



The 6th [World Prematurity Day](#) on 17 November has proven once again that we are one big growing international family. We proudly welcomed new countries and organisations that have joined World Prematurity Day for the first time. From the bottom of our heart we would like to thank all the participants for their commitment towards preterm babies! If you want to read more about further special moments of 2016 such as the launch of our new donation programme, please take a look at the [EFCNI advent calendar](#). With this last newsletter of 2016, we wish you a pleasant Christmas time with your families and great start in 2017.



Your EFCNI team

World Prematurity Day 2016

This World Prematurity Day once again has broken records – events and campaigns in about 120 countries reached hundreds of thousands of people. 300 illuminations on all continents let the world shine in purple. We have compiled a small review of events on the occasion of World Prematurity Day.

[View more](#)



Guest article on the first participation in World Prematurity Day

We proudly present a guest article by Dr Thein Win on a crossing border collaboration in south-east Asia. The Myanmar based organisation *Community Partners International* celebrated World Prematurity Day in the Thai Mae Tao clinic in Thailand. It was their very first participation in World Prematurity Day.

[View more](#)



Successful start for large-scale initiative

A *Strong start for little heroes* was launched on the occasion of World Prematurity Day 2016. More than 150 German and Austrian hospitals registered and received a diverse action package. They celebrated with (former) preterm infants, parents, healthcare professionals and visitors. We have compiled a selection of remarkable events.

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Social media series on family-centred care

World Prematurity Day was an excellent opportunity to highlight the importance of infant- and family-centred developmentally supportive care. In a social media series, we presented facts and recommendations for families and healthcare professionals who support this approach.

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Become a Bodyguard with the EFCNI donation programme

EFCNI has recently launched a new support programme: whether single donation, monthly amount, a present for family members or friends, or the *Bodyguard* status, there are different opportunities to support EFCNI. And your donation counts! Your support will effectively improve the care of preterm and newborn infants as well as their families.

[View more](#)



Your support counts: Our charity projects in 2016

No matter how big or small, every donation makes a difference for preterm and ill born babies around the world. Thanks to you, we could realise a number of charity projects this year and make dreams come true: One of them was the hand-over of three sought-after Kangaroo Chairs to the central paediatric clinic in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in cooperation with the organisation *Uplift-Aufwind e.V.*

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Advent calendar

The year 2016 is coming to an end – time to look back on what was happened in the past 12 months. For this purpose, we have created a special advent calendar. Behind every number, we introduce a milestone or another of our special moments of the year 2016. Have fun and be curious!

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3rd Global Summit

The Bulgarian capital Sofia hosted the *3rd Global Summit for improving Standards of Care for Premies*. 140 leading healthcare experts and parents' representatives from 26 countries have met to discuss the most serious challenges preterm infants and their families have to face. The global meeting was organised by our partnering parent organisation *Our Premature Children Foundation*



in cooperation with the Bulgarian Society of Neonatology. EFCNI was represented by Silke Mader who gave a presentation on *Preterm infants – how should optimal discharge management – follow-up and long-term care look like?*

Experts in quality management met in Munich

From 24 to 25 November 2016, the *34th Münchner Konferenz für Qualitätssicherung* (Munich conference for quality management) took place in Munich, Germany. Nicole Thiele, Vice-chair of EFCNI was invited as a speaker. In her presentation *How to improve care of the Newborn Infant in Europe without data* she spoke about the perspective of quality assurance in Obstetrics and Neonatology.



Combining forces for preterm infants

In its November issue, the UK-based *Infant Journal* featured an article of EFCNI and the foundation's work. The article mainly introduces the impact of EFCNI as well as fields of activities and projects. In this context, the *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* project is described.



[View the abstract](#) (Infant Journal)

Perinatology Conference in Jena - Mitteldeutsche Perinataltagung 2016

The 2nd conference on perinatology in central Germany, *Mitteldeutsche Perinataltagung* (MiPeTa) in Jena from 25 to 26 November 2016, provided a varied programme of panel discussions and workshops, from ethical decision making to child protection and early interventions. Silke Mader tackled the question of how to deal and to communicate sensitively with parents of preterm infants in hospitals.



[View more](#) (Conference programme)

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 @



- [*9th International DIP Symposium on Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome and Pregnancy*](#) from 8 to 12 March 2017 in Barcelona, Spain
- [*1st World Congress on Maternal Fetal Neonatal Medicine*](#) from 24 to 26 April 2017 in London, UK
- [*2nd Congress of joint European Neonatal Society \(jENS\)*](#) from 31 October to 4 November 2017 in Venice, Italy

Christmas Silent Night: Remake of legendary carol

To raise money to support charity projects for preterm babies, a famous Lithuanian singer, Tomas Augulis, gathered a team of other popular singers for a remake of the legendary Christmas carol *Silent Night*. They also made a video clip of the song and all Lithuanian TV stations broadcasted the news. We are happy that our collaborating partner organisation Padedu Augti was part of this project.

