



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

Only a few more weeks until World Prematurity Day, 17 November. We are already busy planning activities in order to raise awareness for the challenges that come with preterm birth. As in previous years, we have put together a toolkit with material for social media as well as information about preterm birth and World Prematurity Day. Feel free to have a look!

As we are entering into autumn, respiratory infections are unfortunately on the rise again – and not just COVID-19. Cases of infections with the respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) are also increasing, so we have prepared a new brochure for parents with tips on how to protect their baby against an infection. Pertussis (the whooping cough) is another respiratory disease with potentially serious consequences for babies, so our most recent expert interview and the new flyer on preventive measures are topical news as well.

Please stay healthy and safe!

Many thanks for reading, sharing, and supporting our work,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

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WORLD PREMATURETY DAY 2021

Spread the word! Our social media toolkit for World Prematurity Day 2021 is online now

World Prematurity Day 2021 is only a few weeks away and in order to support the global community in its awareness raising activities, we developed a comprehensive Trello board with material and information, free for all to use. The board serves as a toolkit and contains a variety of information about preterm

birth, World Prematurity Day, and a message map to help everyone get a good grasp of the topic. It also provides further information on this year's theme – Zero Separation. Act now! Keep parents and babies born too soon together. – and links to additional readings and reports. Moreover, we offer free graphics for use on social media, translated into four languages, as well as suggestions for social media posts. Additional resources like banners for social media accounts or profile pictures are also available.

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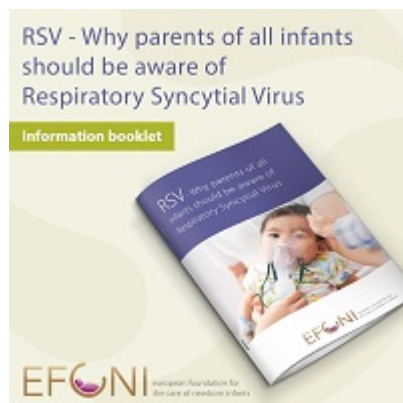
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LOTTERY: STRONG START FOR LITTLE HEROES

Great yields for good deeds!

We are approaching World Prematurity Day and are right in the middle of planning our related project “Strong Start for Little Heroes”. Each year, EFCNI, together with partners and friends, support NICUs in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland in celebrating 17 November. In order to thank hospitals for their participation, we always try to think of something special! Hence, we are excited to announce that the prizes for this year's lottery are: 3x1 individualised workshop addressing the topic of feeding a preterm baby, under the lead of a renowned expert. Take part, be creative, and win one of three highly individualised workshops! Please note that only hospitals registered for “Strong Start for Little Heroes” can participate in the lottery and that all material is in German.

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NEW PARENT BOOKLET ABOUT RSV

Why parents of all infants should be aware of Respiratory Syncytial Virus

The topic of Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) is currently on everyone's lips: Paediatric hospitals worldwide are reporting rising numbers of RSV cases. Many experts, but especially parents, are concerned. On the occasion of “Healthy Lung Month” in October, we have published a new parent booklet on RSV. In this new brochure, we provide easy-to-understand information about this common virus and its symptoms, illustrated with helpful infographics. Valuable first-hand advice from parents and medical experts shows how to recognise an infection and what prevention measures parents can take to protect their child from an RSV infection. The project was kindly supported by Sanofi Pasteur.

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PERTUSSIS



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Educating about the pertussis vaccine during pregnancy – new expert interview and flyer available

As part of our ongoing efforts to raise awareness for the benefits of the pertussis vaccine during pregnancy in Germany, we just published a flyer with information about the vaccine. The flyer aims to educate about the possible consequences of a pertussis infection for infants, inform about the vaccine, and answer questions about getting the shot while pregnant. Moreover, we interviewed PD Dr. Edith Reuschel, an expert in gynaecology, prenatal medicine, and perinatology, about the pertussis vaccine during pregnancy. Dr. Reuschel is also a renowned medical microbiologist and infection epidemiologist and explains, among other things, in the interview how the pertussis antibodies are transferred from mother to unborn child. Please note that all the material is in German.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Planning for special issue on decision making in ethically complex situations has begun

EFCNI's Chairwoman of the Executive Board, Silke Mader, and Prof. Harald Ehrhardt are guest editors for a special issue of the open access journal "Children", entitled "Decision Making at the Border of Viability and in Critically Ill Newborn Infants". The special issue wants to investigate the manifold challenging ethical questions which arise from the care of preterm and hospitalised infants and discuss approaches to care for these vulnerable patients from religious as well as legal and scientific perspectives. Likewise, it aims to address the ethical complexities inherent in the decision-making process between medical professionals and parents when it comes to defining the course of treatment for the newborn. The Call for Papers is open until 22 January 2022.

