



Update from the President December 28, 2015

Dear Fellow Members of NIDCAP Federation International,

"I release all things from the past year that has caused any negative attachment. I prepare and welcome new changes, new lessons and new adventures. I welcome new opportunities to grow emotionally, mentally and spiritually." Namaste The Buddha Way

Our organization continues to be very busy as 2015 comes to an end. We have much to look forward to in the next year as we continue to build and nurture our relationships with one another and calmly grow stronger and more unified as an organization. Here are the highlights since my last update:

- 🌀 In October the Newborn Intensive Care Nursery (NICN) at the Pediatric Clinic, University Hospital, Linköping, Sweden received NIDCAP Nursery Certification for their exemplary clinical practice. They demonstrate excellent NIDCAP care for infants, their families and the professionals and staff.
- 🌀 The NFI has welcomed SONICU as our first corporate sponsor. SONICU's mission to create and protect a safe and healing newborn intensive care environment is clearly in synchrony with our vision for a global society in which all hospitalized newborns and their families receive NIDCAP care. Together we can enhance opportunities for educational programs for NICU professionals toward realizing the vision of both organizations.
- 🌀 Our 26th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting was held in Chandler, Arizona in October. We had seventy-three participants from fifteen countries, thirty of whom came from outside the United States. Of the seventy-three participants, sixty-five were members of the NFI. This year we opened up one of our days as a regional conference and had an additional fifty-six participants join us from the region.
- 🌀 Please mark your calendars for the 27th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting to be held October 22 – 25, 2017 in Bologna, Italy hosted by the Modena NIDCAP Training Center. Should you be interested in being a part of our multidisciplinary international planning committee for the meeting, please contact me by email. Our planning committee will be co-led by myself and Jean Powlesland with representation from the Quality Assurance Advisory Committee.

- 🕒 The NFI Board of Directors met on Friday October 16 and 18, 2015 and the following actions were taken:
 - Renewal with small adjustments for market value of the NNACP Director and Financial Operations and Administration Director half time contractual positions
 - Creation of three small work groups on revenue, profile raising of NFI/NIDCAP and training and certification expansion in order to refine and further our strategic planning goals
 - Officer elections were held with gretchen Lawhon reelected as President, Jim Helm as Vice President for Administration, Deborah Buehler as Vice President for Organizational Advancement, Gloria McAnulty as Treasurer and Kaye Spence as Secretary with the agreement for enhanced communication.

- 🕒 The Annual NFI Membership Meeting was held on October 17, 2015 in Chandler, Arizona, USA
 - Mandy Daly, Jim Helm and gretchen Lawhon were unopposed and therefore re-elected by acclamation for three year terms on the Board of Directors

- 🕒 In November our NFI founder, former President and current Chair of Program Committee Dr. Heidelise Als had the special pleasure and pride in announcing the establishment of the first German NIDCAP Center in Tubingen with the festivities coinciding with World Prematurity Day, November 17, 2015.

- 🕒 The NFI was active in promoting and celebrating World Prematurity Day in a variety of ways. Our Advancement Committee created a beautiful poster as a tribute to newborns, and to their families, nursery staffs and hospitals around the world that provide essential NIDCAP care. The Zakim bridge in Boston was lit in purple to honor the occasion. In Tubingen, Germany the opening of the NIDCAP Center was celebrated with the local church lit in purple that evening. To see other examples of recognition for World Prematurity Day such as in Ireland and Iran please go to the NFI website. In addition, please send any photos and stories on how you celebrated World Prematurity Day to Deborah Buehler at shareyourstory@nidcap.org to have them posted on the web.

- 🕒 The NFI is in the midst of our membership renewal time. If you are a NIDCAP Trainer it would be helpful to check in with all your NIDCAP Trainees to ensure that they have become student members of the NFI. If you are a student member who has recently become certified as a NIDCAP Professional, please be sure to advance your membership to the professional level.

- 🕒 This month we shared in the joy of having two of our NFI members of the National NIDCAP Training Center in Boston, Gloria McAnulty, PhD and Samantha Butler, PhD, promoted to Assistant Professors of Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.

- 🕒 In sorrow we acknowledge and mourn the passing of our colleague Zack Boukydis, PhD, whom we value for his empathetic support of parents in the NICU.
- 🕒 The NFI has endorsed the 29th Annual Gravens Conference on the Physical and Developmental Environment of the High Risk Infant, in support of our shared mission for early individualized developmental care for newborns and their families.
- 🕒 As many of us are in the midst of enjoying this holiday season with our families as well as in our work setting, Samantha Butler has asked if we would send photographs to her for a display on our Facebook page. Photos may include children and parents receiving NIDCAP care in your unit, work families such as the nurses and medical teams working with NIDCAP on a daily basis, or pictures of the children of NIDCAP professionals. Old or new pictures are welcome. Please email the photos to Sam at Samantha.butler@childrens.harvard.edu.
- 🕒 Many thanks to the Advancement Committee under the guidance of Deborah Buehler for the beautiful holiday card sent to each of us on behalf of the NFI. For those who may still want to spread a bit of holiday cheer and provide a financial gift prior to the end of this tax year please consider your professional organization and send to the NFI at <http://nidcap.org/en/about-us/nfi-honor-card-2015/>. Your generosity will bring the NFI closer to fulfilling its mission to promote the advancement of the philosophy and science of NIDCAP care and to assure the quality of NIDCAP education, training and certification for professionals and hospital systems.

Be sure to get to know us better on LinkedIn, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch us on YouTube and discover us on Pinterest.

As always, please send any comments to me at premie@gmail.com. Thank you for being a member of the NFI. With appreciation for all you are doing to support infants, families and staff in newborn intensive care,

gretchen

gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN
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