



April 2017

Dear Members of the NFI,

“... it is clear that just as it is impossible to understand the construction of a 50-story building apart from the scaffolding that supported its emerging structure, it is impossible to understand early emotional development apart from the parent-child or caregiver-child relationship within which this process unfolds.” (From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development (2000). National Research Council Institute of Medicine. p. 105)

The notion of “scaffolding” is an interesting one to consider in many contexts. It seems to occur in all forms of development throughout the lifespan (social-emotional, cognitive, motor, etc.). The scaffolding analogy also has applicability for our NIDCAP training and mentorship. Learning progresses by building on understandings with increasing complexity. It is important to create foundations for our comprehensive individualized developmental care framework for professionals to build upon. Newborns, their families, the staff who care for them, as well as their NICU/SCN environments, are all interrelated influencing interactions, individuals’ well-being and infant health and development. We should begin our NIDCAP conversations, education and training by guiding professionals to appreciate the breadth and reach of NIDCAP. Perhaps simply and concretely at first, building with ever greater complexity over time. The earlier we introduce the [NIDCAP Nursery](#) framework the more readily our goal to support professionals and their nurseries to adopt and implement NIDCAP at consistently high levels will be realized and [the voice of the newborn and of their families](#) will be heard.

Please share your experiences informing, guiding, educating, and training nursery professionals to understand NIDCAP Nursery concepts, implementation and integration on our [Facebook page](#).

UPDATES:

- *Joy Browne, PhD*, NIDCAP Master Trainer, Director, Colorado NIDCAP Center achieved APIB Trainer Certification under guidance and mentorship of *Deborah Buehler, PhD* NIDCAP Master Trainer, APIB Master Trainer-in-Training and Associate Director, West Coast NIDCAP and APIB Training Center at the University of California San Francisco School of Medicine.
- *Madalena Ramos Pacheco*, Head Nurse, Sao Joao NIDCAP Training Center, Porto, Portugal, was approved as NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training with *Graciela Basso, MD* serving as her Master Trainer.
- The NFI endorsed the new *NIDCAP Introductory Teaching Course*, developed by NIDCAP Trainers-in-Training *Dalia Silberstein, RN PhD* and *Ita Litmanovitz, MD PhD*, under the newly opened ‘Heidi Center for the Training of Caregivers and Families’ at Meyer Hospital, Kfar Saba, Israel. The course is taught in Hebrew and is already fully subscribed with a waiting list for future offerings.
- The NFI One Day Conference, “*NIDCAP: Developmental Care for NICU infants and families from admission through discharge*” will be held on April 7th. Please see the [NFI Conference Page](#) for details.
- In March, our members continued to discuss NICU practices through our Google Groups listserv. Topics included “Bathing Questions”, “Massage Emollients” and “Stress”. If you missed any of these conversations, you may want to review the resources and discussions posted.

NEWS:

- NIDCAP Master Trainer and APIB Trainer *Graciela Basso, MD* published [Neurodesarrollo en Neonatología Intervencion ultratemprana en la Unidad de Cuidados Intensivos Neonatales](#) (2016). Medica Panamerica.
- NFI Professional *Marzieh Hasanpour, RN, PhD* shared her co-authored publication *Stress Management among Parents of Neonates Hospitalized in NICU: A Qualitative Study*. Heidari, H, Hasanpour, M, Fooladi, M (2017). Journal of Caring Sciences, 6(1), 29-38.

Please consider seeking NFI endorsement of NIDCAP-related efforts (conferences, publications, videos, etc.). Our [Endorsed by NFI](#) webpage outlines the simple steps involved. As always please reach out with additional questions you may have.

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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