



August 2019

Dear Members of the NFI,

Our organization has been looking backward and forward as we get ready to celebrate 40 years of NIDCAP Training and 30 years of Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meetings this October. As we do this, we recognize the tremendous strength of our community, our Trainers, Center Directors and supporters. We appreciate that our caregiving model and training program are incredibly solid. As we gain experience, we increasingly understand ways that we can continue to develop our next steps as an organization.

“Reflective Process Consultation” is one of these very integral NIDCAP principles that we have long valued while at the same time wish to expand its implementation. Linda Gilkerson, PhD, first introduced this practice to our NIDCAP training program in 1989.



Linda Gilkerson & Heidelise Als

Other champions of this and related work include Heidelise Als, PhD, Joy Browne, PhD, Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, Melissa Johnson, PhD, Gloria McAnulty, PhD and **many** others. In our surveys and conversations, trainers have voiced requests for formal, regular consultation opportunities. To meet this need, formal in-person and video phone conferencing mentorship and reflective processing sessions are being piloted. The feedback received has been very positive and plans are in the works to make these opportunities readily and ongoingly available. NIDCAP Trainers may contact Master Trainers (including me) with questions and interest in mentorship support.

Relatedly, on July 5th, the NFI Board of Directors added “mentoring” to our **NFI Mission Statement** as a key ingredient in all levels of our NIDCAP efforts:

The NFI promotes the advancement of the philosophy and science of NIDCAP care and assures the quality of NIDCAP education, training, mentoring and certification for professionals, and hospital systems.

Membership Update: We are so very appreciative of the many years of extraordinary training, guidance and leadership that Kathy Vandenberg, PhD, has provided the NFI and NIDCAP. In honor of her considerable contributions and dedication, the Board of Directors unanimously voted her to be an Emeritus Member of the NFI.

Upcoming NFI Events



We are getting an early start on plans for **World NIDCAP Day** in March 2020 and will produce a poster similar to the ones we have made for past World Prematurity Day celebrations.

Please consider documenting NIDCAP care in your unit over the next couple of months and watch for a special request to send your photos (to shareyourstory@nidcap.org) for inclusion in our NFI poster.

Also next month, we will be sharing ways to participate in this year's November 17th **World Prematurity Day**.



Annual Call for NFI Board of Directors Nominations: The nominating period for the annual election for the NIDCAP Federation International (NFI) Board of Directors is open now through the 1st of September. This year there will be *two at-large seats open for election*. These seats are currently held by Heidelise Als, PhD, who is not seeking re-election, and Nikk Conneman, MD, who is seeking-election for another three-year term. Note of additional Board changes, Jim Helm, PhD, has held a special one-year appointment this year and he will conclude his Board service in October. Björn Westrup, MD, PhD, stepped down just prior to the mid-year Board Meeting due to time limitations. Björn's seat will be held vacant in order for the new 2019-2020 Board to determine its specific needs.

Please send nominations and questions to Jim Helm (nfimembership@nidcap.org), Jean Powlesland (jpowlesl@uic.edu) and/or Dalia Silberstein (dalia.silberstein@clalit.org.il).



Our **30th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting**, *Three Decades of NIDCAP Trainers Meetings: Guiding, Reflecting and Imagining*, will be held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire (USA). October 5-7th, 2019. With two important meetings happening within these three days:

- On Sunday, October 6th, we will hold our Annual NFI Membership Meeting. Official announcement coming soon.
- On Monday, October 7th, *Gut Feeling: The Other Brain. Exploring the Connection of Microbiome, Stress and Infant Behavior* will be open to the greater community. [Click here for one day conference and registration details.](#)

For questions about attending the Membership meeting or the one day conference and/or sponsoring/exhibiting at our one day conference, please contact Jim Helm at jimhelm27@gmail.com.

Your feedback, questions, comments, NFI updates, and membership news written to me personally and/or to the whole board, are welcome.

Deborah

Deborah Buehler, PhD
 NFI, President, Member of the Board
 Director of the West Coast NIDCAP and APIB Training Center
 West Coast NIDCAP & APIB Training Center
 UCSF Division of Neonatology, Box 0734
 550 16th Street, Floor 5
 San Francisco, CA 94143 USA
 Email: deborahbuehler@comcast.net
 Linked In: www.linkedin.com/in/deborahbuehler/
 Organization: www.nidcap.org