

Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

As we embrace the opportunities of a new year, we are excited to share that we are in the process of developing a new website tailored specifically for parents and families of preterm and hospitalised infants. We are currently conducting a user survey to ensure the platform meets the needs effectively, so we hope you will consider spreading the word.

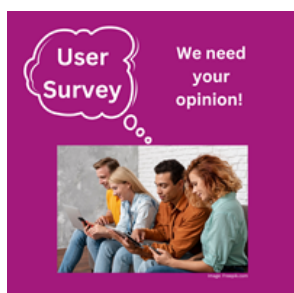
In research news, we delve into the realm of artificial intelligence and machine learning. These innovative technologies hold promise to provide deeper insights into the complexities of preterm birth factors, paving the way for more targeted interventions and improved outcomes. EFCNI is also proud to collaborate with the World Health Organization on developing a Core Outcome Set for maternal and perinatal health. This initiative aims to anticipate and address future epidemics and pandemics, ensuring the continuity of essential care and support for families worldwide.

Thank you for your continued support!

Warm regards,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

EFCNI



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USER SURVEY

Share the survey link and help us educate the world about preterm birth

EFCNI has big plans: We are creating a brand-new website full of information for families of preterm and hospitalised babies around the world. To find out what kind of content would be helpful for affected families, we have designed a short user survey. Please feel free to spread the word and share the link with families of preterm or hospitalised infants. The survey is

open until 6 March. Thank you for your support!

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PREEMIE CAMPAIGN

Personal experience: “My Preterm Story”

With our “My Preterm Story” campaign, we would like to offer a platform for sharing personal stories of parents and preterm-born children. Our aim is to provide families and those born preterm with a platform and a voice to tell their personal story. Moreover, the campaign is meant to encourage other families who find themselves on a similar journey to persevere, knowing that they are not alone. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far. Please feel free to share the campaign within your network.

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STRONG START FOR LITTLE HEROES

The winners have received their prizes for the neonatal intensive care units

We are very delighted with the winners of the “Strong start for little heroes” raffle – all clinics have now received their prizes. Congratulations to the "Vestische Kinder- und Jugendklinik Datteln" (kangaroo chair), "Elisabeth-Krankenhaus Essen" (kangaroo sweater), "Evangelisches Krankenhaus Lippstadt" (kangaroo sweater) and "Klinikum Leverkusen" (Sound Ear II®). The kangaroo chair, the kangaroo sweaters, and the Sound Ear II®, an electrical device to regulate the noise level in the NICU, can now be used in the respective clinics and can provide support and a little joy to the clinic staff, the parents on the ward, and, of course, the little heroes themselves! We would like to thank the winners for their exceptional and outstanding creativity in realising activities for World Prematurity Day 2023! Please note this campaign is set up in German.

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ANNIVERSARY

Reflecting on 15 years of EFCNI: A journey of impact and advocacy

This month, our year-long series, “15 Years of EFCNI”, comes to a wonderful end with our final video featuring Professor Matthias Keller from Children’s Hospital Dritter Orden, Passau, Germany. Professor Keller, a co-founder of EFCNI, discusses the foundation’s achievement of placing preterm birth and neonatal health on political agendas worldwide. Through this special

video series, we have celebrated EFCNI's journey and its dedication to advocating for neonatal health. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who joined us on this journey. Your support has been invaluable in advancing our cause and making a difference for preterm infants and their families.

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Network



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EMPOWERING PARENTS

Digitalisation in the NICU: Connecting parents with their infants

Our Romanian partner parent organisation “ARNIS” has successfully completed an ambitious project to digitalise communication in the NICU. In collaboration with the Department of Neonatology 1 of the Cluj-Napoca County Emergency Clinical Hospital, Romania, the organisation launched a special platform for parents with a newborn. Parents with an infant in the NICU could watch live streams of their child, enabling parents to feel connected despite being away. The platform also offered educational videos to parents on how to care for a newborn generally and a preterm-born infant in particular. Communication between families and medical staff was also organised via the service. The project received financial support from Active Citizens Fund Romania, a programme financed by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway through EEA Grants 2014-2021.

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ICHMSI 2024

9th International Conference on Human Milk Science and Innovation (ICHMSI) in Lisbon

EFCNI once again partnered with ICHMSI to support an important message: “Human milk is a preventive drug” (quote from speaker Professor Roy K. Philip). The two-day conference was hosted by Prolacta Bioscience in the beautiful city of Lisbon, Portugal, on 1–2 February. Our Chairwoman Silke Mader and Lívia Nagy Bonnard from the Hungarian parent organisation “Melletted a Helyem Egyesület” represented the parents’ perspective in a topical session. A special thank you also goes out to Estela Coutinho of our Portuguese partner parent organisation “XXS” for all the support during the conference.

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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Machine learning unravels the complexity of preterm birth risk factors

Predicting a pregnant women's risk to deliver preterm is essential but often not easy. Especially for nulliparous women and asymptomatic mothers, it can be difficult to estimate their risk of preterm birth. A cohort study from the United Arab Emirates, examining more than 3,500 women, analysed the potential of machine learning models to support healthcare professionals in predicting the likelihood of a preterm birth. The AI models were not only able to assign a risk score to each individual woman based on her individual risk, but also assessed the overall most influential risk factors for preterm birth.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Be part of the community: The ESCNH are on X and LinkedIn

Follow the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH) on X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. Stay informed on critical initiatives, engage in meaningful discussions, and contribute to improving outcomes for our smallest patients. With these channels, we want to offer a platform for vital updates and collaborative dialogue on neonatal care standards in Europe. Our hope is to foster a dedicated community of healthcare professionals and parent representatives to promote best practices and drive change.

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DATA COLLECTION AND DOCUMENTATION

Enhancing neonatal care through standardised practices

Learn more about the importance of standardised data collection and documentation in neonatology with esteemed Chairs Dr. James Webbe and Dr. Nicholas Lack, the Chairs of the ESCNH Topic Expert Group on "Data collection and documentation". Our new videos shed light on the imperative for European-wide reference standards in this critical domain. In

the clips, the speakers also discuss future requirements for implementing these standards.

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MATERNAL HEALTH

Improving maternity care through patient-reported outcomes

A study by Anouk Klootwijk et al. explores the potential of patient-reported outcome and patient-reported experience measures to enhance maternity care. Conducted with 645 women, it reveals suboptimal scores in birth experiences and sexual health post-childbirth, despite overall satisfaction with medical care. Struggles are particularly pronounced among certain subgroups, such as those in deprived areas or with preterm delivery. The findings underscore the importance of using such measures alongside traditional indicators to address nuanced aspects of patient well-being and improve maternity care quality.

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GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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MATERNAL AND PERINATAL HEALTH

EFCNI joins development of WHO Core Outcome Set (COS) for maternal and perinatal health

EFCNI is honoured to contribute to efforts by the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a Core Outcome Set (COS) for maternal and perinatal health in anticipation of future epidemics and pandemics. Joining an international expert group, led by our Chairwoman Silke Mader, we advocate for crucial patient perspectives. During several digital meetings in January and two days of in-person meetings in Geneva from 14-15 February 2024 at the WHO headquarter, experts discussed a complex variety of factors, including how to define and measure outcomes and how to recognise and incorporate the needs of healthcare professionals, decision makers, and patients and their families.

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