



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

We look back on a busy few weeks! This month, EFCNI co-organised the fourth biennial jENS Congress – the Congress of joint European Neonatal Societies. It is the first neonatology congress where medical societies, scientists, healthcare professionals, and parent and patient representatives contribute equally to the congress programme. Because of the still on-going pandemic, this year, the congress was held in an entirely virtual setting. Despite the difficult circumstances, more than 2,300 people participated and the days were filled with fascinating, thought-provoking talks and discussions. So, thank you to all who attended! It is always encouraging to see when so many people come together to discuss and reflect on how neonatal care can still be improved.

As always, many thanks for reading, engaging, and sharing. We are thankful for all your support!

Please stay healthy and safe,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

EFCNI



CONGRESS OF JOINT EUROPEAN NEONATAL SOCIETIES (JENS)

A successful digital forum to discuss birth complications and preterm birth

The congress season has started and with the pandemic still on, the 4th jENS congress, which was originally to have taken place in Athens, was now held entirely digitally. This format enabled more than 2,300 participants from 115 countries to attend sessions and workshops and to join the discussions around neonatal care. Besides researchers, medical societies,

healthcare professionals, and parent representatives, former preterm infants attended the congress as speakers for the first time to share first-hand experience on long-term outcomes with the experts.

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NEW ADDITION TO THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Welcome, Professor Minesh Khashu!

Meet our newest member of the Scientific Advisory Board of EFCNI and GLANCE, Professor Minesh Khashu! He is a Consultant Neonatologist and Professor of Perinatal Health, with a special interest in system-wide transformation, continuous quality improvement, and patient-centred care. By joining the Scientific Advisory Board, Prof. Minesh Khashu would like to use his commitment to EFCNI and GLANCE to facilitate the creation of parent organisations in South East Asia, which, together with experts, will be a united front to advocate for the care of newborn infants. His actions are motivated by the belief that “collaboration is the most critical innovation required in healthcare today” – welcome, Professor Khashu!

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LAUNCH OF SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Get ready: “Strong start for little heroes” is on its way!

In September 2021, we launched this year's social media campaign of “Strong start for little heroes”, which is always a matter close to our hearts. For six years already, we have been supporting hospitals in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland in celebrating World Prematurity Day on 17 November with this initiative. Since then, around 170 hospitals have participated each year and turned this day into something special. A heartfelt thank you to Nestlé and the Nestlé Nutrition Institute for the wonderful support since the beginning of this programme. Thanks also go to Philips Avent and Hobeia for their assistance. Follow our social media posts throughout the next two months to receive interesting details about the background of this initiative, this year's lottery, and access to a “list of possibilities” to inspire your WPD activities! Stay tuned and follow EFCNI on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. Please note that the corresponding website is in German.

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PERTUSSIS VACCINE DURING PREGNANCY



© Christian Albring

“Vaccinating against pertussis during pregnancy is simply a good safety measure”, says Dr. Christian Albring in our new interview

As part of our on-going awareness campaign on the benefits of the pertussis vaccination during pregnancy, we interviewed Dr. Christian Albring on the topic. Dr. Albring is a renowned gynaecologist and president of the German organisation “Bundesverband der Frauenärzte” (“Federal Association of Gynaecologists”). In our interview, he explains the benefits of the vaccine, when it should be given, and why. He also discusses how gynaecology practices can make sure they inform and educate their patients on the benefits of the vaccine. Please note that the interview is in German.

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MORE ON PERTUSSIS

New video series with Dr. Marianne Röbl-Mathieu on the benefits of the pertussis vaccine during pregnancy

In order to educate people further on the dangers of pertussis (the whooping cough) for newborns and inform them about the benefits of the vaccine against it, we also compiled a short video series with Dr. Marianne Röbl-Mathieu. She is a distinguished gynaecologist and a member of the STIKO, the Standing Committee on Vaccination at the Robert Koch Institute in Germany. In our video series, Dr. Röbl-Mathieu answers a variety of questions regarding pertussis and the vaccine during pregnancy. Among other things, she explains how the vaccine during pregnancy works, when it should be given, and whether the vaccine is safe for mom and baby. Please note that the videos are in German.

