



Update from the President, NIDCAP Federation International to the Membership

July 4, 2014

"Freedom is the open window through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit and human dignity." — Herbert Hoover

Dear NFI Members,

I am wishing each of you a relaxing summer and looking forward to seeing many of you in Segovia in October. It has been quite a while since my last update and your Board of Directors held the Spring meeting working together for two days on our organization April 30 – May 1, 2014.

🌀 **Accolades** not previously mentioned in this format

- Silke Mader, NFI Board of Directors Member and Founder of the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants received the "Prix Courage" award recognizing her tireless effort to improve the condition of premature infants.
- Pierre Kuhn, MD, PhD has become Professor of Pediatrics at Strasbourg University. He co-leads the Special Interest Group of the French Neonatology Society, writing recommendations for a more humane newborn intensive care environment. He is a board member of the French NFI Chapter and is the medical leader for NIDCAP implementation in the Strasbourg University Hospital newborn intensive care unit.
- Heidelise Als, PhD, Founder and Board Member of the NFI was presented the Serge Lebovici award of the World Association of Infant Mental Health in recognition of her international contribution to the development of infant mental health.
- Newly certified APIB Professionals Juser Tyebkhan, MD; Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD and Ita Litmanovitz, MD

🌀 **A new NFI policy on NIDCAP and APIB Trainers in Transition** has been developed by the Governance Committee. The policy has been approved pending the review and potential minor revision by our legal consultants. Generally, a NIDCAP or APIB Trainer must be in good standing and affiliated with an active NIDCAP Training Center in order to provide NIDCAP or APIB Certified Training. If a Trainer in good standing is no longer affiliated with an active NIDCAP Training Center and wishes to continue to provide NFI Certified Training for a limited period of time, the Trainer may apply for and receive certification from the NFI Board of Directors for Trainer-in-Transition authorization. As soon as the policy has been finalized it will be placed on the website.

🌀 **Term Limits** : Drs. Alberts and VendenBerg led a task force to explore the issue of officer term limits for non-profit organizations. As a result of their exploration and advice the Board has voted to set the term limit for President and Vice Presidents to six consecutive one year terms retroactively to 2012. Board officers continue to be elected on an annual basis for a one year term.

- 🕒 **Oversight:** the previously named Oversight Committee has become the Financial Oversight Council and the membership of the council will rotate among board members maintaining the Governance Committee Chair, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer with rotation of the additional two members. The financial review is to include all expenditures including contracts and services in order to assure effective use of financial resources. These changes will enhance the current practices used and further demonstrate transparency.
- 🕒 **Developmental Conference :** For the past 29 years NIDCAP Trainers, led by Dr. Kathy Vandenberg have been collaborating with Contemporary Forums in planning, lecturing and participating in the annual developmental interventions of the newborn conference. In the past three years there has been a more formal collaboration with the NIDCAP Federation. Unfortunately many of the annual conferences are no longer profitable and American Career College (parent company of Contemporary Forums), has cancelled the developmental conference, along with four other annual programs, for the foreseeable future. Please contact me or Kathy Vandenberg with ideas as to how the NFI could fill the need for an annual conference.
- 🕒 **25th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting** will be held on October 25 – 28, 2014 in Segovia, Spain co-hosted by the Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre NIDCAP Training Center in Madrid and the Barcelona-Vall de Hebron NIDCAP Training Center. Dr. Nathalie Charpak accepted the invitation to participate in this year's meeting. She is a pediatrician and the Director of the Kangaroo Foundation in Bogota, Columbia. There will be sessions on the integration of NNCP in NIDCAP training. Other topics in process for planning are NFI Committee sessions; how to professionally and emotionally connect to the infant; professional support for the nurses; compassion for care – meditation; getting basic science into the kangaroo care topic as well as the scientific session on research/practice implementation topics. Expect the call for abstracts as well as the preliminary program in the next few weeks and please register for the meeting. If you are an NFI member and have not received an invitation but wish to attend please contact me.
- 🕒 **Sizzle Reel:** this is defined as a promotional video that is very short and combines audio, visuals and messaging to create a styled overview of a product or a service that is very fast paced. With many thanks to Brandon Lee Bjornson (former preterm infant) and his mother Vicki Batkin Bjornson, member of the Board of Directors the Advancement Committee, led by Dr. Deborah Buehler, has created a wonderful 4 – 5 minute NFI sizzle reel. We are all looking forward to its debut and will utilize it for educating the public, advertising our work and fundraising.
- 🕒 **Elections for the NFI Board of Directors** will take place during the annual NFI membership meeting on October 25, 2014. Please consider your role in the NFI very seriously and contact Dr. Jim Helm jhelm@wakemed.org if you are interested in running for election yourself or in nominating someone else to run for a position on your board of directors.

- 📧 **Developmental Observer:** hopefully everyone has had a chance to read and to distribute the newest edition, 2014 Volume 7 Number 1, of our organization's newsletter. You can readily find it on our website and please consider sending it electronically to your colleagues. Feel free to print out a few copies for your staff in the newborn intensive care unit or special care nursery. Perhaps you would like to write a letter to the editors or even an article for the next edition. If so, please contact Rodd Hedlund nncpdirector@nidcap.org
- 📧 **Social Media:** The NIDCAP Federation International has become quite social and we would like to grow further in this direction. Please connect with your organization through LinkedIn, Twitter and FaceBook in addition to visiting our website. Should you have any interesting news to share with us then please post on the public media. You may also send a post to the following with information and/or photos that you would like to have shared:
- LinkedIn – <http://www.linkedin.com/company/nidcap-federation-international> - Dr. Jim Helm – jhelm@wakemed.org
 - Twitter – <https://twitter.com/NIDCAP> - Dr. Deborah Buehler - dmb@dmbuehler.com
 - FaceBook – <https://www.facebook.com/nidcap> - Dr. Gloria McAnulty Gloria.mcanulty@childrens.harvard.edu
- 📧 **NIDCAP trainer affiliation:** the West Coast NIDCAP and APiB Training Center of UCSF School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, Neonatology has accepted me (Dr. gretchen Lawhon) as a NIDCAP Master Trainer. I am very pleased for the new clinical affiliation and look forward to my work under the leadership of Drs. Kathy VandenBerg, Deborah Buehler and Yao Sun.

As always, please send any comments to me at 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,

gretchen

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