

November 2019

Dear Members of the NFI,

It has been such a privilege to have been part of an incredible thirty years with the ever-growing NIDCAP Family and of those thirty years eighteen years with the NFI Board!

I treasure all of you and all the memories of our joint dreams, advances, and occasional set-backs that always led to new vistas and opportunities!

...What a wonderful, dedicated, selfless and hard-working, visionary group you are. ...I cherish each and all of you!

Heidelise Als, PhD (NFI email correspondence from October 17, 2019)



30th Annual NIDCAP Trainers & Membership Meetings Portsmouth, New Hampshire USA

Thirty years of Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meetings... we just marked this incredible milestone with sharing and learning new ideas, advancing our model and our work... and by being *together*... *We were joined by some of our earliest members (including Jean Cole, Laura (Robison) Davis, Linda Gilkerson, Ginny Laadt), received well wishes remotely by others (such as Elsa Sell and Deana DeMare Hally), met new friends and reconnected with old ones. We celebrated our history (please see attached "The History of NIDCAP") and our trainers and training centers (please see attached "Four Decades of Training and Mentoring"). Looking around the conference room, the dance floor, the welcome reception and everywhere in-between, it is so very apparent that we are an incredibly powerful global community, so very capably advancing the NFI's mission.*

With tremendous gratitude for all of the behind the scenes work to ensure our 2019's meeting's success and richness, including: *Jean Powlesland and Nikk Conneman* (NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Program Planning Sub-Committee Co-Chairs and their sub-committee members); *Heidelise Als and Dorothy Vittner* Program (NFI Committee Chairs); *Gloria McAnulty and Sandra Kosta* (Finance and Logistics Team); *Linda Lacina and Samantha Butler* (Gala Evening Special Event Co-Chairs); *gretchen Lawhon* ("Pearls of Wisdom" gathered, shared and attached with this email); *Susana Pissarra* (Photographer); and **Jim Helm and Karen Helm** (Meeting Co-Hosts) and the NFI Board of Directors. Also, appreciations to two of our social media leaders *Mandy Daly* and *Fatima Clemente* for keeping our Facebook and Twitter platforms well updated with meeting content...during and now even weeks after our meeting!

Three Decades of NIDCAP Trainers Meetings: Guiding, Reflecting and Imagining

Our October 5-7th meeting held wonderful balance of longstanding traditions (Mutual Introductions, Training Activities Overview, Reflection, Journal Club and Meeting Summary) with inspiring presentations (including hearing from one of our NFI Founders, Linda Gilkerson, on reflection) and innovative workshops (ask attendees about how we imagined ourselves as fish!). On the last day of our meeting, we focused on: ***Gut Feeling: The Other Brain. Exploring the Connection of Microbiome, Stress and Infant Behavior*** with our two exciting Keynote Speakers *Amy D'Agata, RN, PhD* (University of Rhode Island) and *Jeffrey Alberts, PhD* (University of Indiana). Please watch for presentation summaries from the meeting in the upcoming issue of the *Developmental Observer*.

To all of our 2019 Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting's Planners, Facilitators, Moderators, Presenters, Workshop Leaders and Key Note Speakers...



AND to all of our meeting participants - thank you for a very memorable 30th anniversary meeting!

Annual NFI Membership & NFI Board of Directors Meetings

On October 6, we held our annual NFI Membership Meeting. Brief presentations from the President and the Chairs of the Program, Governance, Advancement including the Family Advisory Council, and Finance Committees 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: recognitions of the years of NFI Board and its Committees service and so much more, and with our **tremendous** gratitude for 18 years of Board Service (2001-2019) to *Heidelise Als, PhD* (Founder, Past President) and *James Helm, PhD* (Founding Member of the Board, Past Vice President); acknowledgement of new trainers and trainers-in-training; overview of the *Developmental Observer's* archival access through Indiana University ScholarWorks (presented by Senior Editor *Kaye Spence*); and review and vote to accept the Proposed FY 2019-20 Budget.

