



November 2018

Olá Members of the NFI,

*"... I feel supported that we are all on a similar journey in our NIDCAP work, each of us in a different place at a given time... We will safeguard one another and remember to appreciate our strength and celebrate the joy of NIDCAP." gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN, Summary Comments, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting, Porto, Portugal, October 23, 2018*



The best part of our annual meetings, for me, is the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to make new ones in our incredible global community. This year our journey to grow and support NIDCAP and one another led us to Portugal. As I sat in my seat in the middle of our conference room listening to presentations and participating in conversations in and around the meeting, I was humbled by our collective passion to serve infants and families. We have many *NIDCAP voices* representing so very many perspectives... from trainers, hospital leadership, family representatives, and observers... from long time members to very new ones... from nurses, neonatologists, therapists, psychologists, parents and from other backgrounds... from Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America, South America and other places. Drawing on the talents of our members, the collective strengths of our diversity, and the wholeness of NIDCAP's model and approach... we have a powerful potential to change global care for hospitalized infants and their

families. I believe that by working together to promote, practice, and advance NIDCAP is how we will be most effective and successful. From the session “What are the NFI’s Next Steps?”, I will continue to sift through your cards and table group notes. I will share the themes expressed and our proposed actions and next steps as soon as they are available. Nurturing our work, ourselves and our community remain our highest priorities as we evolve and progress with the NFI and NIDCAP’s next generation of leaders, mentors, trainers and advocates.



Notes of Appreciation.... Our Portuguese hosts were extremely gracious and warm and our experiences of Porto were rich and memorable... from meeting spaces that were conducive to learning, reflection and connections to adventures filled with symphony music, toasts of port wine, city and river explorations and so much more. It took a village of dedicated, talented people to put together our largest meeting of 137 participants representing 25 countries filled with valuable wisdoms, knowledge and nurturance! We extend our very heartfelt appreciation to the Porto team led by *Fatima Clemente, MD, and Hercília Guimarães, MD*. Our 2018 Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting program and meeting organizations were very capably facilitated by NTM Planning Committee Co-Chairs *Nikk Conneman, MD* and *Jean Powlesland, RN, MS*, Abstract Review Chair *Linda Lacina, MSN, RN, HN-BC*, and Finance and Logistics Team *Sandra Kosta and Gloria McAnulty, PhD*. On behalf of our meeting participants and the NFI, thank you to these leaders and their committee members.

For all meeting participants, please complete the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting evaluations: Click on the links below to fill out **each day’s** survey:

[NIDCAP Trainer's meeting: Evaluation for Saturday](#)

[NIDCAP Trainer's Meeting: Evaluation for Sunday](#)

[NIDCAP Trainer's Meeting 2018: Love and Bonding in the Newborn Unit](#) (Monday)

[NIDCAP Trainers Meeting: Tuesday and Overall Conference Evaluation](#)

*Your feedback is very important to us and will be carefully considered as we plan for future meetings. There is a different evaluation survey for each day of the conference. The general conference evaluation is at the end of Tuesday’s evaluation so please be sure to fill that out too. Your certificate of attendance will be emailed to you, along with our group photograph. The survey will close on November 30. Thank you to those who have already completed the evaluations. Jean Powlesland ([jpowlesl@uic.edu](mailto:jpowlesl@uic.edu)) Nikk Conneman ([n.conneman@erasmusmc.nl](mailto:n.conneman@erasmusmc.nl)), Co-Chairs of the NIDCAP Trainers’ Meeting Planning Sub-Committee*

