

Dear Members of the NFI,



Jennifer Degl Joins the NFI Board of Directors

It's official... Jennifer Degl, M.S. is a member of the NFI Board of Directors as a Family Representative! Many of us met Jennifer during the Edmonton NIDCAP Trainers Meeting. If you missed the amazing Blog of her experience at our meeting, please read "[Why I Joined the NIDCAP Federation International.](#)"

Jennifer's difficult and frightening pregnancy led to the birth of her daughter 17 weeks early and NICU challenges. Jennifer's journaling of these experiences led to her heartfelt, incredible memoir *From Hope to Joy* (2013) and the children's book *Stuck in Bed* (co-authored with Angela Davids, 2018). Jennifer, a parent of four children and high school earth science and biology science teacher, is a staunch advocate and educator for families of premature and ill infants. She founded "Speaking for Moms and Babies, Inc." She is a frequent speaker at medical and nursing conferences, congressional and policy panels, parent organization fundraisers, and more. Last month, Jennifer and her co-authors published "[Remembering the Power of Stories in Pediatric Research](#)" in The Journal of Pediatrics. Jennifer also serves as a coordinator of Maria's Hope, a hospital-based NICU Parent Mentor Program in New York.

Jennifer's Board term will be for three years through October 2022. Over the past year, Jennifer has been a very active member of the Advancement Committee and Family Advisory Council. Currently, she is integral in coordinating Blog post submissions (please reach out to her for future contributions, jenniferdegl@gmail.com), the development of an NFI family video series and in our fundraising efforts. Jennifer is bringing her vast experience and energies to support the NFI in our shared efforts to bring NIDCAP to ever more hospitalized infants and their families.

MORE GOOD NEWS!

NIDCAP & Science Committee Launches Initiative

The NIDCAP and Science Subcommittee (Co-Chairs: Ita Litmanovitz and Dalia Silberstein and Members: Linda Lacina, Jeff Alberts, Leonora Hendson, Dalal Abdelgadir, Dorothy Vittner) released their first [R³: Research, Read and Review](#) and its accompanying publication. Sharing research that is relevant to NIDCAP, the first paper that they have selected is entitled "[Parents' presence and participation in medical rounds in 11 European neonatal units](#)" (Early Human Development 130 (2019) 10-16). The Subcommittee's short review includes "What is known about this topic; What does this paper add; A summary; and What is the relevance to NIDCAP." Please watch for future emails of NIDCAP-related research that this group will share and review. This effort promises to be such a helpful and interesting resource to enrich and enhance our understandings.

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

Yours in support of the NFI,

Deborah

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