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Network



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EFCNI WELCOMES PLATINUM PARTNER ASTRAZENECA

Three voices to raise awareness of RSV

To kick off our platinum partnership with AstraZeneca, we sat down with three leaders at AstraZeneca (Dr. Catia Ferreira, Global Medical Leadership; Dr. Tonya Villafana, Vice President, Global Franchise Head, Infection; and Laura Roth, Global Commercial Director, Pipeline Assets) to understand

their roles, why they do what they do, and what the future holds in the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) space.

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NEW PARENT ORGANISATION IN JAPAN

A warm welcome to “Join”, a new parent organisation from Japan, which has become a member of our network

We are happy to announce that a new partner parent organisation is cooperating with the EFCNI network. “Join” was founded in 2020 with the aim to connect families with hospitalised babies across Japan by working with family associations in the country. As two of the founders, Dr. Takeshi Arimitsu and Prof. Satoshi Kusuda, explain, “Join” wants to focus particularly on babies admitted to the NICU and support families and family associations to further advance neonatal care, social support, and long-term follow-up care in Japan. Welcome, “Join”, and all our best wishes on the path ahead!

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STUDY ON PRETERM BIRTH AND MENTAL HEALTH

How relationship satisfaction and emotional dependency positively affects the mental health of parents after preterm birth

A recent article, published by trained psychologist Ilknur Okay, President of our Turkish partner parent organisation “El Bebek Gül Bebek” and Chair Committee Member of GLANCE, in collaboration with Çiğdem Yavuz Güler from the Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakıf University, Istanbul, Turkey, reveals the protective effect of relationship satisfaction and dependency on parents’ mental health after having a preterm baby. The study evaluated the data of 209 parents of preterm born infants and examined the impact of the relationship dynamics on post-preterm birth depression, anxiety, stress, and post-traumatic growth (PTG). The findings point out the importance of establishing infant- and family-centred developmental care in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) and that the timely prediction of possible risks of depression, anxiety, and stress can support the functionality of entire families.

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Science

ATYPICAL INCREASE OF RSV CASES IN CHILDREN



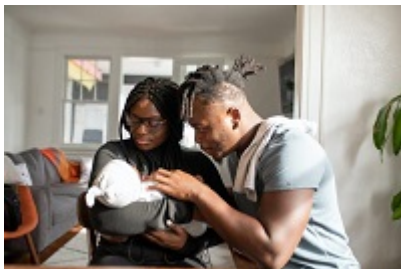
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AFTER PANDEMIC

Professional societies recommend early RSV prophylaxis

COVID-19 hygiene and distancing measures pushed back familiar influenza infections and colds last fall and winter. Now that those precautions are declining, other respiratory infections are on the rise again. Physicians in Germany are currently concerned about an uncharacteristic increase in hospital admissions for respiratory infections due to respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in paediatric hospitals. Six national paediatric societies are alarmed by these untimely, local RSV rates in Germany and have therefore issued a joint recommendation for early initiation of RSV prophylaxis with medication starting in early October 2021. Please note that the article is in German.

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RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS IN PRETERM INFANTS

Survey reveals highly established parental knowledge of RSV

In February 2020, the Canadian Premature Babies Foundation (CPBF), in collaboration with Préma-Québec, a similar French charity, launched a survey to assess parental knowledge of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and other respiratory diseases in preterm infants. The goal of this online survey was to understand information gaps and share them with healthcare professionals (HCPs) so they can update their primary prevention strategies. The survey results show that knowledge about RSV and other respiratory infections is widespread. Regarding parent education, the majority of respondents cited HCPs and brochures as primary sources of information and suggested additional digital education strategies and direct guidance on RSV prophylaxis to prevent infections and reduce hospitalisations.

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REDUCING PRETERM BIRTHS AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES

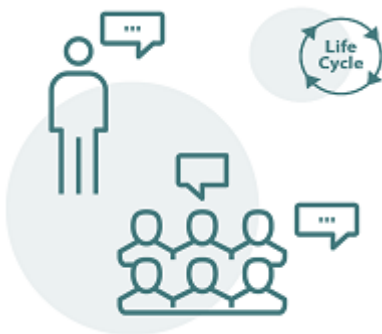
FIGO Working Group for Preterm Birth publishes good practice recommendations on preterm birth

The “International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics” has published a new issue dedicated to the topic of preterm birth. The edition (Vol. 155, No. 1) contains nine noteworthy good practice recommendations by the FIGO (International

Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics) Working Group for Preterm Birth. The individual articles discuss a diverse array of aspects, such as how to reduce preterm births and improve health outcomes, the importance of registry data in preventing and managing preterm births, or the benefits of delayed cord clamping in preterm births. As the editors explain, they want to lay the focus on “the most important low-hanging fruits” to encourage further efforts to reduce preterm births and improve health outcomes. All articles are open access.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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THE REVISION PHASE STILL ONGOING

Only a few weeks left to participate in the reviewing of the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health!

