



Did you already know? From now on, you can become a supporting member of EFCNI. As an *I-Care* member you can improve the organisation of our projects and increase the impact of our work on a long-term basis. Further selected news from this month: We warmly welcome new team members and a new member for the EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board. Beyond this EFCNI proudly received an award for the German version of our factsheet *Breastfeeding a preterm infant*.



Your EFCNI team

Award for EFCNI factsheet

Great honour for EFCNI: The German version of the factsheet *Breastfeeding a preterm infant* has been awarded by the *Netzwerk Patienten- und Familienbildung in der Pflege e.V.* (network for patient and family education in the field of care). We are very proud of this achievement and thank Professor Mary Fewtrell for her advice and Philips Avent for their kind support.



[View more](#) (Netzwerk Patienten- und Familien- Bildung in der Pflege, in German)

[Download section EFCNI brochures](#)

New EFCNI project: Camera systems in the NICU

Kick-off meeting for another milestone project: On Monday, 6 March 2017, well-known clinical experts from hospitals in Germany and Austria came together for the first time to discuss the advantages, challenges and necessary requirements for the use of web camera systems in the neonatal intensive care unit.



[View more](#)

Dr Stefan Verlohren enters Scientific Advisory Board

EFCNI welcomes Dr Stefan Verlohren, MD, PhD, as new member of the EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board. He is a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynecology and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Obstetrics, Charité University Medicine, Berlin. His main research interest is pre-eclampsia, he is the head of the Pre-eclampsia Research Group at the Charité Berlin and Vice-Chairman of the

DGGG Hypertension of Pregnancy/Pre-Eclampsia Association.

[View more](#)



Research on European Children and Adults born Preterm (RECAP)

In February 2017, the newly formed RECAP consortium met for a two-day meeting in Utrecht, the Netherlands. The meeting was organised to bring all partners together for the first time to outline the next four years with tasks and milestones as well as to discuss challenges to be tackled. EFCNI is involved in RECAP in the area of representing the voices of parents and adults born preterm in the project and to involve all relevant stakeholders via dissemination activities.



[View more](#)

New team members for EFCNI

We warmly welcome Phillip Heinrich and Manuel Kreitmair as new working students in our team. We are very grateful for their valuable support by spreading the EFCNI messages around the world. Welcome on board!



[View more](#)

More breastmilk for more babies

90 participants from 21 countries participated in the Philips Avent Scientific Symposium "More breastmilk for more babies; from physiology to practice" in February 2017. Renowned experts explored a wide variety of topics in support of more breastmilk for more babies. EFCNI Chair Silke Mader gave a keynote talk on breastfeeding a preterm infant and the unmet needs for parents. We warmly thank Dr Victoria Davies, Severin Harvey, PhD, and the entire Philips Avent team for the kind invitation and speaking opportunity.



[View more](#) (Website of the symposium)

Become a voice of change

We recently introduced our newly launched supporting programme. In this edition, we would like to introduce our *I-Care Programme*: Monthly donations are extremely sustainable and allow us to

promote specific ideas throughout an entire period of time. Become a regular donor and actively enhance the chance to the best start in life for every baby. We invite you to join our *I-Care Programme* and become a voice of change today!

[View more](#)

Federal Cross of Merit for Professor Angelika Niebler

Great honour for one of our patrons, who has been supporting EFCNI since its beginning: Professor Angelika Niebler, MEP, has been awarded with the German *Federal Cross of Merit with Ribbon* among other achievements, for her commitment to EFCNI. We warmly congratulate her and thank her for her continuous support. (Copyright for the photo: Christian CREUTZ)

[View more](#) (Facebook)

Save ML Mona Lisa

ZDF, one of the most renowned broadcast stations in Germany plans to discontinue the programme "ML Mona Lisa" which features socially relevant topics. Because ML Mona Lisa was one of the first programmes that reported on preterm birth and has been accompanying EFCNI for the past nine years, Silke Mader started an online petition, supported by actresses, politicians and others. The petition has activated more than 35,000 supporters so far and we would kindly ask you to support it as well.

