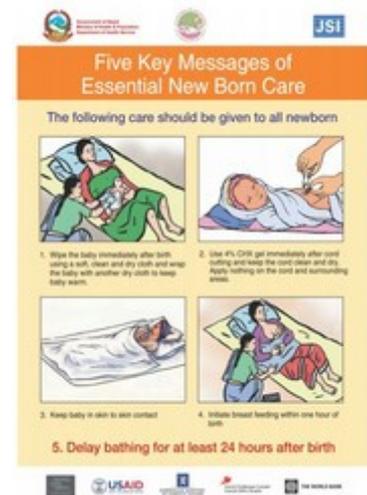
[View more](#)



Newborn survival in Nepal: a community based approach to reduce neonatal mortality

Each year, nearly 35,000 Nepali children die before their fifth birthday, with almost two-thirds of these deaths occurring in the first month of life, the neonatal period. Experts claim that over two thirds of these deaths could be prevented with relatively low costs and low-tech interventions. The Community Based Newborn Care package addresses these issues within the national health system settings of Nepal.

[View more](#)



The use of childbirth practices in Bangladesh – an evaluation of the Safe Childbirth Checklist

In order to reduce maternal and infant deaths, the *World Health Organization* has designed the Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC), which aims to facilitate healthcare professionals' adherence to essential evidence-based childbirth practices and to reduce maternal and child deaths. Researchers from Bangladesh, Australia, and the US examined the effectiveness of the SCC at a hospital in Bangladesh by compiling a before and after survey.

[View more](#)



New reports on child survival and health coverage

Every year, 2.6 million babies die before turning one month old. However, millions of these young lives could be saved every year. The new *UNICEF* report *Every Child Alive* shows that the risk of

dying as a newborn varies enormously depending on where a baby is born. Another report, *Countdown to 2030*, by *Every Woman Every Child*, synthesises data on the current situation and trends in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition in the context of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

- [Report Every Child Alive: The urgent need to end newborn deaths](#)
- [Report Countdown to 2030: Tracking progress towards universal coverage for women's, children's and adolescents' health](#)

Practical guidance for improving newborn and maternal health

A new manual by the *World Health Organization (WHO)* and *UNICEF* offers practical tools for country programmes and stakeholders to support advocacy for improving newborn and maternal health and preventing stillbirths. It provides a repository of quick references and examples in order to show how to undertake advocacy and communication in various national and local contexts. A second toolkit on intrapartum care brings together new and existing *WHO* recommendations that aim to ensure good-quality and evidence-based care irrespective of the setting or level of health care.

- [Every Newborn: An advocacy toolkit and guidance manual for ending preventable deaths](#)
- [WHO recommendations: intrapartum care for a positive childbirth experience](#)

UENPS congress in Bucharest: scientific programme out now

The scientific programme of the Congress by the *Union of European Neonatal and Perinatal Societies (UENPS Congress)* in Bucharest, Romania, is out now. The scientific committee also invites you to share your contribution. [Submit your abstract until 31 May 2018](#). EFCNI is a collaboration partner of this upcoming congress in the Romanian capital.

[View more \(UENPS congress\)](#)

EU Health Systems: Commission publishes report on Primary Care

The EU Expert Group on *Health Systems Performance Assessment (HSPA)* published its report *A new drive for primary care in Europe: rethinking the assessment tools and methodologies* to help policy makers and health practitioners to set objectives and measure progress towards improving primary care services for the benefit of patients. The report examines core aspects of well-performing primary care systems, focusing on their key functions such as access, coordination of care, and continuity of care.



[View more](#) (*European Commission*)

New study shows success of the Family Integrated Care model

A new study around O'Brien et al. and principal investigator Dr Shoo Lee in the journal *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health* shows that the Family Integrated Care (FICare) model helps improve the well-being of both children and parents. FICare actively involves parents in the care of their newborns, including giving oral medicine, feeding, taking their temperatures and taking part in ward rounds. The study showed improved weight gain among preterm infants, better breastfeeding rates and reduced parental stress and anxiety compared to standard care.

[View more](#) (*Sinai Health System*)

EMA I: call for cooperation

The *European Medicine Agency (EMA)* collaborates with a large number of patients, consumers and their organisations on aspects such as information on medicines, consultation on product-specific issues and participation in workshops and meetings. In order to enlarge their individual experts' stakeholder database with patients and consumers, the agency has launched a registration form. If you want to become part of their patient expertise, feel free to register:

- [Registration form](#) (*European Medicines Agency*)
- [Questions & answers](#) (*European Medicine Agency*)

EMA II: Stronger restrictions on the use of Valproate required

The EMA's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC) is recommending new measures to avoid exposure of babies to valproate medicines in the womb. Babies exposed are at risk of malformations and developmental problems. It recommends strengthening restrictions on their use and introducing new measures to require appropriate counselling and information for affected women.

[View more](#) (*European Medicine Agency*)



German BMBF supports clinical studies with relevance for patient care

The German *Federal Ministry of Education and Research* (BMBF) published a guideline on the support of clinical studies with high relevance for patient care. The ministry wants to accelerate the transfer from research findings to practical implementation. Proposals can be submitted by universities, further research organisations, and healthcare providers based in Germany.

[View more](#) (*LinkedIn; in German*)



Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2018](#) on maternal and newborn health.

[Awareness days](#)



Landmark in the Land of Ideas

EFCNI is one of the most innovative *Landmarks 2017* of the initiative [Germany – Land of Ideas](#).

[View more](#) (*Germany - Land of Ideas, in German*)



Special thanks to our corporate partners for their kind support:



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