

Dear Members of the NFI,



With its beginnings traced to the 17th century, Valentine's Day is celebrated around the world on February 14th. The spirit of the holiday is all about **nurturing and caring relationships**, with family members, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

The North Carolina's WakeMed NIDCAP Team of *Jim Helm, Laurie Slaughter and Jenifer Powell* shared their Valentine's Day Week "extra hand hugs" initiative *Every Touch is an Opportunity to Nurture*. This celebration captivated the imagination and hearts of our members who shared memories illustrating how far nurturance within neonatology has come and expressions of inspiration to bring WakeMed's initiative to their own hospitals.

World Prematurity Day (WPD) acknowledges the sometimes difficult journeys preterm infants and their families make and acknowledges the challenges they face. It honors those who make the journey and those who support the travelers. While WPD may be our organization's official annual celebration perhaps Valentine's Day is our unofficial one. The NFI prioritizes *relationship-based, family-integrated care*, and support for one another in hospital settings. In this spirit of Valentine's Day, sending you all wishes of nurturance and care in your personal lives and intensive and special care work in February and throughout the year.

UPDATES:

- *Ana Riverola De Veciana, MD* was approved as a NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training and the Sant Joan de Deu Hospital, Barcelona, Spain was approved as new NIDCAP Training Center in Development. *Graciela Basso, MD* Senior NIDCAP Master Trainer, Buenos Aires, Argentina will serve as mentor and Master Trainer for Ana and the Sant de Deu Hospital.
- *Samantha Butler, PhD*, at the National NIDCAP Training Center, Boston, was approved as a NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training. *Heidelise Als, PhD* will serve as Samantha's NIDCAP Master Trainer. This milestone marks the first formal effort to bring NIDCAP beyond the NICU setting and into Cardiac ICUs.
- The Colorado NIDCAP and APIB Training Center closed after nearly 30 years of training under *Dr. Joy Browne's* masterful and tireless leadership as Center Director, NIDCAP Master Trainer and APIB Trainer. Plans are underway for Joy's new training center affiliation to continue her invaluable work in NIDCAP and APIB trainer and NFI leadership roles.
- *Rita Cummings* has been reappointed as a Member of the of the NFI Board of Directors, through FY 2017-2018. She is stepping down from her role as Secretary of the NFI Board of Directors after a year of service to focus on NFI Advancement efforts. We are sincerely grateful for her ongoing service to the NFI.
- We are very pleased to announce that *Dorothy Vittner, RN, PhD*, has been elected as NFI Secretary and Executive Council Member.

NEWS:

- Our Google ListServ continues to be a rich membership opportunity for discussions of best practice and resources. In January, the following email discussions occurred: “Evidence or best practice related to keeping isolettes closed during x rays in order to decrease disruptions for the infant”; “Protocol for supporting parent holding with babies on HFOV”; “NIDCAP or developmental care in late preterm infants (33-36 weeks) to promote neurodevelopmental outcome”; “Kangaroo question around safety and safe sleep”; the doctoral thesis of Deedee Kommers, MD on *Prematurity and the Physiology of Bonding*.

Your feedback, questions, comments, NFI updates, and membership news addressed to the Board, and/or to me personally always are welcome.

Yours in support of the NFI,

Deborah

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