



Annual Report of the President NFI Mid-Year Board Meeting FY 2018 – 2019 Portsmouth, New Hampshire USA May 31, 2019

Directors of the Board: H. Als, D. Buehler, N. Conneman, M. Daly, J. Degl, J. Helm, G. McAnulty, Jean Powlesland, RN, MS, Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD, J. Tyebkhan, D. Vittner and B. Westrup

Executive Director of Administration and Finance: S. Kosta

This report briefly summarizes the NIDCAP Federation International's (NFI) key organizations, events and decisions from October 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019. For committee activities, please see the respective reports from the Program, Finance, Advancement and Governance Committees.

Elections and Appointments

During the October 21st 2018 Membership Meeting, elections were held for three, three-year NFI board terms. Results included the elections of *Jean Powlesland, RN, MS, and Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD* and also for *Mandy Daly, ACII, DLD*, who ran unopposed for her reappointment as a Family Representative Member. During the April 1st, 2019, Board of Directors Conference Call, *Jennifer Degl, M.S.* was unanimously appointed to serve as an NFI Board of Director's Family Representative. Her term is through October 2022.

The first NFI Board Meeting, of the new fiscal year, was held on Tuesday, October 23rd. During this meeting, officer elections were held. Deborah Buehler, PhD (President) and Gloria McAnulty, PhD (Treasurer) were re-elected. Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN was elected to serve as the Vice President. During the December 3rd, 2018 Board Conference Call, Jean Powlesland, RN, MS, was approved as the NFI Secretary. During the March 4th Board Conference Call, Gloria McAnulty announced that she was taking a medical leave of absence from her Treasurer responsibilities. Sandra Kosta was voted by the Board to the role of Assistant Treasurer of the Board of Directors for the remainder of the fiscal year. She will assume the Treasurer's responsibilities, as a non-voting member of the Board. The Executive Council is comprised of the Board's Officers (D. Buehler, D. Vittner, G. McAnulty, J. Powlesland, S. Kosta) as well as Jim Helm, PhD (former Vice President).

2018-2019 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

Sandra Kosta, BA, Assistant Treasurer (Non-Voting Member)

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

Nikk Conneman, MD

Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU

Jennifer Degl, MS (as of April 1, 2019)

James Helm, PhD

Jean Powlesland, RN, MS

Dalia Silberstein, RN, PhD

Juzer Tyebkhan, MD

NFI Board Meetings, Conferencing and Communications

To date, during the FY 2018-2019, the NFI Board of Directors has met for one in-person meeting October 23, 2018 in Porto, Portugal. There are two upcoming Portsmouth, New Hampshire, U.S. meetings planned for June 13-14 and October 4, 2019. Additionally, the Board holds monthly conference calls, via Zoom video conferencing the first Monday of each month. Minutes for all NFI Board meetings and monthly conference calls are available on the Member Services page of the *nidcap.org* website.

We are currently planning our June 13-14 Annual Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting. We have invited Melissa Johnson, PhD, NIDCAP Trainer and Clinical Psychologist, to facilitate a day of Board development as we review NFI goals and directions and our Board communication process. We also plan to discuss specifics from ongoing and future efforts from each of the NFI Committees (Program, Advancement, Governance and Finance).

A range of communication channels continue to be available and used by the NFI's membership, including: Google Groups listserv for NIDCAP-related resource sharing and discussions; NFI Facebook Page; and the President's monthly Updates and News membership emails. Also, available for the larger global community our NFI website, LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and You Tube Channel sites.

NFI Committees and their Respective Sub-Committees, Councils, and Task Forces

The current committees, sub-committees, advisory councils and task forces and their respective chairs include:

1. Executive Council (Deborah Buehler)
2. Program Committee (Heidelise Als, Chair and Dorothy Vittner, Co-Chair)
 - a. Council
 - i. Quality Assurance (Melissa Johnson, PhD)
 - b. Sub-Committees

- i. NFI Endorsement of Activities and Products (Heidelise Als, Gloria McAnulty, Sandra Kosta, Dorothy Vittner)
 - ii. NIDCAP & APIB Training and Certification (Heidelise Als, Deborah Buehler, gretchen Lawhon)
 - iii. NIDCAP Foundation Education (James Helm, gretchen Lawhon, Juzer Tyebkhan, Dorothy Vittner)
 - iv. NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Program (Nikk Conneman, MD, Jean Powlesland, MS, RN)
 - v. NIDCAP Nursery Program Steering Committee (Co-Chairs: Deborah Buehler and Karen Smith; Heidelise Als, Sandra Kosta, Gloria McAnulty, Monique Oude Reimer, RN, Dorothy Vittner)
 - vi. Production & Web Posting of Training Materials in Different Languages (Sandra Kosta, Heidelise Als)
 - vii. Science & NIDCAP (Dalia Silberstein, RN PhD, Ita Litmanovitz, MD, PhD)
 - viii. Standardization of Certificates (Sandra Kosta)
 - ix. Development of Materials in Multiple Languages (Heidelise Als, Sandra Kosta)
3. Finance Committee (Gloria McAnulty, Sandra Kosta)
4. Governance Committee (James Helm)
 - a. Sub-Committees
 - i. Financial Oversight (James Helm)
 - ii. Nominations & Elections (James Helm)
 - iii. Protection of NFI Intellectual Property (Gloria McAnulty)
5. Advancement Committee (James Helm)
 - a. Advisory
 - i. Family (Mandy Daly, Samantha Butler, PhD, Jennifer Degl)
 - ii. Global Perspectives (Björn Westrup)
 - b. Sub-Committees
 - i. Communications (Mandy Daly)
 - ii. Fundraising and Development (James Helm)