The official review process for 20 individual standards from the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH) is still open for a few more weeks! The process is open to the public and we want to invite those of you who have not yet participated to share your expertise with us. Whether you were hospitalised after birth yourself, are an affected family member, or work in the fields of neonatology, perinatal, or follow-up care – we would like to hear your thoughts on the different standards. The objective behind the review phase is to ensure that the ESCNH continue to reflect the best of neonatal care and that they take the different perspectives and interests of all stakeholders into account.

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NEW LONGITUDINAL DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

What parents want to know about caring for their preterm infant

Preterm birth makes parents often feel like being thrown into unknown territory. While still coping with the physical and emotional trauma of the event, they additionally must learn how to be a parent and, moreover, the caregiver of a preterm infant. In a recent study, a group of researches explored the subjective knowledge needs and skills acquisition of parents throughout their infant's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) stay. In their longitudinal descriptive study, the authors revealed variations of knowledge needs depending on factors such as the phase of hospitalisation, parent age, and prior parenting experience. Moreover, parents were especially interested in their infant's medical course and feeding-related topics. Those findings may pave the way towards empowering

parents to become full partners in their infant's caregiving – in the NICU and at home.

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EFCNI-Academy



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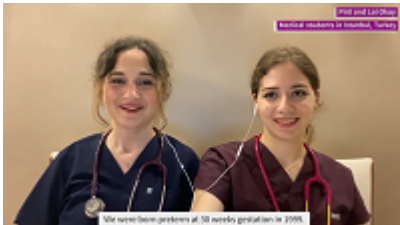
ABOUT HUMAN MILK

Three modules to master enteral preterm nutrition – an e-learning opportunity

Are you a medical specialist, a dietician, or a nurse working in the field of paediatrics, neonatology, or infant nutrition? You want to know more about what makes human milk a true superfood? Then we would like to invite you to attend our CME accredited e-learning series on enteral preterm nutrition, to gain insights into the importance of human milk nutrition for preterm infant health! In three modules you will learn about implementation strategies for clinical practice, the magic of human milk oligosaccharides, and the long-term impact of human milk on health outcomes of neonates. All modules are free of charge.

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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A STRONG MESSAGE

Preterm born infants need their parents – also in the NICU

Lal and Piri Okay, twins born preterm at 30 weeks of gestation in the late 1990s in Turkey, have decided to turn their experience as former preterm infants into their strength. Both are now studying medicine and, after already being familiar with their parents' perspective on their preterm birth and the time in the NICU, they now also get to know the challenges of the professionals to meet their patients' needs and to fulfil their duty as healthcare providers. In a video statement for GLANCE, the two young women share how their own preterm birth has influenced their personalities but also how they want to use their voices to support parents and hospitalised newborns to remain together during hospitalisation, also now in times of the pandemic. We recommend to watch their full statement. A Turkish version is also available on our website.

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LAUNCH OF THEMATIC BRIEF

Nurturing care for every newborn!

Did you know about the five components of nurturing care and why the first few weeks after birth are especially precious for a child's survival, health, and development? This month, the WHO and UNICEF launched the thematic brief "Nurturing Care for Every Newborn: Ensuring Every Newborn Survives and Thrives" to inform about infant- and family-centred developmental care as well as ways to realise the concept in NICUs and at home. With the aim of furthering investments in policies, health systems, and community awareness, the thematic brief explains their relevance based on best practice examples and the most recent evidence. EFCNI is a proud supporting partner of the initiative. Moreover, the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH), especially those focused on infant- and family-centred developmental care, are listed as reference works. The thematic brief also points to the GLANCE initiative as a resource for establishing nurturing care. After a successful launch event, during which EFCNI Chairwomen Silke Mader related a parent perspective on nurturing care, the thematic brief is now available for download. The recorded launch event is also available as webinar.

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