



NIDCAP TRAINING CENTERS WORLDWIDE



Dear Members of our NFI Community,

These are extraordinary times that we are living through together. The coronavirus pandemic is challenging us on all fronts - from care of ourselves, our families and our communities, to care of others in difficult circumstances in and around our places of work – especially within hospitals. Our daily routines are changed. In many places around the world, we are being mandated to stay at home. The phrase “social distancing” is being used to describe the strategy to slow the spread of the virus. Yet, Heidelise Als writes *physical distancing while staying ever more strongly socially and emotionally connected is so important; we must remember that social and emotional connectedness is what makes us genuinely (species-specifically) human.*

Our month-long March celebration of NIDCAP was held during these trying world events. Our NFI community is “physically distanced” while very much “socially and emotionally connected” to one another. We found very many creative ways to honor hospitalized babies and their families around the world and the professionals and supporters who care for them. Please visit the [World NIDCAP Day](#) page to access links to all of our social media where AMAZING, INCREDIBLE posts were shared throughout March including NFI members’ NIDCAP sentiments and NFI “Pearls of Wisdom” for parents with hospitalized newborns and infants (special appreciation to Mandy Daly, Fatima Clemente and Dalia Silberstein for bringing this idea to life). You are welcome to continue to share the beautiful ways in which you honored NIDCAP and one another to shareyourstory@nidcap.org. (As always be sure you have permissions to share any images you send.)

One very heartbreaking effect of this virus around the world is its impact on families to be with, hold, and participate in their infants’ hospital experiences. The NFI Board of Directors offers the following statement to health care systems and teams navigating how to best support parents’ care and nurturance of their babies (below and attached):

The NIDCAP Federation International (NFI) holds as a primary goal the support of parents as the optimal caregivers of their infant. Parental presence, including skin to skin holding and breastfeeding, and active collaboration with their hospitalized infant and the health care team, enhances the infant's neurodevelopment.

Despite increasingly stringent rules for access to hospitalized newborns and infants due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFI recognizes that the safety and health of infants, parents and the health care team may require modification of guidelines and policies. Screening for fever and other symptoms of illness now becomes more important than ever before.

The NFI recommends that parental presence, active participation and advocacy continue to be considered a unique aspect of care that shortens the duration of hospitalization and improves other outcomes. The NFI commends the valiant efforts of health care teams around the world in their support and care to infants, their families and one another during these unprecedented times. The NFI sends support, strength and hope as we navigate this challenging pandemic crisis.

*Board of Directors, NIDCAP Federation International
March 31, 2020*

As we are all touched by this pandemic, its disruptions and its effects, let's hold on to our steadfast belief in the healing and supportive power of relationships and interpersonal connections. And we can continue to search for ways our NFI community can sustain and uplift one another as we navigate our way to steadier, healthier, happier times.

NFI News & Updates



31st Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting and 2020 NFI Annual Membership Meeting

In light of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, it was determined that it is not feasible to meet in-person in Germany this fall. Please hold the original **October 24-26, 2020** meeting dates while next steps and plans are made for alternative, likely virtual, meetings. Updates will be shared as soon as they are available!

New NFI Website

Under Development

PLEASE HELP IF POSSIBLE

PLEASE SEND (HIGH RESOLUTION) PHOTOGRAPHS OF
BABIES with their FAMILIES
and also with NURSERY CAREGIVERS (using the attached Release Form)

NIDCAP Educational Podcast

gretchen Lawhon recorded a VERY excellent podcast on behalf of the NFI in March! She was interviewed by pediatrician Katie Lockwood for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's *Primary Care Perspectives* podcast series. [Here is the link for you to listen](#). (Note: you may also find this link on nidcap.org's [World NIDCAP Day](#) page.) With tremendous appreciation to Jennifer Degl for facilitating this NFI treasure.

NFI Board of Directors

Video Conference Call Minutes

March 2, 2020

Highlights

When available the full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's [Membership Section](#). The following is a summary of Board discussions from March's meeting.

- Discussion of plans for World NIDCAP Day and Month celebrations.
- Plan to electronically approve the Minutes from the February Board of Directors Meeting.
- Discussion of the potential impact of the coronavirus on the Board's Mid-Year Meeting.
- Discussion of ways to solicit Trainers' feedback on the 2019 NIDCAP Trainers Meeting's small group sessions.
- Update of the designs and plans underway for the updated NFI website.
- Vote to continue NIDCAP Nursery Program Director's contract for 12 hours/week for the second half of this fiscal year.

NFI Board of Directors

Update

The NFI Board of Directors determined that due to the impact of the worldwide coronavirus, the March 30-31 Board of Directors Mid-Year Meeting was postponed and will be held as a series of virtual meetings over the coming months.

Yours in support of the NFI,

Deborah

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