[View more and sign](#) (in German)

Maternal medicine meets fetal medicine

At the *9th International Symposium on Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome and Pregnancy* (8-12 March) in Barcelona, Spain, EFCNI Chair Silke Mader spoke about the consequences of preterm birth from a patient's perspective. The 9th DIP Symposium is a comprehensive congress on maternal and fetal medicine. Topics ranged from diabetes to advanced fetal imaging, from maternal medicine to new tools in prenatal diagnosis. A heartfelt thank you to Professor Moshe Hod for the invitation and for giving patients a voice in this important congress.

[View more](#) (Website 9th DIP Symposium)

Meet EFCNI @ these congresses

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



Meet the EFCNI team @

- *Symposium „Frühstgeborene am Lebensende: gesellschaftliche, medizin-ethische und rechtliche Aspekte“*
on 21 April in Zurich, Switzerland
- *1st World Congress on Maternal Fetal Neonatal Medicine*
from 24 to 26 April 2017 in London, UK
- *50th ESPGHAN Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition*
from 10 to 13 May 2017 in Prague, Czech Republic
- *43. Jahrestagung der Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und Pädiatrische Intensivmedizin (GNPI)*
from 8 to 10 June 2017 in Dresden, Germany
- *8th Europaediatrics Congress*
from 7 to 10 June in Bucharest, Romania
- *16th World Congress in Fetal Medicine*
from 25 to 29 June 2017 in Ljubljana, Slovenia



Say goodbye to winter and welcome spring!

Playful approach for emotional support of families

The Neonatology Department at the *Maternity and Children's Clinic of the University Hospital Vall d'Hebron* in Barcelona, Spain, is carrying out an innovative programme called "*Siblings Project*" (in Catalan: "*Projecte Germans*"). Its aim is to accompany and prepare siblings of babies in neonatology with a playful and empathic approach.

[View more](#)



White Gold in Lithuania

Good news for preterm infants in Lithuania: With financial support of the parent organisation *Neišnešiotukas*, the first designed milk bank

in Vilnius has started operations. The grand opening ceremony was attended by the former president Mr Valdas Adamkus, the Minister of Health Mr Aurelijus Veryga, and Beata Nicolson, ambassador of the milk bank and famous book author. The walls were painted by the design studio UMPAPA. (Copyright picture: LearnKey Lietuva)

[View more](#) (in Lithuanian)



Early Nutrition provides postcards in several languages

Already in pregnancy, expecting mothers set the course for a healthy start in life of their baby. The research project *EarlyNutrition*, funded by the European Union, has developed postcards with recommendations messages for a healthy diet for easy sharing e.g. via social media. The postcards are available in English, Dutch, German, Greek, Italian, Latin-American Spanish, Polish, and Spanish.

[View more](#) (EarlyNutrition)



Celebrating 15 years of family support

We warmly congratulate Rose Volz-Schmidt and the entire team of *wellcome gGmbH* on their 15th anniversary! In presence of their patron, German Chancellor Dr Angela Merkel, they held a festive event at *Robert Bosch Stiftung* in Berlin. *Wellcome* is committed to supporting and strengthening families, e.g. during the time after birth and in all areas of parental life. (Copyright photo: wellcome/Hartung)

[View more](#) (newsletter by Wellcome, in German)



A sympathetic ear for the concerns of families of preterm babies

Following the continuously positive feedback, the German *Bundesverband "Das Frühgeborene Kind" e.V.* has extended its telephone consulting service on questions about preterm birth. The hotline is now reachable by phone five days a week for free (only available in Germany). "Many callers are just grateful for someone who listens to them, someone who is familiar with the medical terminology and the initial trouble and concerns", recounts consultant Alexandra Weide.

[View more](#)



11 months - 11 topics: Birth and transfer

In line with our communication campaign *11 months - 11 topics*, we feature one special newborn health topic per month. March was dedicated to *Birth & transfer*. This month, we published event notifications, a parent statement by Meegan Snyder, Parent Mentor for *Graham's Foundation*, and other related information.

