

November 2017

Dear Members of the NFI,

October was a very exciting and productive month for our organization. We were very graciously hosted for our 2017 Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting by the newly certified Edmonton NIDCAP Training Centre, Canada led by *Juzer Tyebkhan, MD, Andrea Nykipilo, RN* and *Trina Cruz*. From *curling to exploring and overlooking Edmonton* to our *Elk turned Wapiti Ceremony* and so much more, we had a rich and warm Canadian experience (both in the nurturing and the weather sense!) It was one which surely will have lasting memories and connections for all.



Our Edmonton meeting included nearly 40 presentations from professionals and families, poster sessions, reflections and small group processing... our three and half days were very full and stimulating. Please watch for the 2018 spring issue of the *Developmental Observer* for Abstracts of many of our 2017 Annual Trainers Meeting presentations. Appreciations to the NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Planning Sub-Committee and, specifically, Co-Chairs *gretchen Lawhon* and *Jean Powlesland* and the NIDCAP Finance and Logistics Team *Gloria McAnulty* and *Sandra Kosta* for their attentive, skillful and diligent orchestrations.

The NFI Annual Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at the Chateau Lacombe in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Brief presentations from the President and Program, Governance, Advancement including the Family Advisory, and Finance Committee Chairs were given. Reports from each of these committees are posted on the NFI web and include a review of activities from the past year. See Sunday 22 October, Committee Reports: <http://nidcap.org/en/programs-and-certifications/nidcap-training/nidcap-trainers-meeting-2017/>. One highlight of the Membership Meeting included a review of the 2017 NFI Membership Survey, presented by *Kaye Spence*, which will inform organizational priorities and next steps. Elections were held for four board seats. Those running for office included Jeffrey Alberts (Incumbent), Deborah Buehler (Incumbent), Linda Lacina, Gloria McAnulty (Incumbent), Jean Powlesland, Juzer Tyebkhan, and Dorothy Vittner. After *Members-in-Good-Standing* votes (on-line and in-person at the NFI Membership Meeting) were tabulated, the top four candidates elected were Deborah Buehler Gloria McAnulty Juzer Tyebkhan, and Dorothy Vittner. We extend sincere appreciation to all the nominees for offering your service to the NFI Board of Directors. And tremendous gratitude to *Jeffrey Alberts, PhD* and *Kaye Spence, AM* for their years of service to the NFI and the Board of Directors. We are stronger, and more organized and thoughtful, as an organization for Jeff and Kaye's substantial contributions. And we look forward to their committee collaborations for years to come.

The NFI Board of Directors meet twice, on October 20th for the "last meeting" of the NFI FY 2016-17 and on October 24th for the "first meeting" for the NFI FY 2017-18.

On October 20th, we made a slight revision to our NFI Vision Statement to read:

The NFI envisions a global society in which all hospitalized newborns and their families receive care in the evidence-based NIDCAP model. NIDCAP supports development, enhances strengths and minimizes stress for infants, family and staff who care for them. It is an individualized, relationship-based, family-integrated approach that yields measurable outcomes.

Key decisions that were made include: development of a three-day format for Trainer Meetings possibly beginning in 2019; acceptance of the revised NFI Strategic Plan with continued development of Action Plans and Timelines; revisions of our [NFI Organizational Chart](#); changes to Sandra Kosta's role and title (Executive Director of Administration and Finance) and time devoted to NFI work (.75FTE) to reflect her increased responsibilities; and the formation of a 12 month Global Perspectives Task Force.

On October 24th, we welcomed Juzer Tyebkhan, MD and Dorothy Vittner, RN, PhD (in absentia) to the newly configured Board of Directors and held officer elections. The following are our:

2017-2018 NFI Board of Directors and Officers:

Deborah Buehler, PhD, President
James Helm, PhD, Vice President
Gloria McAnulty, PhD, Treasurer
Rita Cummings, Secretary

Heidelise Als, PhD (NIDCAP Founder, Past President 2001-2012)
Nikk Conneman, MD
Rita Cummings, MA
Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU
gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN (Past President 2012-2016)
Juzer Tyebkhan, MD
Dorothy Vittner, RN, PhD
Björn Westrup, MD, PhD

Our board reviewed the 2017 Trainers and Membership Meetings and look forward to receiving and integrating meeting participants' evaluations for guidance in planning future meetings. Of note, we developed a Task Force for NFI leadership succession planning. We reviewed our board calendar and set board priorities for the coming year. Please see the [Membership Page](#) of our NIDCAP website for Minutes of the board meetings and conference calls throughout the year.

Please see our [NIDCAP website](#) for information and tools to support your planning and implementation of **2017 World Prematurity Day on November 17th**. We invite you to share your celebrations with us by sending stories and photographs to shareyourstory@nidcap.org.



Energized and inspired by our members, I send wishes of successes and productive next steps in this new NFI year as we build healthier, better futures for hospitalized newborns and their families. And extend warm **World Prematurity Day** wishes to all on November 17th and throughout the year!

UPDATES:

- The Newborn Intensive Care Service, Meir Hospital Medical Center NNACP Certification has been renewed.
- Senior Editor *Diane Ballweg, MSN, APRN, CNS, RNC-NIC* announced the publication of the latest issue of the [Developmental Observer, 2017; 10\(2\)](#).

NEWS:

- Former NIDCAP Center Director and NFI Board Member, *Roger Sheldon, MD* has published a paper from his perspective as a neonatologist and describes his experience and recommendations for NIDCAP care implementation: Sheldon, R. Developmental Care for Premies and their Families: One Neonatologist's Journey toward NIDCAP Practice. *NeoReviews*. 2017; 18(10); e568-e575.
- Senior NIDCAP Trainer *Melissa Johnson, PhD* shared an article co-authored by her daughter *Laura Johnson Faherty, MD*, a pediatrician/researcher in her own right on the needs of lower-income mothers after NICU discharge: Enlow, E, Faherty, LJ, Wallace-Keeshen, S, Martin, AE, Shea, JA & Lorch, SA (2017) Perspectives of Low Socioeconomic Status Mothers of Premature Infants. *Pediatrics*. 2017; 139(3); e20162310.
- NIDCAP Professional *Dr. Marzieh Hasanpour* shared an article that she has co-authored: Jafari-Mianaei, S, Alimohammadi, N, Banki-poorfard, A-H, Hasanpour, M. An inquiry into the concept of infancy care based on the perspective of Islam. *Nursing Inquiry*. 2017; e12198.

Your feedback, questions, comments, NFI updates, and membership news written to me personally and/or to the whole board, are welcome.

Yours in support of the NFI,

Deborah

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