During the meeting, we held elections for the two open Board of Director seats. The ballot included: *Jessica Bowen, MSW, LCSW, I/ECMH-C*, *Nikk Conneman, MD (incumbent)*, *Fatima Clemente, MD*, *María López Maestro, MD, PhD*, and *Debra Paul, OTR/L*. After the votes were tabulated and confirmed, the top two candidates with the most votes and newest members of the NFI Board of Directors were Fatima and María.



Official vote results will be available soon on the Membership page of nidcap.org. With our sincere appreciation to *Jessica and Debra* for their interest and availability to serve the NFI... and to *Nikk*, who served the NFI Board of Directors for two terms as an active member of the Program Committee and as Co-Chair of the NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Planning Sub-Committee. We are profoundly grateful for how Nikk has brought his extraordinary wealth of experience interconnecting his understandings as a neonatologist, a Master NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training, an APIB Trainer, a NIDCAP Center Director, a NIDCAP Nursery Site Reviewer, and also importantly his own life experiences. Nikk has and continues to significantly advance the NFI and NIDCAP. 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 8th, we held our first Board Meeting of the new fiscal year and welcomed Fatima Clemente, MD and María López Maestro, MD (in absentia) to the newly configured Board of Directors. We held officer elections, preliminarily reviewed the 2019 Annual Trainers Meeting and made plans for upcoming Board communications and meetings. Of note, Fatima agreed to serve as Co-Chair (with Nikk Conneman) of the NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Program Planning Sub-Committee.

2019-2020 NFI Board of Directors and Officers:

Deborah Buehler, PhD, President
Dorothy Vittner, RN, PhD, Vice President
Gloria McAnulty, PhD, Treasurer
Jean Powlesland, RN, MS, Secretary
Fatima Clemente, MD
Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU
Jennifer Degl, MS
María López Maestro, MD, PhD
Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD
Juzer Tyebkhan, MD

Upcoming NFI Events



NIDCAP CARE PHOTOS DUE NOW

Plans for

World NIDCAP Day

in March 2020 are underway. We will produce a poster similar to the ones we have made for past World Prematurity Day celebrations.

Please consider sharing NIDCAP care from your hospital and send your photos for inclusion in our NFI poster by **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29th**. You must have permission for the photograph(s) you send to be shared on our website, social media, newsletter and related NFI educational sites and **ONLY** use our NIDCAP email address to shareyourstory@nidcap.org.

Please use the attached photo release to obtain permission. We are so very appreciative for families to share their images and experiences and we must protect their privacy.

Please check the NFI's [World NIDCAP Day](#) webpage for updates over the coming months.



The graphic features a background image of a bridge at night with purple and white lights. The text 'NFI Celebrates World Prematurity Day' is prominently displayed at the top. Below this, the NIDCAP International logo is shown with the tagline 'voice of the newborn'. A purple banner contains the date 'November 17th' and an invitation to pay tribute to newborns and their families. A section titled 'About World Prematurity Day' provides background information on preterm births and their complications.

NFI Celebrates World Prematurity Day

November 17th
In honor of World Prematurity Day the NIDCAP Federation International (NFI) invites you to pay tribute to newborns, and to their families, nursery staff and hospitals around the world who provide essential NIDCAP care.

About World Prematurity Day
Celebrated internationally on November 17th, World Prematurity Day (WPD) acknowledges the journeys of preterm infants and their families as well as raises awareness of the challenges faced by children born preterm and their families. This is ever so important as the incidence of preterm birth, worldwide, is increasing rapidly. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every year an estimated 15 million infants worldwide are born preterm (over 3 weeks early). Sadly, the complications of preterm birth are among the leading causes of death in children under five. All infants born preterm require immediate and significant medical care posing

**Thursday,
November 17th**

World Prematurity Day 2020, initiated by the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants (EFCNI) and their parent organization partners, will be celebrated on **Thursday, November 17th**. In honor of this day, the NFI invites you to pay tribute to newborns, and to their families, nursery staff and hospitals around the world who provide essential NIDCAP care.

Please visit the [EFCNI](#) and [our website](#) for information, resources and ideas for how to participate in this international celebration.

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

Deborah Buehler, PhD
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