



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

On 17 November, we proudly celebrated World Prematurity Day, a momentous occasion that united our community both online and offline. This day not only heightened awareness surrounding the challenges faced by preterm infants but also cast a well-deserved spotlight on their families. We took the time to honour their stories while applauding the unwavering dedication of healthcare professionals committed to the well-being of preterm infants.

In this edition, we also shine a light on respiratory illnesses, specifically RSV and pertussis, recognising their impact on neonatal care. Our newly available informational materials and resources aim to equip healthcare professionals with the tools needed for effective patient care.

Moreover, we are thrilled to showcase the remarkable work of our partner parent organisations across Europe. Their impactful activities and initiatives are driving lasting change in neonatal care within their respective countries, serving as a true inspiration for all of us.

Warm regards,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team



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WORLD PREMATURETY DAY 2023

Small actions big impact: immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere

On 17 November, we celebrated World Prematurity Day 2023. What a wonderful day – and a successful one, too! Parent organisations, clinics, families, and professionals from all around the globe joined us in celebrating this day and raising awareness about improving the care for all the little fighters out there. This year’s theme underlined once again how important it is to enable skin-to-skin care right from the start for baby and parents. Many thanks to all of you who posted about their celebrations and activities, which filled us with so much joy and gratitude. Every action matters, regardless of how big or small it may seem. Have a look at the summary of this year’s activities, and feel free to send us more information and pictures of your events as well!

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STRONG START FOR LITTLE HEROES

Take part in our raffle and win prizes for your neonatal intensive care unit

As part of the “Strong Start for Little Heroes” campaign, participating clinics organised outstanding activities to raise awareness for World Prematurity Day 2023. With lots of imagination and creativity, Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs) across Germany, Austria, and Switzerland managed to draw the public’s attention to the challenges of preterm birth and to make the situation of affected babies and their families more present in society. A special thank you goes out to all units for contributing to this special day! We encourage all participants of “Strong Start for Little Heroes” to sign up for the raffle. Registration is still possible until 15 December. Good luck! Please note this campaign is set up in German.

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PERTUSSIS

Empowering the carers: New flyer on pertussis vaccination during pregnancy for healthcare professionals

We are proud to introduce our latest flyer for healthcare professionals! This informative resource focuses on the pertussis vaccination during pregnancy, now a crucial inclusion in pregnancy passes (Mutterpässe) in Germany. Designed to empower healthcare professionals, the flyer outlines the specific dangers of the virus for newborns, optimal timing and frequency of vaccination, and highlights the numerous benefits for expectant mothers. For your convenience, free printed copies of the flyer can be ordered through our website. Additional informational materials are available for print on our website as well.

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CAREER

Exciting opportunities await – join our team!

Join our dedicated team in making a difference! We are currently seeking motivated professionals to fill various positions, including roles in our Communications Department, the Administrative Team, and a Senior Project Manager within the team working on the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH). If you are enthusiastic about making a meaningful impact and contributing to the well-being of preterm and hospitalised infants, we invite you to explore these opportunities. Together, let's create positive change!

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Network

 KNOW VIRUS FACTS



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NEW WEBSITE FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS – ADVERTORIAL

Explore KnowVirusFacts.com: Your ultimate resource for respiratory virus knowledge

Discover the brand new KnowVirusFacts.com website, your one-stop shop for everything you need to know about respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza, and COVID-19. This microsite developed by our corporate partner, AstraZeneca, provides useful facts, data, and resources to empower healthcare professionals in the fight against these three viruses. Have you ever tried to utilize a symptom comparator for

infectious viruses? You can explore this right away and also find fast facts about virus manifestations, seasonality, risks, and links for virus surveillance data – all in one convenient place.

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ADVOCACY

Putting the needs of preterm babies on the political agenda in Romania

Our partner parent organisation in Romania, Asociatia Prematurilor, spearheaded an initiative to improve the care for preterm infants in Romania. In cooperation with ABC (Association of Education for Children) and high-ranking Members of Parliament, they introduced the “Premature and Newborn at Risk” carnet and a motion to establish Kangaroo Mother Care in all hospitals in Romania. Both initiatives were debated in parliament, and a law based on these proposals will be drafted. Congratulations to all participants for their dedication – it is inspiring to see their efforts come to fruition!