Our NFI Annual Membership Meeting was held on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at the Sheraton Porto Hotel Congress Center, Porto, Portugal. Brief presentations from the President and Program, Governance, Advancement including the Family Advisory, and Finance Committee Chairs were given. Reports from each of these committees are posted on the NFI web and include a review of activities from the past year. Notable highlights from the meeting included a review of the 2018 NFI Membership Survey, presented by *Kaye Spence, AM*, an overview of the Foundational Education Workgroup initiative, including a call for video lecture submissions, by *Juzer Tyebkhan, MD*, and our tremendous gratitude to *gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN's* as she stepped down from the NFI Board of Directors after years of service. During the meeting, we held elections for the two open Board of Director seats. The ballot included: *Fabrizio Ferrari, MD, Linda Lacina, MSN, RN, HN-BC, Erica Moss, MS, OT, L, NIDCAPc, Jean Powlesland, RN, MS, and Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD*. After the votes were tabulated and confirmed, the top two candidates with the most votes and newest members of the NFI Board of Directors are Jean and Dalia. With our sincere appreciation to Fabrizio, Linda and Erica for their interest and availability to serve the NFI. Also, *Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU* ran unopposed for her reappointment of a three-year term as a Family Representative Member of the Board. She was elected by proclamation. Please see the Minutes from our NFI Membership Meeting when they are available for a review of the presentations, elections and membership forum of questions and comments.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, we held our first Board Meeting of the new fiscal year and welcomed Jean Powlesland and Dalia Silberstein (in absentia) to the newly configured Board of Directors and held officer elections.

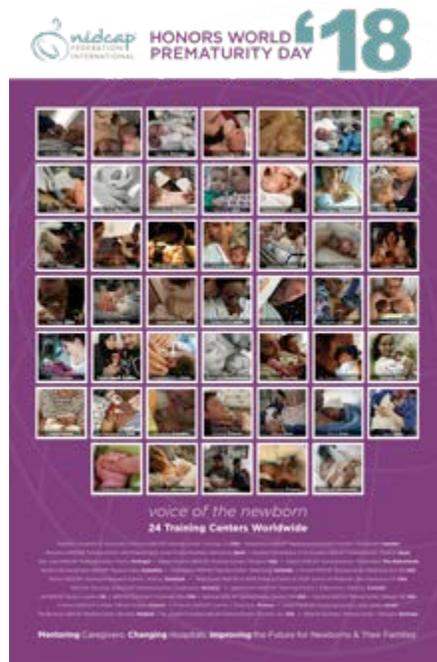
**2018-2019 NFI Board of Directors and Officers:**

Deborah Buehler, PhD, President  
Dorothy Vittner, RN, PhD, Vice President  
Gloria McAnulty, PhD, Treasurer  
(Secretary, Open Position)  
Heidelise Als, PhD (NIDCAP Founder, Past President 2001-2012)  
Nikk Conneman, MD  
Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU  
James Helm, PhD  
Jean Powlesland, RN, MS  
Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD  
Juzer Tyebkhan, MD  
Björn Westrup, MD, PhD

Announcement of Open Position: The *Developmental Observer*, the Official Newsletter of the NFI, is looking for a Senior Editor. For qualifications, responsibilities and available compensation, please see attached description. Please direct inquiries and interest to gretchen Lawhon at email [premie@gmail.com](mailto:premie@gmail.com) by December 1, 2018.

Notable happenings this month... *Kathleen Vandenberg, PhD* stepped down from her longstanding, influential and inspirational role as the Director of the West Coast NIDCAP & APIB Training Center in California, USA. Under Kathy's leadership, the center was the third established NIDCAP Training Center after Boston and Oklahoma. The center was initially training from Children's Hospital Oakland and then moved to Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford and to Mills College and now is housed at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital. I will now serve as the Director of our center, which continues to include Master Trainers *gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, CBC, FAAN* and Kathy as our consultant. Kathy's contributions are considerable and she is a cherished member of our NIDCAP family. • *Jim Helm, PhD* received the Me Fine Foundation's highest honor, the 2018 Hero for Life Award, "for his years of providing support and hope to comfort families" including his NIDCAP work.

Please see our World Prematurity Day [nidcap.org](http://nidcap.org) webpage for information and tools to support your planning and implementation of 2018 World Prematurity Day on November 17<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to share your celebrations with us by sending stories and photographs to [shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org).



Wishing you all good things November 17<sup>th</sup> and all month long as we honor World Prematurity Day,

Deborah

Deborah Buehler, PhD  
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