

Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

In the midst of all the worrying news about the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are thankful to be reminded of the power of community: With “The TAPS Support Foundation”, a new parent organisation has joined our network, and our friends in Romania at the “Asociatia Prematurilor” were just honoured by the European Economic and Social Committee for their fundraising efforts during the pandemic. We are also proud to have our commentary on the need for making human milk matter published in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*. Indeed, there is much to be thankful for!

Please stay safe and healthy,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

EFCNI



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NEW PUBLICATION

Lancet Commentary on making human milk matter

Our commentary on the importance of human milk for preterm, ill, and low-birthweight babies will be published in the forthcoming volume of *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*. In the piece, Dr Johanna Kostenzer, Head of Scientific Affairs at EFCNI, calls on European policy makers to establish regulations for donating human milk as well as human milk banks, pointing out that legal uncertainties have hampered the spread and adoption of this practice across Europe. Only proper legal regulation of human milk banks and human milk donation can guarantee that preterm and ill babies receive the best nutritional care possible.

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NEW PARENT ORGANISATION

“The TAPS Support Foundation” has officially joined our network

Welcome aboard! “The TAPS Support Foundation” has joined the EFCNI network of parent organisations. Based in the Netherlands, the foundation is dedicated to raising awareness about and fostering research into Twin Anemia Polycythemia Sequence, abbreviated as TAPS syndrome, a rare disease which affects twins sharing a placenta. It means that red blood cells are passed from one twin to another, leading to one twin slowly becoming anaemic while the other suffers from an excess of red blood cells.

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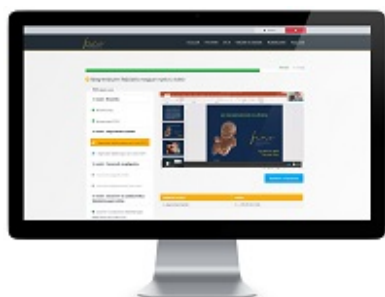
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CIVIL SOLIDARITY PRIZE

Romanian parent organisation “Asociația Prematurilor” recognized by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

In view of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the EESC laid the focus on the effects of COVID-19 on European civil society and awarded the Civil Solidarity Prize to 23 not-for-profit projects which have faced the health crisis and its consequences with courage, solidarity, and responsibility. The Romanian parent organisation “Asociația Prematurilor” received the prize for its project to deliver equipment and protective gear to six neonatal units across Romania during the pandemic. Congratulations, “Asociația Prematurilor”!

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FINE ONLINE-COURSES

Website and online modules enable digital trainings for medical staff in Hungary

Inga Warren from the NIDCAP Federation International has collaborated with our Hungarian partner organisation Melletted a helyem Egyesület to organise digital FINE trainings, so that hospitals that have applied for the trainings in line with the Hungarian Government’s “Family-Centered Obstetrics Grant” program, can benefit from these trainings despite the challenges caused by the ongoing pandemic.

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EFFECTS OF COVID-19

Elevated anxiety during pregnancy can have negative impact

A self-report questionnaire in pregnant women in Alberta reveals that stress resulting from specific concerns about COVID-19 exceeds expected levels and is higher than the levels of stress experienced by other groups of people. Prolonged anxiety and stress during pregnancy have been repeatedly linked to higher risks of postpartum depression and infection rates in newborns. Social support and physical activity appeared as potential protective factors.

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NEW STUDY

Both preterm and postterm birth increases risk of Autism

The causes of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) are complex and remain unclear. A recent study, involving more than 3.5 million children, now shows that the risk of ASD may slightly increase for each week a baby is born before or after 40 weeks of gestation.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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OVERCOMING LANGUAGE BARRIERS

The topic “Care procedures” now available in Ukrainian

We are excited to announce that another translation project has been launched. Thanks to the parent organisation “Ranni ptashky – Early Birds” as well as the Association of Neonatologists of Ukraine, the organisation “Moving Forward Together”, and the Czech Centres, “Care procedures”, one of the topics of the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health, has been translated into Ukrainian. This project is also supported by the European Union under the “House of Europe” programme.

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VIDEO INTERVIEW

Interview with Dr. Mark Johnson on thermoregulation

Expert Dr. Mark Johnson (Princess Anne Hospital in Southampton, UK) speaks with Aisling Walsh (EFCNI) in an interview about the importance of temperature regulation in newborn babies, with a particular focus on preterm babies. Find out more about the challenges healthcare professionals face when it comes to thermoregulation as well as the measures they can take in this video!

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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ZERO SEPARATION FOR BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

Lockdown and pandemic ask for emotional and psychological support

The “Zero Separation” campaign is now focusing on the topic of mental health. Whilst the pandemic is taking a toll on all of us, parents of sick newborns and preterm born babies are facing many additional challenges, often on their own. With articles, statements, and interviews, we want to make their fears and worries visible and encourage support for parents and members of clinical staff.

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EFCNI - Hofmannstraße 7A - 81379 München - Germany

Tel: +49 (0)89/89083260 - Fax: +49 (0)89/890832610 - E-mail: info@efcni.org

EU Transparency Register ID Number: 33597655264-22 - Chairwoman of the Executive Board: Silke Mader

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