

January 2017

Happy New Year Members of the NFI,

With the start of the new calendar year, people often make "New Year's Resolutions" setting goals to improve life circumstances. Making goals realistic and measurable can often help bring about experiences of success and accomplishment. **Here's to 2017** and all of its promise and potential for achieving our small and large goals for infants, their families and the professionals who care for them. You are invited to share your professional goals on our NFI Facebook page. May our collective goals strengthen our commitment to *"Improving the Future for Newborns and their Families"*.



#### UPDATES:

- *Rita Cummings, MA* has offered to be the NFI Secretary Officer position for the coming year. Minutes for board meetings and conference calls may be found on the Member Services page of the *nidcap.org* website.
- *Andrea Nykipilo, RN*, Alberta Health Services, in Edmonton Alberta Canada is now a NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training. Joy Browne, PhD will serve as Andrea's NIDCAP Master Trainer and Juzer Tyebkhan, MD as her local supporter at the NICU in Edmonton.
- *The Edmonton NIDCAP Team and the NFI Trainers Meeting Planning Committee* are fast at work preparing for the 28th Annual Trainers Meeting in Edmonton, Canada. Please mark the dates October 20-24, 2017 for what promises to be *yet another* informative, supportive and enjoyable (*by invitation*) meeting.
- The NFI One Day Conference, *"NIDCAP: Developmental Care for NICU infants and families from admission through discharge"*, has just been announced and will be offered at the Weill Cornell Medical College in

New York, April 7th. Please see <http://nidcap.org/en/programs-and-certifications/nidcap-education/one-day-conference-new-york-ny-7-april-2017/> for details.

- In December there was a wealth of knowledge shared through email on the topics of the "effects of handling preterm infants"; a French article on prematurity and NIDCAP; and "parents presence during rounds". If you missed any of these conversations, you may want to review the resources and discussions posted.
- In December, the NFI launched its annual "*Honor Someone You Love*" fundraising campaign. Please consider participating if you can (<http://nidcap.org/en/about-us/honor-card/>).

MEMBER IN THE NEWS:

- *Mandy Daly, Dip. H Diet & Nutrition, Dip. Ki Massage, ACII, DLDU*, NFI Board member and Co- chair of the NFI Parent Advisory Committee as well as Director of Advocacy & Policy Making at Irish Neonatal Health Alliance has met with many Irish government officials to review the existing maternity leave for parents of preterm infants. There was a strong response to a petition that after only four days had 7686 signatures. The goal of this effort is to have Maternity Leave begin when the infant is discharged home from the NICU. There are many challenges that are being addressed including how to define the time period of the NICU stay to protect the employment status of the parent and ideally offer some financial assistance. Stay tuned for how this developing story unfolds.

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

Looking forward to what 2017 may bring for our NIDCAP efforts to reach ever more newborns and their families.

Yours in all things NFI,

Deborah

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