



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

If you follow us on our social media channels, you may have heard about it already: this April, we are celebrating 15 years of EFCNI – and cannot quite believe how time has flown by. We certainly could not have reached this milestone without our wonderful network of friends, partners, and supporters. Together, we have advanced the quality of care for the smallest patients and advocated on behalf of families worldwide. Even though much still remains to be done, we take this moment to reflect on the power and interconnectedness of our community. We are grateful to be a part of it!

Congress season is also upon us and the next weeks will see EFCNI members traveling to many different regions of the world to present results from our various research and awareness projects. If you are also planning to attend some of these congresses, please do not hesitate to come over to our booth and say hello. We look forward to connecting!

As always, many thanks for reading,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

EFCNI



15 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

EFCNI celebrates 15 years of foundation history

This April marked a very happy occasion: we celebrated 15 years of EFCNI and took the opportunity to look back on eventful, moving years in our history. As we walked down memory lane, we remembered highlights of our work together with our supporters and companions. We invite you to take a glimpse at our founding meeting, see our first congress booths

and learn how our logo came into being. A big, heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who has accompanied us on this journey. We look forward to the coming years – there is much to do, let's get on with it!

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PRE-ECLAMPSIA AWARENESS WEEK 2023

Join our Pre-eclampsia Awareness Campaign “act early! screen early!”

In light of May being Pre-eclampsia Awareness Month and World Pre-eclampsia Day on 22 May 2023, EFCNI will again raise awareness for this important issue. It is our aim to share information and educate about pre-eclampsia as well as the necessity and advantages of early risk assessment and first-trimester screening. For this year's campaign, we have come up with something special: Our campaign will be performed as a Pre-eclampsia Awareness Week with daily contributions between 22 and 27 May. Join us with our message “act early! screen early!” and stay tuned for new animated graphics, a personal experience of an affected mother, a video statement of a healthcare professional, and many more materials promoting pre-eclampsia awareness! Please stay tuned for updates on our campaign page.

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HEALTHY NUTRITION CHOICES FOR A HEALTHY PREGNANCY

The role of nutrition and supplementation before, during, and after pregnancy

As part of our educational campaign “Healthy early nutrition – healthy future” we had the great opportunity to talk to Professor Liona Poon, Head for Maternal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Vice Chair of the FIGO Committee on Impact of Pregnancy on Long-term Health, about the causalities between nutrition, healthy pregnancy, and the well-being of mother and child. The expert also discussed how nutrient deficiencies can be counteracted with information and communication between pregnant women and their doctor.

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PROTECTING AGAINST PERTUSSIS

New video explains how pertussis vaccination during pregnancy works

Pertussis, also known as whooping cough, is a serious and highly contagious infectious disease which is particularly dangerous for infants, especially those born preterm. The good news: if the mother gets vaccinated during the third trimester of pregnancy, the antibodies her body produces in response to the vaccine pass to the baby before birth. The baby is thus born with some protection against pertussis. In many countries, including Austria and the United States, this vaccine has long been part of healthcare services during pregnancy. Wanting to raise awareness for the dangers of pertussis for newborns, EFCNI has now developed a short video which explains how the vaccine works and why it is a good protective measure against the disease. The video is freely available and also meant as tool for healthcare professionals to use it when educating patients about the issue. Please note that the video, just like the entire campaign, is in German.

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Network



ADVERTORIAL – RAISING AWARENESS OF RSV

Do you recognise the “Sounds of RSV” in babies?

For many countries in the southern hemisphere, RSV season is just starting. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) is a common, contagious virus that infects the nose, throat, and lungs, making it hard for an infant to breathe. Most children will contract an RSV infection in their first two years, and although it usually only causes mild, cold-like symptoms, some serious cases can be life-threatening. For babies who are at high risk, such as those born preterm, recognising the symptoms of RSV infection is therefore critical. Our corporate partner, AstraZeneca, has developed a microsite about what the symptoms sound like in their the “Sounds of RSV”.

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MEET EFCNI IN VIENNA

55th Annual Meeting of ESPGHAN in Vienna

The congress season is just around the corner, and we cannot wait to get a taste of congress air again starting in May. We are excited to be on-site at the 55th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (ESPGHAN), taking place from 17 to 20 May in Vienna, Austria! This congress unites healthcare professionals, patient and parent representatives as well as industry partners in the fields of paediatric gastroenterology, hepatology, and nutrition from across the world with the aim to reduce the burden of digestive and nutritional diseases and to improve digestive and

nutritional health in paediatric age groups. EFCNI Chairwoman Silke Mader will contribute to the diverse congress programme with a presentation focusing on human milk regulation in the EU. Besides, we are looking forward to presenting new materials at the congress, so stay tuned!