[Watch the video \(YouTube\)](#)



Christmas tombola benefits French preterms

On the occasion of Christmas time, the Comité du Faubourg Saint-Honoré, representing more than one hundred luxury brands located in the most exclusive of shopping streets of Paris, organises a [winter tombola](#). The revenues will be donated to the parent organisation SOS Préma and will be used to finance their free-of-charge service for parents. Lottery tickets can be purchased online until 27 January 2017 for ten euros each.

[View more](#) (in French)



Life to come: Documentary about preterm born twins

La Vie à venir - Life to come, a very touching documentary by Claudio Capanna, tells a story from the perspective of the twins Eden and Léandro who were born severely preterm. Together, they fight fiercely for life. Just in time for World Prematurity Day, a short version and 360° virtual reality film was launched on ARTE Future on 17 November. The whole documentary was broadcasted on ARTE on 19 December.

[View more](#) (Website of La Vie à venir - Life to come movie)



Preterms – VIPs in Greece

The situation for preterm infants in Greece was discussed on domestic TV. Lela Vavouraki from our partnering parent organisation *Ilitominon* was interviewed by the channel ERT3. Beyond this, the National Theater in Thessaloniki is planning to give a theatrical show for the aims of *Ilitominon* in early 2017. Good luck to Lela and her team for their theatre career!

[View more](#) (YouTube)



Richard de Leeuwprijs 2016 for Monique Oude Reimer-van Kilsdonk

Well-deserved: Just recently, our Scientific Advisory Board member Monique Oude Reimer from the Netherlands won the Richard de Leeuwprijs 2016 awarded by our partnering parent organisation

Vereniging van Ouders van Couveusekinderen (VOC) for her merits, e.g. in the field of developmentally supportive care. Our warmest congratulations!

[View more](#) (VOC Website, in Dutch)



Parental Voice at 2nd EMA Annual Neonatal Scientific Workshop

We very much welcomed the participation of our Parent Advisory Board member Yannic Verhaest who represented the voice of parents at the [2nd Annual Neonatal Scientific Workshop](#) at the European Medicines Agency (EMA). On behalf of EFCNI, she spoke at the panel session on “Fostering a Culture of Research: Beliefs, Strengths/Barriers, Needs, INC Role/Opportunity for Establishing a Research Culture”.



[View more](#) (International Neonatal Consortium INC Newsletter)

First-aid-box for children

Pediatrics at the University hospital in Bonn, Germany, have developed a first-aid-box for emergencies. The 17-pieces box contains the most important items to help children in case of an emergency: from pads to tweezers and a leaflet with useful information on how to handle emergencies with children. 100 percent of the revenues are used to support the research for preterm infants at the University hospital Bonn, Germany.



[View more](#) (in German)

Together We Can

In the *Together We Can* campaign midwives, nurses, pediatricians, gynecologists and obstetricians are joining hands for safer pregnancies, better births and healthier childhoods. Please support the campaign by sharing the campaign video and using your own Hashtag *#TouchingStories*. It is led by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), the International Council of Nurses (ICN), the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), and the International Pediatric Association (IPA).



[View more](#)

FIGO Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy (HIP) Global Initiative

Diabetes in pregnancy is a worldwide growing concern. The



Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy (HIP) Working Group by the *International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)* is making efforts to bring the relevance of HIP as an important issue to the forefront. As a first milestone, the *Colombo Declaration on Hyperglycemia in Pregnancy* was signed at the 1st DIP Asia Pacific Symposium on Diabetes, Hypertension, Metabolic Syndrome and Pregnancy (DIPAP) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

[View more](#)

The unfinished agenda of preterm birth

The Lancet has taken World Prematurity Day as an occasion to reflect upon the global efforts to address preterm birth and neonatal mortality. We feel very honoured that *EFCNI* and our *European Standards of Care for Newborn Health* project are mentioned in their editorial '*The unfinished agenda of preterm birth*'.

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Guest articles featuring Family-centred care

The approach of *Infant- and family-centred developmentally supportive care* is based on the assumption that neonatal care should be centred around the baby and the baby's family to provide optimal support for the baby's development. In November, we dealt with different facets of this topic, like a supportive sensory environment, parental involvement in the care of their infant, or couplet care.