Highlights from this first half of the fiscal year include:

- On November 17th, the NFI celebrated *World Prematurity Day*. We marked the occasion with our annual poster of NIDCAP care from around the world. We also shared our NFI World Prematurity Day Information Sheet and Template developed in collaboration with the European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants.
- In February, the Volume 12, No. 1 of the *Developmental Observer* abstract issue was published under the direction of the the New Senior Editor, Kaye Spence, AM.
- On March 20th and throughout the month, the NFI celebrated the first *Annual World NIDCAP Day*. Resources were developed, including a Toolkit with Fact Sheets available in 13 languages (English, Arabic, Danish, Farsi, German, Hebrew, Irish, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish), a logo, Poster Template, Training Center map, cover pages for Facebook and Twitter, a press Release. A *Guidelines for the Use of World NIDCAP Day Materials* document was posted on the website. Throughout the month, we honored, celebrated and shared the work we do in

support of hospitalized infants and their families. Regional and international expressions of NIDCAP were made, including through social media posts from our NFI members and supporters of the meaning of NIDCAP. Expressions of global celebrations have been posted on the World NIDCAP Day page of the nidcap.org.

- In April, the NIDCAP and Science Subcommittee, Co-Chaired by Ita Litamanovitz and Dalia Silberstein (with committee members: Linda Lacina, Jeff Alberts, Leonora Hendson, Dalal Abdelgadir, and Dorothy Vittner) reimagined their outreach to the NFI membership. Regular communications have begun, entitled *R³: Research, Read and Review*, with the sharing of research relevant to NIDCAP. Articles with summary reviews are made available through the Google Listserv and then posted on the nidcap.org website.
- Throughout the year, there have been a number of Board developments, including: Jean Powlesland, Dalia Silberstein, and Jennifer Degl joined the Board, Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN was unanimously voted by the Board to serve as the Vice President/Officer, Jean Powlesland was appointed to serve as the Board's Secretary/Officer, James Helm agreed to continue to serve on the Executive Council and is actively seeking new Advancement and Governance Chairs to assume his responsibilities before the end of his extended Board term.

NFI Staff and Consultants

The NFI continues to maintain a small staff/consultant team to ensure the ongoing work efforts of the organization. Sandra Kosta serves as the *Executive Director of Administration and Finance*. This integral half time position supports all four committees of the Board: Program, Finance, Governance and Advancement. Rodd Hedlund, MEd serves in the half-time NIDCAP Nursery Program Director position. In January 2019, Kaye Spence, AM, took on the role of the *Senior Editor of the Developmental Observer*. Kaye will receive financial compensation to attend the 30th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting in support of her responsibilities.

NFI Meetings and Conferences

The NFI's *29th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting, October 20-23, 2018*, entitled *Love and Bonding in the Newborn Unit*, was hosted in Porto by The São João NIDCAP Training Center, Portugal. The meeting was greatly appreciated for its outstanding educational program as well as its opportunities for networking, mutual support and shared experiences of Porto. We are very grateful for the year-long dedication and skillful efforts of the NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Planning Committee, co-chaired by Nikk Conneman, MD and Jean Powlesland, MS, RN, the meeting hosts led by Hercília Guimarães, MD, PhD and Fátima Clemente, MD, and the finance and meeting logistics team of Gloria McNulty, PhD and Sandra Kosta. Abstracts from NIDCAP-related and scientific presentations were included in the first edition of the 2019 *Developmental Observer*.

The *NFI 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 many years of service. During the meeting, elections were held for the two open Board of Director seats with Jean Powlesland and Dalia Silberstein securing the most NFI member votes. Also, *Mandy Daly, ACII, DLDU* an unopposed for her reappointment of a three-year term as a Family Representative Member of the Board and was elected by proclamation. Please see the Minutes from our NFI Membership (posted on nidcap.org) for a review of the presentations, elections and membership forum of questions and comments.

The upcoming 30th Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting is entitled *Three Decades of NIDCAP Trainers Meetings: Guiding, Reflecting and Imagining* and will be hosted by Jim Helm, PhD on behalf of the NIDCAP Federation International. It will be held on September 5-7, 2019 in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA. This meeting is being organized by the NFI Trainers Meeting Planning Committee (Co-Chairs Nikk Conneman and Jean Powlesland), the NFI Finance and Meeting Logistics Team (Led by Gloria McAnulty and Sandra Kosta), and the 2019 Host (Jim Helm, PhD). The third day of the conference will be an Open Day with participants interested in NIDCAP from outside of our training center group. This day is focused on *Gut Feeling: The Other Brain. Exploring the Connections of Microbiome, Stress and Infant Behavior*. Within the meeting, on Sunday, October 6th, we will hold our *Annual NFI Membership Meeting* for NFI updates, Board of Director elections, recognition of accomplishments, and membership questions.

NFI Members are invited to discuss, and offer questions, comments, and/or suggestions to the members of the Board for any of the topics raised and to support the NFI's efforts.

The President herewith respectfully submits the President's Report for October 2018 – May 2019 to the Members of the Board on this Day, Friday, the 31 Day of May 2019.

Respectfully offered,



President, NIDCAP Federation International

May 31, 2019