



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

We have had a busy few weeks! On 17 November, we celebrated World Prematurity Day with our friends and partner organisations across the world. We are proud and thankful that so many communities joined us in raising awareness even though the on-going COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult to hold in-person events. It was heartening to see that people refused to let the pandemic limit the extent of their activism and found instead wonderfully creative and extraordinary ways to draw attention to the issue of preterm birth.

Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact preterm babies and their families. In this edition, we point you to several pieces that discuss how the virus challenges those caring for babies born too soon.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. In the meantime, please stay safe and healthy!

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

## EFCNI



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### WORLD PREMATURETY DAY 2020

#### Together for babies born too soon – Caring for the future

EFCNI and its friends and partner organisations celebrated World Prematurity Day on 17 November and used the day to raise awareness for the issue of preterm birth and the challenge it poses for babies born too soon and their families. Despite the difficulties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, the global community came together and honoured babies born too soon in a variety of activities and events.

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## STARKER START FÜR KLEINE HELDEN

### 2020 – ein besonderes Jahr

Auch im 5. Jubiläumsjahr unserer Aktion haben wieder 170 neonatologische Intensivstationen in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz auf die schwierige Situation von Frühgeborenen und ihren Familien aufmerksam gemacht. Mit vielen kreativen und innovativen Ideen haben teilnehmende Stationen gezeigt, dass Awareness auch coronakonform verbreitet werden kann und deswegen keinesfalls weniger intensiv sein muss. Wir bedanken uns bei allen, die teilgenommen und die Aktion unterstützt haben.

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## POLICY PAPER

### Launch of policy paper on human milk regulation

Making Human Milk Matter! Find out about the need for regulation of donor human milk in the EU, and download our policy recommendations, which we launched on 18 November. A common regulatory framework would ensure that the procurement, storage, processing and distribution of donor human milk meet high quality and safety standards. Human milk-based nutrition must be considered a European public health issue and a human right for all vulnerable infants!

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## EDITORIAL ON FAMILY-CENTRED CARE

### Tackling bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) to improve preterm health

In case you missed it this summer, we would like to point you once more to the poignant editorial written by EFCNI's Luc Zimmermann, Johanna Kostenzer, and Silke Mader and published in the American Journal of Physiology-Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology. The article focuses on the challenges caused by bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD) – the most common cause of chronic lung disease in infancy – and argues that family-centred developmental care should keep being used despite the pandemic.

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UENPS CONGRESS



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## Silke Mader hosted a plenary session at the UENPS Congress

EFCNI chairwoman Silke Mader hosted the plenary session **FAMILY CENTRED CARE: THE WORLD EXPERIENCE** at this year's digital UENPS Congress, where she was also presenting on the topic of "Family-centred care: current application and future directions".

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## Network



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### ACADEMIC SUPPORT FOR PRETERM CHILDREN

#### Online training helps preemies

Being born too soon can have long-term consequences for children's school success. An international team of researchers has now found that computerised training can support preterm children's academic success.

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### PROMISING RESEARCH

#### New preventative option may be able to prevent severe RSV infections in infants

Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) has long been recognised as a serious threat to infant health. It is the most common cause of bronchiolitis and pneumonia. So far, no prevention exists for all infants. However, research published earlier this year now suggests that a new preventative option may be able to lower severe RSV infection as well as hospitalisations.

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## Science



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### NEW STUDY ON PATIENT SAFETY

#### Ways of neonatal management during the pandemic

The risk of transmitting COVID-19 from mother to child during delivery, the safety of skin-to-skin care and breastfeeding as well as the questions whether infants are at risk to develop COVID-19 after birth are still unknown. The article "Neonatal management and outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic: an observational cohort study", published by the Lancet Child

& Adolescent Health explores those uncertainties and elucidates best practices regarding infection control between mother and child.

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## READING RECOMMENDATION

### A call for better management of paediatric pain

The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health Commission published an article on “Delivering transformative action in paediatric pain”. The authors introduce four goals that promise to improve the lives of children and adolescents: To make pain matter, understood, visible and better.

Most importantly, the researchers discuss and acknowledge all types of pain, including procedural pain, which many preterm born babies experience.

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## European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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## OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

### First two sets of European Standards of Care for Newborn Health now available in Italian

Translating the Standards is integral to raising awareness and educating people as to why their implementation is so necessary for advancing care and treatment of preterm and ill newborn babies across Europe. It is for this reason that the Italian Society of Neonatology (SIN) and Vivere ONLUS, the Italian National Coordination of Parents' Associations, have translated the standards into Italian.

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## PROMOTING FAMILY-CENTRED CARE

### Factors Influencing Implementation of Family-Centred Care in a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

Family-Centred Care (FCC) seeks to empower parents to take part in the care of their child while in the NICU. Research has shown that FCC is beneficial for both parents and child because it encourages bonding and reduces stress. In a new study, researchers interviewed healthcare professionals in Norway, Sweden, and The Netherlands to find out how FCC can be successfully implemented in hospitals and developed a roster of criteria.

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## OBSTACLES TO IMPLEMENTING INFANT- AND FAMILY-CENTRED NEONATAL CARE

### Non-evidence-based beliefs increase inequalities in the provision of infant- and family-centred neonatal care

A recent study analysed how a lack of infant- and family-centred neonatal care caused significant friction between healthcare professionals and parents in the NICUs of two hospitals in Mexico. The researchers found that each group maintained deep suspicions about the other one even though, ultimately, both parents and medical staff wanted to provide the best care for these infants.

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## GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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## GOOD NEWS FROM OUR PARTNER AFPNC IN GHANA

### Navigating Family Health during COVID-19

Selina Bentoom, founder of the African Foundation for Premature Babies and Neonatal Care (AFPNC), launched two initiatives aimed at supporting children and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. She distributed infant warmers to hospitals in remote areas in Ghana and collaborated with the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Ghana (SOGOG) and the Ghana Psychological Association (GPA) on a podcast series broadcast all over Africa.

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## LSHTM-CHARITÉ

### Global Health Lecture recordings out now!

On World Prematurity Day, EFCNI chairwoman Silke Mader gave a presentation at the Global Health Lecture of LSHTM-Charité – a lecture focusing on the effects of COVID19 on deliveries and neonatal health worldwide. In case you have missed it, the Global Health Lecture was recorded and is now available to watch online!

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