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Network



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WORLD'S SMALLEST PATIENT SIMULATOR IN MUNICH

How baby Paul can save the lives of preterm babies

Since October, clinical care teams in the neonatology department of the University Hospital of Munich (LMU) have been able to practise for emergencies with the world's smallest

and most modern premature baby simulator “Paul”. With a size of 35 cm and a weight of 1,000 g, Paul is a life-like replica of a preterm baby born in the 27th week of pregnancy and enables simulation trainings under realistic conditions. In simulated stress situations, medical professionals can train a routine distribution of tasks and establish standardised procedures - because in an emergency, every move has to be right! The “Saving Lives with Paul” project is the result of a cooperation between the Medical University of Vienna, LMU, and EFCNI, and is a milestone on the way to a sustainable improvement in neonatal care. Further information on the Paul project can also be found in the press release in German language.

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RETINOPATHY OF PREMATURITY

Tracking retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) across Europe

Retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a retinal disease which is caused by an increased growth of blood vessels in the baby's retina. It especially affects preterm born infants. Even though medical understanding of the disease has improved significantly in recent years, research also shows that ROP patterns and disease progression vary in European countries since the disease is susceptible to subtle differences in neonatal and ophthalmological management. This means that data on real-life treatment patterns and long-term follow-up is limited. In an effort to close the data gap, the EU-ROP registry project was just launched. The project collects data on ROP characteristics, treatment patterns, follow-ups, and outcomes in different countries across geographical Europe in order to foster a better understanding of ROP and treatment options and compare approaches to improve ROP care across Europe.

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INTO A NEW LIFE WITH BEAUTIFUL MELODIES

Heads up, music lovers!

Our friends at “Amia musica” are creating a new songbook! With the aim of giving 5,000 copies to families with a baby in the NICU, the team behind the project invites everyone to participate and support them in finalising the songbook until World Prematurity Day on 17 November. Families with a preterm or hospitalised baby are welcome to hand in their favourite songs, letters about their personal history, and own recordings. Visit the homepage of “Amia musica” to learn more about the project and the benefits of music in developmental care frameworks. Please note that the website is in German.

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FOLLOW-UP OUTCOMES OF THE CARE-ROP STUDY

Ranibizumab identified as safe and effective treatment for retinopathy of prematurity

Acute retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) is a progressive retinal disease that primarily affects very preterm babies and can lead to scarring and retinal detachment that impairs vision or even causes blindness if not recognised and treated appropriately. After the core study had already confirmed two Ranibizumab doses as an effective treatment to control acute ROP, researchers collected follow-up data of 16 preterm infants to analyse the long-term safety of both doses in a randomised controlled clinical trial (CARE-ROP). Regarding long-term safety, the study results are reassuring in terms of neurodevelopmental and functional ocular outcomes 1 and 2 years after treatment with Ranibizumab. However, late reactivation of ROP poses a challenge and requires frequent and long-term follow-up exams.

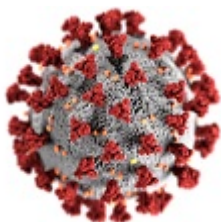
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NEONATAL COVID-19 INFECTION IN THE UK

Newborns unlikely to contract the virus from infected mothers

In terms of guidelines for the management of babies at risk, data on how the COVID-19 virus is transmitted to and affects newborns was lacking for some time during the pandemic. To analyse the incidence, transmission, and severity of the disease in neonates hospitalised in the UK, a prospective national cohort study included 66 newborns with confirmed COVID-19 infection. The study found that newborns are unlikely to contract the virus from infected mothers, and if they do, the symptoms are mild. This in turn underlines our call for a “Zero Separation” policy and the WHO and UK recommendation to keep babies with their mothers as this is important for breastfeeding, bonding, and overall development.

