



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

Spring is slowly arriving and news of COVID-19 continues to dominate the headlines. As more and more research pours in, the impact of the pandemic on newborns and their families becomes even clearer. Recent surveys by the WHO and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) have shown that in many regions babies and parents are often needlessly separated after birth and that the benefits of skin-to-skin care far outweigh the risks of contracting COVID-19. These findings validate our calls for “Zero Separation” and highlight once more how important it is to keep families together in these challenging times.

In other news, we are proud to launch a new awareness campaign in Germany addressing the dangers of pertussis (the whooping cough) to newborns as well as the possible benefits of a vaccination against it during pregnancy. We want to empower pregnant women and their partners to make informed health decisions.

As always, thank you for your support!

Take care,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

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NEW AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

On pertussis vaccinations during pregnancy – protecting babies already before they are born

We are proud to announce that we are going to launch a new awareness campaign in April. Geared towards German audiences, the campaign aims to educate families about the risks of pertussis (the whooping cough) for babies. Pertussis is one of the most common infectious diseases in Germany and while it affects people in every age bracket, it poses a

particular danger to newborns and babies.

This is why the Standing Committee on Vaccination at the Robert Koch Institute (the STIKO in German) has officially advised in favour of vaccinating pregnant women against pertussis in the last trimester of pregnancy. The campaign therefore also offers information on the possible benefits of vaccinating and wants to encourage pregnant women and their partners to learn about the issue and make an informed health decision for themselves and their families.

In this campaign, we collaborate with several renowned German healthcare societies. Our project partner GlaxoSmithKline also supports the campaign. We are grateful to our partners for their support and hope to raise awareness for this important health topic. (Please note that the campaign website is in German.)

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EFCNI Donation
Programme

1 baby in 10 is born premature. Worldwide.

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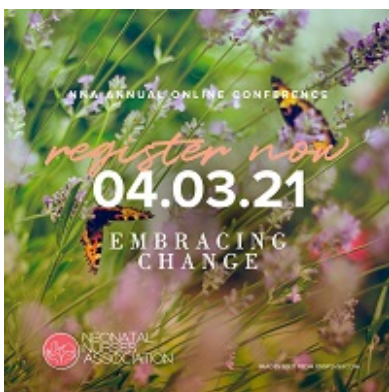
IMPLEMENTING INFANT- AND FAMILY-CENTRED DEVELOPMENTAL CARE

Constructions for family room at Munich hospital Dritter Orden well underway

Successfully implementing infant- and family-centred developmental care also hinges on providing appropriate physical spaces. Thanks, in part, to a generous private donation by Dr Wolf via EFCNI, the Munich hospital Dritter Orden has been able to begin work on establishing a family room in its neonatal unit. The room is designed to be a safe and welcoming space for families whose baby is currently receiving medical care at the neonatal unit.

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Network



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Neonatal Nurses Association gathers high-level experts on virtual conference

As the pandemic continues, the Neonatal Nurses Associations pulled off a virtual conference with a great line-up of sessions and speakers. Under the motto "Embracing Change", the event focused on the many contemporary tasks and challenges in newborn care, of which many have been

significantly intensified by the pandemic. EFCNI Chairwoman Silke Mader had the opportunity to share the parents' perspective on neonatal health and care procedures and could emphasize the importance of close parent-infant contact in the neonatal unit and which prominent role neonatal nurses play in ensuring this contact.

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NEW WEBINAR SERIES IN UKRAINE

Pregnancy and childbirth in times of COVID-19

Our Ukrainian partner parent organisation, Ranny Ptashky, has organized a special webinar series which discusses how to manage pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum family life in the midst of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Entitled “Zero Separation Smart Talks”, the series addresses parents and seeks to help them navigate having and taking care of a baby in these difficult times. Silke Mader will also contribute to one session. The webinar takes place every two weeks. Registration is free of charge.

