



November 2017

Dear Members of the NFI,

It is with honor and humility that I write to you as your new President of the NIDCAP Federation International (NFI). With gratitude to Past Presidents Heidelise Als and gretchen Lawhon for their ongoing inspiration and dedication and for the so very many NFI board, professional and family members that help us strive and realize our organization's potential each day. I am inspired by our members, dedicated to our shared goals and look forward to taking our organization's next steps together.

Our new NFI year, which officially began on October 1st, is off to a strong start. The NIDCAP Training Center at the University Hospital Modena, led by Fabrizio Ferrari, MD and Natascia Bertocelli, PT, hosted our **27th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting** with great warmth, fun and richness. And our resulting meeting was educational, inspirational, and supportive. Tremendous appreciation for its success goes to The NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Planning Committee co-chaired by gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN and Jean Powlesland, MS, RN. Please look for summaries of the many strong trainer and scientific presentations to be included in the first 2017 edition of the *Developmental Observer*.



Our **NFI Membership Meeting** was held on Wednesday, October 26th. Highlights of this meeting included brief summaries of the work and proposed next steps for each of the NFI committees (Advancement, Governance, Program and Finance) as well as an overview of the President's Report. Please see the nidcap.org website for the complete reports for each of these efforts. Two additional working groups were convened to describe and promote discussion regarding the findings from the Membership Survey (observations, comments and requests as reported by Kaye Spence) and the Trainers Meetings planning group (format and logistics as reported by Nikk Conneman). Elections were held for three board seats. During the period of the election vote count, members met in break-out groups to offer insight, suggestions and involvement on eight topics that ranged from *NIDCAP Beyond the NICU* to *Science to*

Membership. All of these discussions will be summarized in the Minutes of the Membership Meeting and will be posted on our website as soon as they are available. Your continued input and participation is welcomed. The Membership expressed our profound gratitude to gretchen Lawhon (stepping down as our organization's president after four years though continuing to serve on the board) and Kathleen VandenBerg, PhD (stepping down as a member of the NFI Board of Directors) for their decades of instrumental contributions to NIDCAP and as founding members of the NIDCAP Federation International. Election results for new three year board terms included the re-elections of Heidelise Als, PhD and Nikk Conneman, MD and the addition of Björn Westrup, MD, PhD (who had previously served on the NFI board from 2001 to 2007).

One of the clear requests from trainers and professional members alike identified in the Membership Survey, and our first action item, is for the development of additional educational materials to support understandings and implementations of NIDCAP. To create resources for our group, we ask you to consider filming examples of NIDCAP care (similar to the photographs that you have provided for our poster celebration of World Prematurity Day) and submitting them to Sandra Kosta (Sandra.Kosta@childrens.harvard.edu) for us to compile into training materials. Videos need to have permission for sharing and for educational use. Please contact Sandra and me with any technical questions you may have and to let us know that you are planning to contribute to this project. Thank you for your considerations of this request to help us build training resources for our group.

On Saturday, October 29th, we held our first **NFI Board Meeting** of the new fiscal year. During this meeting we held officer elections, discussed the role of the NFI Officer position of Secretary and the format of minutes, and reviewed the Membership and Annual Trainers Meetings. The Board discussed suggestions for next year's meetings and set board priorities and our calendar for the coming year. Further details of this meeting will be made available in the Minutes which will be posted on our website when completed.

Our 2016-2017 NFI Board of Directors and Officers:

Deborah Buehler, PhD

President

James Helm, PhD

Vice President

Gloria McAnulty, PhD

Treasurer

TBD

Secretary

Jeffrey Alberts, PhD

Heidelise Als, PhD (NIDCAP Founder, Past President 2001-2012)

Nikk Conneman, MD

Rita Cummings, MA

Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU

gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN (Past President 2012-2016)

Kaye Spence, AM

Björn Westrup, MD, PhD

Balancing our high quality NIDCAP training program with the growth of our vision and reach remain our highest priorities as we ensure NIDCAP and the NFI's future, supporting ever more newborns, families and the professionals who care for them.

Please feel free to contact me and the other members of our board with any questions, ideas and thoughts that you have over the coming year.

Sending warm wishes to all of you, especially as the November 17th **2016 World Prematurity Day** approaches, as our NIDCAP community works together to create better futures for hospitalized newborns and their families,

Deborah

Deborah Buehler, PhD
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