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PAEDIATRIC RESEARCH IN THE TIMES OF COVID-19

Direct and indirect implications for children's health and related research

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous effects on children's health and related research have become apparent: direct impacts include participation of children in COVID-19 research trials, disruption of other research involving children, and the potential impact of a global economic downturn on future research funding. Prof. Charles Roehr - Professor at the University of Bristol, President of the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR), and a member of EFCNI's Scientific Advisory Board – and six of his research colleagues look at the challenging implications, but also the positive and encouraging research developments and innovations after COVID-19. The opinion piece concludes with concrete recommendations to achieve better outcomes for children's healthcare research and strive for a lasting positive legacy of the pandemic.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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LIFECYCLE 2021

First results of the revision phase are in!

We spent this summer collecting feedback on 20 individual standards from the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH). The public consultation phase is now closed and we are happy to say that it was a great success. More than 60 people from 24 countries participated and we received 252 complete questionnaires, so we want to extend a big thank you to everyone who took the time to review the standard(s) in question. After we have received the additional suggestions for revision from our independent expert reviewers, we will pass on all feedback to the authors of each standard. We are grateful to be able to draw on such a strong and active network. Thank you for helping us to ensure that the ESCNH continue to reflect the best of neonatal care.

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TRANSLATIONS

The Italian translations of the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH) are available in book form

It was a long and ambitious project – and has now been successfully completed: the translation of the entire European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH) into Italian! Led by the Italian Society of Neonatology (SIN) and the Italian National Coordination of Parents' Associations, Vivere ONLUS, a dedicated team of specialists translated the ESCNH, topic per topic, from English into Italian. This month, SIN and Vivere ONLUS published a book version and SIN

distributed it to every NICU in Italy. Making the ESCNH available in Italian is laudable because it allows more people to join the ongoing conversation in Italy what constitutes high-quality neonatal care. It also means that NICUs will have an easier time learning about the individual standards and finding ways to implement them. We thank everyone who has been involved in this project for their hard work, persistence, and trailblazing spirit, and hope that this example will motivate others to follow suit.

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EFCNI-Academy



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THE IMPORTANT FIRST 1,000 DAYS OF A CHILD'S LIFE

It's been a while, but....

...the EFCNI Academy is back on campus! In mid-October, we hosted our first in-person workshop since the COVID-19 outbreak and are delighted about its success. Renowned healthcare professionals shared their great expertise on the importance of the first 1,000 days in a child's life – from pregnancy to toddlerhood. We thank all attendees for their interest and active participation. It was great to have you back and we look forward to more in-person meetings of this kind in the future.

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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COVID-19 GLOBAL SURVEY OF PARENTS' EXPERIENCES

Register now: Digital launch event "Zero Separation. Together for better care!"

Join us on Thursday, 11 November 2021 at 2pm CET for our free webinar on the launch of our global study and project report on "Infant and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC) in times of COVID-19 – A global survey of parents' experiences". In an online survey, 2,103 parents of newborns requiring special/intensive care from 56 countries shared their experiences of disruptions and restrictions in prenatal care, parental access, infant nutrition and breastfeeding, health communication, and mental health during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sign up now to learn more about country-specific differences in IFCDC and some alarming findings about how severely families have been affected by separation policies, with, so far, unpredictable short and long-term consequences.

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COVID-19 FAQs UPDATED

Frequently asked questions about maternal and newborn health

The good news first: Although the COVID-19 pandemic and related concerns have reached every country in the world, there is currently no reason to believe that infants, both term and preterm, are the main target of this virus. While this is very reassuring, there are certainly some unanswered questions from concerned parents that we try to address in our updated COVID-19 FAQ section. In a comprehensive overview, we have compiled up-to-date information in seven languages in the categories pregnancy, birth, breastfeeding, NICU, discharge, and follow-up, and provide further links to national health institutions as well as exchange opportunities with national parent organisations.

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WHO WEBINAR

Maintaining essential services for women, newborns, and children during the COVID-19 pandemic

Across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed healthcare systems to the limit. In an effort to help ease the burden of COVID-19 on maternal, newborn, and child health services, the World Health Organization (WHO) has engaged with a series of countries to ensure the continuity of essential health services. This 2 November at 1:30 pm Geneva time, the WHO offers a special webinar to analyse these countries' experiences and to discuss how lessons learned can be applied to similar future disruptive events. The goal is to develop strategies to strengthen health systems to rapidly respond and build back better.

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