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©European Resuscitation Council

RESUS21

The virtual ERC RESUSCITATION Guidelines Congress starts today

The European Resuscitation Council Guidelines Congress (RESUS21) runs from 25-26 March 2021! Join the Guidelines writing groups and learn all about the new ERC Guidelines. Are you an ERC Full Member, Instructor, or Course Director? Then your registration is free.

The congress platforms are open, so you can already explore the scientific content, provided you are registered, and you can prepare yourself for the interactive discussions.

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Science



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HITTING THE MARK

What matters most to women in the postnatal period?

Finlayson et al. conducted a meta-synthesis of qualitative studies to examine what is really important to women in the postnatal period as opposed to the care they actually receive. By analysing over 800 answers given by women from 15

different countries, the research team discovered five common themes that mirror the needs, expectations, and values of postnatal women. The study also provides evidence that a positive postnatal experience is essential for developing self-confidence and fulfilling adaption to new family structures and responsibilities.

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THERMOREGULATION

US-study shows improvement in thermoregulation in preterm infants

Infants born preterm (<37 weeks of gestation) or with a low birthweight (<2.5 kg) are at high risk for decreasing body temperature during transportation to the hospital. In the study by Tara Glenn et al., in collaboration with the transportation teams at the University Hospitals Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, USA, interventions were developed to increase the efficacy of thermoregulation in transported newborn infants.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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PROMOTING THE STANDARDS

Campaign “11 Months – 11 Topics” enters 6th year

Since 2016, we have been organising our promotional activities for the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health under the banner of “11 Months – 11 Topics”. The objective of the campaign is to inform healthcare professionals, affected families, policy makers as well as the wider public about what constitutes high-quality neonatal care and how it can be achieved. This year, we are focusing particularly on renewal, implementation, and information.

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LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

The NIDCAP Nursery Program

On the occasion of the 3rd annual World NIDCAP Day, we were delighted to feature the NIDCAP Nursery Program as an inspiring lighthouse project in newborn care. An insightful guest article illustrates the beginnings and achievements of NIDCAP, which stands for “Newborn Individualized Developmental Care and Assessment Program”, and the

importance of providing NIDCAP care for hospitalised infants and their families. For almost four decades, the NIDCAP community has teamed up with parents to work towards the goal to improve the health outcomes of hospitalised newborns. Today there are 25 NIDCAP training centres worldwide with hopefully more to come.

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EFCNI-Academy



ONLINE WEBINAR

Online Webinar “The first 1000 days” available on our website

Our online webinar about the first 1000 days in the life of a child is still available on our website. Renowned experts in the fields of medicine and nutrition discuss why this period is one of the most important times in a child’s life and share their insights into maternal and newborn health. This webinar is geared towards midwives, nursing staff, and physician assistants.

Please note that the webinar is held entirely in German. It is free of charge.

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



CHANGE IN CARE CULTURE

Intervention programme “Close Collaboration with Parents” proves efficient in increasing parent-infant closeness

Physical and emotional closeness between parents and their newborn infant is important for the development of both preterm and term-born infants. In an experimental study, carried out in 9 hospitals in Finland, researchers investigated if and how an educational intervention programme could enhance parental presence in the ward and increase skin-to-skin care. The study aimed to fill the knowledge gap related to the facilitation of parent-infant closeness and explored how a systematic training of professionals could eventually enhance family-centred care culture.

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COVID-19 DUAL PAPER LAUNCH



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Studies reveal worrying impact of pandemic on newborn care

In two very recently released papers, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the worrying effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on small and sick newborn care have been revealed. One of these studies is a global survey on newborn care in times of the pandemic; the other one is a risk analysis of neonatal deaths averted by Kangaroo Mother Care versus mortality due to COVID-19 infections. The publications illustrate the immense impact of the pandemic on newborn care as life-saving resources are removed from neonatal wards and beneficial practices such as Kangaroo Mother Care are ceased due to the fear of an increased infection risk. These papers conclude that parental closeness should be enabled and ensured wherever possible to improve outcomes of sick newborns globally and long-term.

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