- [*The magic of a lullaby: Creative music therapy for preterm infants*](#), by Friederike Haslbeck, PhD
- [*A nurses' view: New technologies as an extension of family-centred care*](#), by Rachel F. Wilson and Linda Lacina
- [*Parent statement on family-centred care*](#), by Mandy Daly
- [*Factsheet on Welcoming the family in the neonatal intensive care unit*](#), by EFCNI
- [*Rights of Parents and Newborns*](#), by EFCNI
- [*Information and videos on developmental care*](#), by Professor Dominique Haumont and supported by EFCNI

Interview on Family-centred care

The Topic Expert Group on *Infant- and family-centred developmentally supportive care* works on topics such as the physical environment, the human environment, and systems aspects such as couplet care. In November, we asked Dr Björn Westrup and Professor Pierre Kuhn, the Chair Team of this Topic Expert Group, some questions on important issues in this field.

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THE LANCET



Infant- and family-centred developmentally supportive care
EFCNI



Participatory health research on pregnancy and childbirth

Moss and colleagues from the *Queen Mary University of London* recently published a commentary in *BJOG: An International Journal of Obstetrics & Gynaecology* on the growing cultural shift in health research. The authors outline how researchers can incorporate patient engagement in every step of the research process in the field of pregnancy and childbirth to improve quality of studies.

[View more](#)



Guest articles featuring Care procedures

Preterm babies need extra help to survive outside the protection of their mother's womb. Special care procedures provide them with exactly the care that he or she needs at this time. In December, we presented interesting guest articles, statements and new findings about the topic of *care procedures*, including comfort care, daily care routines and expert procedures.

- [The Council of International Neonatal Nurses \(COINN\)](#), by Associate Professor Karen Walker PhD, Carole Kenner, PhD and Agnes van den Hoogen, PhD
- [Parent statement on Care procedures](#), by Paula Guerra
- [Information about the team in the neonatal intensive care unit](#), by EFCNI
- [Information about treatment and care](#), by EFCNI
- [Brochure about bonding and care of preterm infants](#), in German, by EFCNI



Care procedures

EFCNI

Interview on Care procedures

The Topic Expert Group on *Care procedures* works on topics such as comfort care, daily care routines, expert procedures and monitoring of vital functions. This month, we asked Monique Oude Reimer-van Kilsdonk and Odile Frauenfelder, the Chair Team of the Topic Expert Group on Care procedures, some questions on important issues in this field.

[View more](#)



Testing and management of young children with fever

A research team from a Californian healthcare network published a study in *Pediatrics*: They analysed clinical diagnostic patterns regarding culture acquisition in young children aged 7 to 90 days with fever which are meant to test the presence of serious bacterial infections. In a 3-year study the authors revealed a big gap between scientific evidence and common clinical practice.

[View more](#)



Latest research on gestational hypertension

The *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* recently published latest research results from the Helsinki Birth Cohort Study. The study by Kajantie et al. examined the association between maternal preeclampsia or gestational hypertension and the risk of type 2 diabetes in adult offspring.

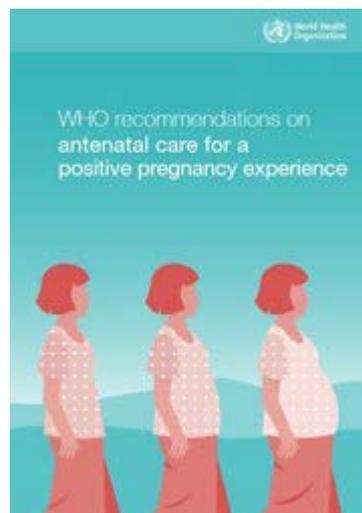
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WHO releases new antenatal care guidelines

The *World Health Organization (WHO)* recently launched a new series of recommendations to improve quality of antenatal care in order to strengthen the prevention of stillbirths and pregnancy complications and give women a positive pregnancy experience. Core principles of the new guidelines are an increased number of visits to healthcare professionals with a broad range of care services.

[View more](#)



RSV: EMA launches concept paper for public consultation

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) published a concept paper for public consultation dealing with the treatment and prophylaxis of the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). The goal is to prepare a guideline on the evaluation of medicinal products indicated for the treatment and prophylaxis of RSV infections. Deadline for comments is **31 January 2017**.

[View more](#) (EMA)



EMA brochure on European regulatory system for medicines

The *European Medicines Agency (EMA)* recently published a revised brochure on the European regulatory system for medicines. This booklet explains how the European regulatory system for medicines operates. It describes how medicines are authorised and monitored in the European Union (EU) and how the European medicines regulatory network works to ensure that patients in the EU have access to high-quality, effective and safe medicines.

[View more](#) (EMA)



Latest Global Burden of Disease Study

The Lancet recently published the latest version of the *Global*

Burden of Disease Study. It is the most comprehensive observational epidemiological study to date and describes major reasons for mortality and morbidity.

[View more](#)



Mark your calendar

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



[Awareness days](#)



We wish you and your families peaceful holidays and a prosperous New Year!

Special thanks to our corporate partners for their kind support:



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