



June has passed quickly and was indeed a very eventful month for EFCNI. First of all, we launched a position paper and a toolkit for the setup and operation of breast milk banks at the 43rd annual meeting of the German neonatal society *Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und pädiatrische Intensivmedizin (GNPI)* in Dresden. Moreover, we attended the *Europediatrics Congress* in Bucharest, Romania. Last but not least EFCNI was awarded a "Landmark in the Land of Ideas" by the *Germany - Land of Ideas* initiative. So please continue reading and learn more what else has happened!



Your EFCNI team

Open your mind: Award by the initiative Germany - Land of Ideas

The EFCNI project *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* has been awarded one of the 100 most innovative "Landmarks 2017" of the *Germany – Land of Ideas* initiative. The annual theme of this innovation competition was „Open your mind and unfold new ideas“. In the end of June, the award ceremony was celebrated in the heart of Berlin. (Photo: Deutschland – Land der Ideen/Bernd Brundert)



[View more](#)

More breastmilk for the smallest

On the occasion of the 43rd annual meeting of the German neonatal society *Gesellschaft für Neonatologie und pädiatrische Intensivmedizin (GNPI)* in Dresden, Germany, we proudly introduced the first publications relating to our cross-national project with the aim to support the setup and the operation of breast milk banks in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Both, the position paper and the toolkit were developed in close collaboration with the project's interdisciplinary Scientific Advisory Board.



[View more](#)

A Strong Start for Little Heroes - second edition

At the GNPI meeting, we also launched the second edition of our large-scale initiative *A Strong Start for Little Heroes*. After the very successful premiere in 2016, EFCNI again invites hospitals with neonatal intensive care units in Germany, Austria and Switzerland to realise events on the occasion of *World Prematurity Day 2017*.



Participants will get a free event package including - among other things - promotion material, information leaflets, presents for parents, and small give-aways for visitors.

[View more](#)

Building bridges across Europe

The 8th *Europaediatrics congress*, the international congress of the *European Paediatric Association - Union of European Paediatric Societies and Associations (EPA - UNEPSA)*, was held from 7 to 10 June 2017 in Bucharest, Romania. Leading national paediatric societies debated inequalities in the health status of children throughout Europe. Representing the parent's perspective in this matter, EFCNI Chairwoman Silke Mader addressed the need for pan-European changes in medical practises in paediatrics in her speech "Parents as Partners – Where are the Challenges and where the Opportunities?"

[View more](#) (*Europaediatrics congress*)



New flyer for EFCNI Donation Programme

For almost 10 years we have been dedicating our work and effort to improving newborn and maternal health. Over time we have launched and supported several sustainable and progressive charitable projects with our *EFCNI donation programme*. Now we published a new flyer displaying our versatile donation programme which offers many ways to make a contribution to improve preterm infants' lives.

[View more](#)



Neonatology and Perinatology Conference in Serbia

EFCNI Chair Silke Mader was given a warm welcome at the *National Neonatology and Perinatology Conference* in Belgrade, Serbia, where she presented the *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* project. She also gave a talk about the needs of parents and babies at neonatal intensive care units and visited the *Institute Neonatology of Belgrade* hospital. It was a particular pleasure to see mothers practising kangaroo care in the unit.

[View more](#) (article on *BLIC online*, in Serbian)



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 @

- [ISSHP European Congress](#) from 6 to 9 September 2017 in Berlin, Germany



- [3rd annual National Conference on clinical studies](#) from 7 to 8 September 2017 in Stockholm, Sweden
- [7th Symposium for Developmental Care in Neonatology and Pediatrics - EADCare](#) from 28 to 29 September 2017 in Paris, France
- [13th World Congress of Perinatal Medicine \(WCPM\)](#) from 26 to 29 October 2017 in Belgrade, Serbia

Life at home with your preterm baby

Our partner organisation *TinyLife* and the *Queens University Belfast* from Northern Ireland just presented a magnificent new website. This resource was developed for parents by parents and health and social care providers working together. It is written with both mothers and fathers in mind and includes lots of practical advice and highly recommendable videos of parents and professionals. Take a look yourself!

[View more](#) (Website *TinyLife - Life at home*)



Show your milestones

Together, we have already achieved a lot to improve the situation for preterm infants and their families. Let's show the world that we are all changemakers. Upload your short description of your events, celebrations and milestones on the interactive *EFCNI Changemaker Map* and tell your story!