- [Parent Statement](#)
- [Congress announcement Transport of High Risk Infants](#)
- [Information leaflet for parents in case of imminent preterm birth by the Bundesverband "Das Frühgeborene Kind" e.V. \(in German\)](#)
- [Birth Day Prize, an initiative of the European Commission](#)



Birth and transfer

EFCNI

Transport of High Risk Infants

In line with our focus topic *Birth & transfer*, we want to introduce the following event: The 3rd edition of the *Transport of High Risk Infants* conference will take place from 31 August to 2 September 2017 in Oxford, United Kingdom. EFCNI very much appreciates that one of the breakout sessions is dedicated to family-centred care and thanks the congress committee around Dr Morten Breindahl for adding this important issue to the congress agenda.

[View more](#) (MCA Scientific events)



Caesarean section and effects on breastfeeding patterns

Hobbs et al. published a new cohort study in *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth* to examine the association between mode of birth on breastfeeding initiation, duration and difficulties in the first four months after delivery. The authors found that women who gave birth by planned c-sections were more likely to have no intention to breastfeed or to discontinue breastfeeding before 12 weeks postpartum.

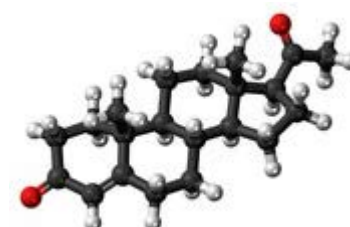
[View more](#)



Vaginal progesterone reduces rate of preterm birth

Pregnant women with twins and who have a short cervix benefit from a treatment with vaginal progesterone as well as their babies. Vaginally received progesterone reduces the risk of preterm birth and associated neonatal complications and death in pregnant women. Romero et al. came to this conclusion after conducting a meta-analysis of individual patient data.

[View more](#)



Updated ESPGHAN recommendations

The *European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition (ESPGHAN)* recently published updated recommendations on introducing complementary foods after the exclusive breastmilk feeding stage. As this transition stage is marked by rapid growth and development of a baby the authors use new scientific evidence to provide guidance on timing and content of family foods, feeding methods and specific dietary practices.



[View more](#) (*Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition*)

Neurodevelopmental practices in French NICUs

The European research project *Screening to Improve Health in Very Preterm Infants in Europe (SHIPS)* is linked with various national cohorts, like the French cohort of very and moderately preterm children, EPIPAGE-2 (epidemiologic study on small-for-gestational-age children). In a recent article in *Pediatric Critical Care Medicine*, Pierrat and colleagues analysed data from the EPIPAGE-2 cohort to explore neurodevelopmental practices in French NICUs.



[View more](#)

Postnatal corticosteroid-use in preterm babies in Europe

Nuytten et al. investigated the use of evidence-based guidelines and the utilisation of corticosteroids in several European regions and published their results in PLOS ONE. The study was based on the EPICE cohort, which includes all stillbirths and live births between 22 and 31 weeks of gestation born 2011 in all the maternity units of the 19 regions that participated in the EPICE project, the preceding project of SHIPS.



[View more](#)

Preterm birth associated with air pollution

A study by Malley et al., recently published in *Environment International*, aimed to show the first estimates of maternal fine particulate matter exposure associated with preterm births. The study team examined data from global, regional and national assessments across 183 individual countries and globally in 2010.



[View more](#)

EMA publishes workshop report

The *European Medicines Agency (EMA)* recently published the *Adaptive Pathways* workshop report. This workshop was held to gather the views and proposals from stakeholders on the adaptive

pathways. The adaptive pathways concept is an approach to medicines approval that aims to improve patients' access to medicines in cases of high unmet medical need.

[View more](#)

Mark your calendar

Receive an overview on [congresses and conferences in 2017](#) on maternal and newborn health.

[Awareness days](#)



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