



## Update from the President February 10, 2016

Dear Fellow Members of NIDCAP Federation International,

*Today is Ash Wednesday in my culture and it is the first day of a time for reflection, fasting and prayer. For me it is an excellent opportunity to think about my strengths and challenges and to work toward improving myself. With this in mind, I want to ensure timely communication with each of you on what is happening within our organization.*

Since my last update on December 28, 2015 the year 2016 is already promising to be one in which we continue to face our challenges together and forge new relationships and opportunities for growth.

- 🕒 We have congratulated and shared in the success of both Graciela Basso, MD PhD, Director, Centro Latino Americano NIDCAP, Buenos Aires, Argentina and Agneta Kleberg, RN PhD, NIDCAP Master Trainer, Karolinska NIDCAP Training Center, Stockholm, Sweden to their certification as Senior NIDCAP Master Trainer. In addition Graciela has been certified as a Senior APIB Trainer.
- 🕒 Handi-Craft Company's (Dr. Brown's Medical Division) has become our second corporate sponsor with an unrestricted Bronze level (\$10,000.00) one year sponsorship. Dr. Brown's Medical creates research based products to benefit infants, moms and medical professionals.
- 🕒 Due to numerous requests and a conflict with the European Association of Pediatric Research meeting, the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting dates have been changed to October 26 – 29, 2016 in Bologna, Italy hosted by the Modena NIDCAP Training Center. This also involves a change to a Wednesday to Saturday format. Our sincere apologies to those including some of our National Association of Neonatal Nurses for whom this presents an unexpected conflict.
- 🕒 The dates have been set for the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting to be held October 21 – 24, 2017 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada hosted by the Stollery Children's Hospital NIDCAP Training Center in Development.

- 🕒 The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Developmental Care Conference: Practical Application will be held April 21 – 22, 2016 at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and is presented by the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital NIDCAP Training and Research Center and the Children’s Hospital at the university of Illinois NIDCAP Training Center. For further information please contact Linda Lacina, MSN, HN-BC.
- 🕒 The NFI conference “NIDCAP: Developmental Care of the NICU Infant and Family from Admission to Discharge will be held at Abington Hospital – Jefferson Health in Abington, Pennsylvania on April 29, 2016. For more information please contact Jim Helm, PhD.
- 🕒 The NFI has endorsed the May 27, 2016 conference “Supporting Family-Focused Developmentally Appropriate Care in Special Care and Newborn Intensive Care Nurseries” sponsored by and in celebration of the Sooner NIDCAP training Center at Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center which is celebrating thirty years of NIDCAP developmental care.
- 🕒 If you have not yet seen our latest NIDCAP blog please visit [nidcap.org/blog/author/erinross/](http://nidcap.org/blog/author/erinross/), to read "Nourishing and Nurturing during Feedings" submitted by Erin Sundseth Ross, PhD, CCC-SLP. If you would like to contribute a blog please contact either Deborah Buehler or Sandra Kosta.
- 🕒 Congratulations to Dalia Silberstein, PhD, RN and Ita Litmanovitz, MD, NIDCAP Trainers in Training at the Meir Medical Center NIDCAP Center in Development in Kfar Saba, Israel for their publication of a NIDCAP review for the Israeli Medical Association Journal. This is the first NIDCAP review to be published in Hebrew and in the local Israeli medical literature.
- 🕒 Here is a brief profile of one of the NFI Directors on the Board.



Rita Cummings was born in Dundee, Scotland, She is an alumna of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and the University of California, Santa Barbara where she studied in the Ph.D. program in English Language and Literature.

Rita's background includes 25 years in marketing and communications focused on launching new technology products. She was also on the senior management team of three Internet start-ups before changing careers into fundraising. Most recently, she was Head of Fundraising for the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. She has spent the last six years living in the UK leading several major fundraising campaigns.

She has been on the board of a number of women's and girls' non-profits including The Women's Foundation, The Women's Building, The Older Women's League, and the YWCA. She is also a former board member of Schumacher College Foundation and The Scottish Writer's Centre in the UK.

Rita states that she joined the NFI because she warmly supports the important work that it does. She also had a premature baby who was born with a number of serious medical problems which required a two-month stay in the NICU. Rita is very grateful for all the support received as a family during that time. She recognizes NIDCAP as a vital part of supporting the baby and the family during this time and would like to help promote the program both in the US and internationally. She brings to the board experience in fundraising, communications and technology marketing including management stints at two of the major US banks, and several Internet startups.

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 [premieg@gmail.com](mailto:premieg@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,

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gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN  
President, NIDCAP Federation International