

Dear Members of the NFI,



Board of Directors Pictured: Dorothy Vittner, Nikk Conneman,
Heidelise Als, Mandy Daly, Gloria McAnulty, Dalia Silberstein,
Jim Helm and Jean Powlesland.

Participating remotely: Jennifer Degl and Juzer Tyebkhan.

Also in attendance: Sandra Kosta and Melissa Johnson (on the 1st day)

In June, the **NIDCAP Federation International Board of Directors** met in Portsmouth, New Hampshire for our annual two-day mid-year meeting.

On the first day, Senior NIDCAP Trainer, Melissa Johnson, PhD joined us as our board process facilitator. We began that day with a reflection called the “Personal Shield”. With sheets of paper and a markers, we were invited to draw a shield (or a badge) with four quadrants: “(1) What do I bring to this Board; (2) What is my vision for this Board; (3) What is a current challenge that I am facing outside of work; and (4) What brings me most joy in my life.” We all went around the table sharing what we had written and/or drawn. It was a helpful exercise to gain clarity for ourselves and for one another for our ongoing work together. **Try it for yourself to reflect on what you bring to NIDCAP. Draw or write:**

<i>What do you bring to our NIDCAP community?</i>	<i>What is your vision for the NFI?</i>
<i>What is a current challenge that you are facing outside of work?</i>	<i>What brings you the most joy in life?</i>

Throughout the day, Melissa used an “Appreciative Inquiry” approach (from Nancy Axelrod’s *Culture of Inquiry*, 2007). We explored our style of governing the NFI with opportunities to “promote thoughtful decision-making, even when the decisions are tough ones.” (Page 2) We discussed the characteristics of effective boards, themes generated from conversations with Trainers and Training Center

Directors (to be shared when available), our NFI Mission and Vision Statements, and our Board process and decision-making. With tremendous appreciation to Melissa for the care and thoughtfulness that she took to nurture our board discussions and process.

On the second day, each NFI Committee discussed ongoing work and next steps: The Finance Committee presented the NFI Mid-Year Financial Report FY2018-2019 and End of Year Projections. The Program Committee reviewed the plans and ideas for the upcoming NIDCAP Trainers Meetings, proposed new Quality Assurance Training Policies for Application Requirements for Trainers-in-Training and Training Centers in Development (the final versions will be widely shared and posted when formalized), Foundation Education next steps, and NIDCAP Nursery Program updates. The Advancement Committee reported on work being done to upgrade and revise our NIDCAP.org website (including improving the "Search" feature, and use of individual passwords; Please reach out to Sandra Kosta, Sandra.Kosta@childrens.harvard.edu, with specific ideas for our website's redevelopment), the efforts of the Family Advisory Council (with a focus on plans to keep the momentum going for next year's World NIDCAP Day in March), and current and future fundraising plans (including development of educational modules for profit, grant writing, and World NIDCAP Day fundraising campaigns). The Governance Committee discussed plans for the upcoming Board of Directors elections. We ended these two very full days with lots of ideas and plans! For more details, please watch for the Board's Minutes, which will be posted on the Membership page of our website when available.



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).



The poster for the 30th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting is divided into two main sections. The left section features a stylized graphic of a ship's funnel and a ship, with the text "30th Annual NIDCAP TRAINERS MEETING" in a large, elegant font. Below this, it says "PORTSMOUTH NEW HAMPSHIRE" and "Monday October 7 2019". The main headline reads "SAVE the DATE Open 1-Day Conference". At the bottom, the subtitle is "Gut Feeling: The Other Brain. Exploring the Connection of Microbiome, Stress and Infant Behavior". The right section is titled "OPEN ONE-DAY CONFERENCE" and lists "KEYNOTE SPEAKERS" as "ANDI DAGATA, RN, PhD University of Rhode Island" and "JEFFREY ALBERTS, PhD University of Indiana". It includes a short description of the conference's focus on evidence-based practice and a registration link: "www.nidcap.org". At the bottom right, it lists the venue: "SHERATON PORTSMOUTH HARBORSIDE HOTEL, 255 MARKET STREET, PORTSMOUTH, NH 03803" and the NIDCAP logo.

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.



Note to Trainers & Center Directors: We are updating our 2009 **Training Centers Poster**.

If you are on this poster and would like us to use a different photo... OR

If you have joined us AFTER 2009...

Please send your headshot photographs to shareyourstory@nidcap.org NOW!



In support of our NFI **fundraising** efforts: When you shop at smile.amazon.com, the NFI ("Nidcap Federation Intl Inc) is set up to receive a portion (.05%) of the purchase price for items bought online on the AmazonSmile site, at no cost to you.

From Amazon:

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device... On your first visit, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. (Amazon) will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation (to the NFI).

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