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Science



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NEW FACTSHEET

Launch of new factsheet “Clinical Trials in Newborns”

We are very happy to announce the launch of our new EFCNI factsheet on “Clinical Trials in Newborns”! It offers an overview of important terms and definitions as well as chances and challenges of clinical trials in newborns. Additionally, we explain the design of a clinical trial with the help of a practical example – the TREOCAPA study where EFCNI is the Public and Patient Involvement Partner. The aim of this factsheet is to raise awareness on the topic of clinical trials in newborns and to support the development of target group specific care and medicine. Thank you to the TREOCAPA Parent Advisory Board for their support and input. Get your copy now!

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HEATWAVE-INDUCED PRETERM BIRTH

The impact of climate change on preterm birth health and human capital

Heatwaves can increase the risk of preterm birth (PTB), which in turn will affect physical health and human potential over the life course. In the current study, researchers assessed the number of PTB cases in China over the past decade that are attributed to heatwaves, emphasising those induced by anthropogenic climate change. To evaluate the heatwave-related PTB burden regarding health, human capital, and economic costs, they combined three dimensions (i.e., health, cognition, and noncognition) of human capital and analysed the most common short- and long-term outcomes of PTB, such as neonatal mortality and reduced IQ. Results showed, among other things, that about a quarter (25.8%) of heatwave-related PTBs per year on average can be attributed to anthropogenic climate change, which further result in human capital losses of an estimated more than 1 billion USD.

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GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF BREASTFEEDING

Protective role of breastfeeding in reducing the duration and severity of RSV bronchiolitis in infants

A recent systematic review including 17,000 children from 19 studies concludes that breastfeeding has a positive impact on RSV-associated acute lower respiratory infections (ALRI). Evidence suggests that the severity of ALRI associated with RSV and factors such as hospitalisation rates, length of hospital stay, and additional oxygen support is reduced when infants are exclusively or partially breastfed. Learn more about how breastfeeding as a protective factor strengthens the immune system and protects against serious childhood infections.

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STUDY ON THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF PRETERM BIRTH

Family environment affects the socio-emotional development in children born preterm

Many different aspects influence the development of a child. Biological effects of preterm birth increase the risk of several diseases, whereas the influence of preterm birth on the child's social, behavioural, and educational development are not yet investigated as well. Now, researchers from Ireland examined if the family environment and the parent-child relationship influence the social-emotional development of preterm-born children differently than children born full-term. The results show that children born preterm had more socio-emotional difficulties and lower language- and numerical-abilities in late childhood and early adolescence.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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REVISION PHASE

Public consultation well underway

All healthcare professionals, parent representatives, and other stakeholders are warmly invited to take part in the revision process for the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH). This year, some 76 individual standards are up for review. The objective behind the public consultation phase is to enable the wider community to contribute to the ESCNH by sharing their perspectives and insights. The consultation is

accessible via an online survey and is still open until the end of June.

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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ALIGNING TOGETHER. ACCELERATING TOGETHER.
SAVING LIVES TOGETHER

First biennial International Maternal Newborn Health Conference in Cape Town, South Africa

For the first time in more than eight years, the International Maternal Newborn Health Conference (IMNHC) 2023 will host the maternal and newborn health communities in Cape Town, South Africa. Under the slogan “Aligning Together. Accelerating Together. Saving Lives Together”, more than 1,500 stakeholders from around the world will come together to accelerate solutions to improve maternal and newborn survival rates and prevent stillbirths. We are excited and honoured to be participating in this high-level international gathering. For those unable to attend the conference in person, the conference website offers live streams and further opportunities to get involved remotely.

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WEBINAR ON KANGAROO MOTHER CARE

Launch of Kangaroo Mother Care Global Position Paper and Implementation Strategy

On 16 May, the World Health Organization (WHO) is going to publish a global position paper and implementation strategy on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), following the release of new guidelines for the care of preterm or low birthweight infants in 2022. According to these, KMC is recommended as the essential standard of care for all babies born too early or small. Programme partners, policy makers, and the broader public health community are invited to participate in the webinar to discuss these two recent resources and hear from key stakeholders in newborn health about their plans to support implementation and scale up of KMC for all preterm or low birthweight babies.

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The EFCNI 2023 policy and advocacy training workshop for patient and family representatives is supported by a restricted grant from Pfizer.

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