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CONFERENCE

In the Czech Republic, a congress and an award to celebrate World Prematurity Day 2023

Our Czech partner parent organisation, Nedoklubko, celebrated World Prematurity Day 2023 by illuminating at least one building in each city with a neonatal unit to, quite literally, highlight that doctors and nurses save newborn lives in these towns. What is more, they organised a prestigious conference in Prague. Held on 15 and 16 November, the congress saw a diverse panel of experts from a range of professions discuss how to ensure that preterm infants receive the best possible start in life. EFCNI’s Chairwoman of the Executive Board, Silke Mader, opened the second day of the conference with a keynote lecture. Nedoklubko also hosted the Purple Hearts Awards which honoured those working with preterm infants for going above and beyond the call of duty.

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SCIENTIFIC PREEMIE CHAT

First scientific chat format on immediate Kangaroo Mother Care

The Canadian Premature Babies Foundation (CPBF) hosted their first scientific chat introducing the controversial question: In infants born less than 26 weeks, do you practice early skin-to-skin care within the first 72 hours? Moderated by Dr. Souvik Mitra and EFCNI's Chairwoman of the Executive Board Silke Mader, a panel of experts debated the World Health Organization's recommendation on immediate skin-to-skin care for survival of small and preterm babies and whether NICUs really follow these guidelines for the smallest and most vulnerable babies, especially those born under 26 weeks of gestation. The whole discussion is available on demand.

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Science



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HEALTH POLICY

WHO identifies research priorities to improve the care of preterm and low birth-weight infants

After more than five years, the WHO has renewed its recommendations for the care of preterm and low birth-weight infants. Almost half of the recommendations are completely new, reflecting the needs and knowledge development of recent years. Associated research questions prioritise the new guidelines and highlight particularly important topics in neonatal care. Those include the demand to find ways to increase exclusive breastfeeding and family participation in the newborn's care as well as finding out more about the effectiveness of non-invasive ventilation and Kangaroo Mother Care.

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THE POWER OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Examining the great potential of family-centred care at the NICU for newborns and their parents

The stay in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) can lead to a physical and emotional distance between parents and their newborns. A recent study highlights the effective steps implemented at Children's Hospital Passau to alleviate this separation by introducing a Family-Centred Care (FCC) approach. This strategy enhances the emotional well-being of both infants and parents by involving families personally and

granting them unrestricted access to the NICU where they actively participate in treatment decisions. Notably, family involvement seems to act as a safeguard, reducing the risk of neonatal sepsis and enhancing the physical health of the newborns.

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NEW PROJECT PAGE IS LIVE

ArtPlac – research project on an ARTificial PLACenta device for preterm and sick newborns

Initiated by the European Union, a group of 10 institutions and organisations is developing a novel medical device called ArtPlac. This device aims to replace invasive techniques and to act as an artificial placenta by offering lung and kidney support while also providing essential data to healthcare professionals. A central goal of the project is to encourage infant- and family-centred developmental care by allowing much closer contact between the patients and their parents or caregivers. EFCNI ensures the involvement of patient and parent representatives throughout the entire project.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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PERSONNEL CHANGES

Charting Progress: We welcome new leadership and authors as we say goodbye to esteemed outgoing members

We are thrilled to announce three new Vice Chairs joining the Chair Committee, bringing their expertise and fresh perspectives to the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH). A heartfelt thank you to the outgoing (Vice) Chairs for their invaluable work over the years. With numerous individual standards currently under revision, we also extend a warm welcome to our new First Authors, whose dedication will be instrumental in shaping the future of the ESCNH. A sincere appreciation goes out to the outgoing authors for their unwavering commitment, knowledge-sharing, and contributions to advancing the ESCNH.

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NEW EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL

Video interview on skin-to-skin and Kangaroo Mother Care

The St. Joseph Hospital in Berlin Tempelhof practices the simple but very effective method of Kangaroo Mother Care in its daily work and is a true pioneer in this field. In this interview, the experts Prof. Michael Abou-Dakn and Dr. Caroline Schmitt talk about the rooming-in concept for parents and their preterm-born babies, how the care of affected families looks like in a clinic certified as “family-friendly”, the promotion of breastfeeding through early bonding, and future developments in child- and family-centred developmental care. Please note this interview is in German.

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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DRIVING REAL CHANGE

Launch of MNCH Hub on WPD 2023

Following its launch on World Prematurity Day 2023, we are delighted to announce that the Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Hub is officially open and running! This innovative initiative marks a defining moment in the effort to transform the way the health of mothers, babies, and children is improved. The MNCH Hub is a platform for advocacy, collaboration, mobilisation, and empowerment on a global scale.

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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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