[View more](#)



Helpful booklet for parents of preterm infants

The organisation *Neišnešiotukas* is known for their colourful and cheerful events. At their last summer party, they launched their first Lithuanian book for parents of preterm babies in the presence of Ausra Bilotiene Motiejuniene, the Lithuanian Vice Minister of Health. Click [here](#) and take a look at the booklet. Happy reading!

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



New website

Prematurföreningen Mirakel, one of our Swedish partner organisations, launched their new website. Parents, healthcare professionals and preterm children are sharing their thoughts and experiences in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). Website visitors will also find ideas on how to support preterm infants and their families as well as information about health topics like antibiotic resistance and standardised neonatal care.

[View more](#) (Website *Prematurföreningen Mirakel*, in Swedish)



Socks for Life stories

Everyone is warmly invited to join the international long-term campaign *Socks for Life* to make a difference for preterm babies, their families, and the care teams involved. The initiative would not be possible without the dedication of many partnering organisations. We will share some vivid examples, featuring *Socks for Life* stories by *Vivere Onlus* from Italy, *Nedoklubko* from the Czech Republic, and *Baby Story* from Belarus:

- [*Building a strong bond with parents - introducing Socks for Life in Italy*](#), by *Vivere Onlus*
- [*9,000 socks - Socks for Life campaign in the Czech Republic*](#), by *Nedoklubko*
- [*Socks for Life and hand-knitted octopuses for preterm children in Belarus*](#), by *Baby Story*



Happy summer! Socks for Life wishes you a sunny time. Download our graphics at www.efcni.org/socksforlife

11 months - 11 topics: Medical care and clinical practice

Within our *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* project, the topic expert group on *Medical care and clinical practice* is the one with the most members. They are dealing with 12 different medical topics in neonatology – from health conditions of preterm infants and the treatment of syndromes and malformations such as Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) to the neurological monitoring or the supplementation with vitamin K.

- [*Revised and extended section on health conditions of preterm infants on our website*](#)
- [*Parent statement \(Facebook\)*](#)
- [*Research news on ROP*](#)
- [*Social media series on the interdisciplinary healthcare team in the NICU \(Facebook\)*](#)
- [*Photo story - 10 ways to improve the quality of care in health facilities by the World Health Organization \(WHO\)*](#)
- [*Scientific programme of the 2nd Congress of joint European*](#)



Medical care and clinical practice

EFCNI

New executive board for GNPI

During the annual meeting of the GNPI, a new executive board has been elected by the association's members. Professor Ursula Felderhoff-Müser has been elected as new president of the executive board. She follows Professor Rolf Maier. Professor Felderhoff-Müser is Director of the Department of Pediatrics at the Children's University Hospital I in Essen, Germany, and member of the EFCNI Scientific Advisory Board. We warmly congratulate her and the new executive board and look forward to the further cooperation in the fields of neonatology and paediatrics.

[View more](#) (GNPI, in German)



Promising new blood test to predict preterm birth

Researchers at the *University of Auckland*, New Zealand, are working to develop a mid-pregnancy blood test to predict preterm birth. About 60 percent of preterm births occur unexpectedly. At this stage, there is no way of reliably predicting if a woman is at risk of preterm delivery. A two-year study carried out at the *University of Auckland's Liggins Institute*, shall now verify whether a molecular fingerprint, detected in blood taken from women 20 weeks pregnant who all went on to have their babies early, could serve as a dependable biomarker for preterm birth.

[View more](#) (healthystartworkforce.auckland.ac.nz)



Babies are born with a throttled immune system

The high risk of neonatal death from sepsis is thought to result from the immaturity of the neonatal immune system. However, a new study by Viemann et al. from the *Hannover Medical School (MHH)* and the *Universities of Bonn (LIMES-Institute)* and *Münster* published in *Nature Immunology* observed hyperinflammatory courses of neonatal sepsis which contradicts this concept. The findings of the study could represent a valuable preventive option for newborn infants at high risk for sepsis.

[View more](#)



Little patients, great need

If you would like to help improve children's health by developing innovative medical technology solutions, this new tender by the *German Federal Ministry of Education and Research* could be interesting for you. The deadline for for the first stage of the application process (in German) is **15 September 2017**.

[View more](#) (in German)



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Mark your calendar

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

[Awareness days 2017](#)



Landmark 2017 in the Land of Ideas

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

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



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