

I've always believed that obstacles on the path are not obstacles – they ARE the path.

Amy Klobuchar, United States Senator

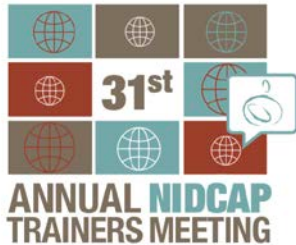
Dear Members of our NFI Community,

Figuring out how to best individualize hospital care for newborns and infants and their families for optimal experiences and outcomes is what NIDCAP represents and strives to do. Even before 2020 and the coronavirus pandemic, the individualization of care happened inconsistently across and within hospitals. Medical and nursing care may be experienced on continuums from securely embedded NIDCAP care to task and protocol-oriented care. COVID-19 seems to be tipping policies and decisions for parental participation within hospitals to increasingly traditional approaches. Families are being restricted from being in the hospital. Newborns and infants, considered as patients, are being isolated and separated from their parents because of potential risks of illness. Decades of NIDCAP-related research describe extensive benefits for infants of their parents' essential roles as nurturers, advocates, caregivers and collaborators in their care. How do we as an organization support hospital systems and healthcare professionals to navigate individualizing care with support for infants and their families in the face of extraordinary challenges? As hospital care is evolving, and decisions are being made, NIDCAP and its strengths to support systems to best understand themselves and their next steps to improve care is needed more than ever.

NFI News & Updates



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



NEW DATES for virtual video conferencing:

NIDCAP Trainers Meeting will be **October 21-23, 2020.**

Annual NFI Membership Meeting will be held on **October 22, 2020.**

Meeting invitations and specifics are forthcoming.

NIDCAPpers



Natascia Simeone, RN has just been certified as a **NIDCAP Trainer** at newly established **Rimini NIDCAP Training Center!** **Gina Ancora, MD** will serve as the Director of the Training Center. As part of these tremendous accomplishments, **Sari Grandi, MD** and **Sandra Lazzari, RN** became newly certified NIDCAP Professionals. Natascia's training was accomplished under the exquisite mentorship of **Graciela Basso, MD, PhD**, Director of the Centro Latino-Americano NIDCAP, Senior NIDCAP Master Trainer and APIB Trainer in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The addition of this talented NIDCAP Trainer, exciting new opportunities created by this new Italian training center AND the certifications of new NIDCAP Professionals are *especially* celebratory for our NIDCAP community during this remarkable year.

Please join us in extending our tremendous congratulations to Natascia (shiroemila@libero.it), Gina (Gina.Ancora@auslrn.net) and to Graciela (basso.grace@me.com).

New Initiative

NIDCAP Training Conversations

The *Quality Assurance Advisory Council* is continuing to develop individual and group support opportunities for NIDCAP Trainers.

Online "**Training Conversations**" are available for NIDCAP Trainers. These discussions focus on training-related questions

and challenges. Each session is led by an experienced and a peer NIDCAP Trainer. The next two video conferences are planned for August 11 (11 am CDT, please reach out to Jean Powlesland at jpowles@uic.edu for details) and September 1 (8 am MDT, please reach out to Joy Browne at joy.browne@childrenscolorado.org for details). Please look for the separate email from *Joy Browne* (sent on July 29) for more information.

NFI Board of Directors

NFI Board of Directors Annual Elections

The NFI Board of Directors nominating period for the upcoming annual election is open now until **August 25th, 2020 at 11.59 PM EDT.**

Nominations for candidates should be sent to the Nominations, Elections and Appointments Sub-Committee at nfigovernance@nidcap.org.

Please see the attached information about the NFI Board of Director nomination process and responsibilities.

NFI Board of Directors

Video Conference Call Minutes

June 29, 2020

July 20, 2020

Highlights

When available the full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's [Membership Section](#). The following are summaries of Board discussions from the two recent meetings.

June 29, 2020

- *Treasurer G. McNulty reviewed the NFI's proposed budget for FY 2020-2021 with the opportunity for questions and discussion.*
- *The NFI Board of Directors voted to approve the NFI Budget Proposal FY 2020-2021, including the inclusion of the two contracted positions, Executive Director of Administration and Finance and NIDCAP Nursery Program Director, with terms as detailed.*
- *The NFI Board of Directors considered dedicating one of the Board seats for a Chair of the Finance Committee. After considering the ramifications of setting aside a seat for a specific committee, it was decided to continue to have all seats open for election to be unencumbered.*

July 20, 2020

- *Revised minutes from June 15 were approved.*
- *Board meeting dates for the rest of the NFI's fiscal year were confirmed.*
- *Updates on the virtual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting included: Dates have been shifted to October 21-23. Deadlines for abstracts and journal club articles have passed, with sufficient submissions. Formal meeting invitation is planned to be sent out before the end of the month.*
- *The NFI statement "NFI BOD Guidance Around the COVID-19 Pandemic" (from March 31, 2020) was considered for an update and/or revision. A revised statement that incorporates data from the NFI survey on family/newborn practice in the time of the pandemic is planned. In the interim, alignment with the GLANCE campaign on "zero separation" will be explored with links to GLANCE resources.*
- *The full Finance Committee has reviewed the proposed budget.*
- *A process for electronic voting for the upcoming Board of Director elections was reviewed and finalized.*
- *The Board of Directors began to review Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART) goals that will guide NFI action plans for the upcoming year.*

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

Sending wishes of health and well-being to our entire NFI community,

Deborah

Deborah Buehler, PhD
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