



## Update from the President October 15, 2016

Dear Fellow Members of NIDCAP Federation International,

*To paraphrase my dear friend and our colleague John Chappel "to practice a profession that allows true empathy by touching others with your hands, or voice or deeds can "easily" fulfill your human destiny".*

I am sincerely humbled when I realize how inadequately I have followed through on my goal to have frequent communication with you, the members of our professional organization. John was referring to our NIDCAP work and I am in total agreement in regard to the satisfaction and reward our work provides. The NFI has continued to move forward in striving to make our vision a reality.

Here is my attempt to summarize our accomplishments since my last update.

- 🔔 Hopefully you have been following the wonderfully written and informative NIDCAP Blogs:
  - Rodd E. Hedlund's *"On Becoming a Caregiver: Part I"*
  - Mandy Daly's *"An Irish Mother's Journey: Preterm Birth and Beyond Part III"*
  - Samantha Butler's *"Individualized Developmental Care to Improve the Lives of Children with Congenital Heart Disease"*
  - Nina Nikolova's *"When Life Gives you Lemons: A Personal Story from Bulgaria about Pregnancy, Birth, Loss and Family, Part I"*
  - Melissa Johnson's *"The Journey Never Ends: a Time to Reflect"*
  
- 🔔 The Volume 9 Issue 1 of the Developmental Observer was our first abstract and publication issue with the proceedings of the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting. Within the next two weeks Volume 9 Issue 2 will be published. If you would like to participate in the writing and production of our newsletter please let me know.
  
- 🔔 The NFI revised the NFI Endorsement Policy and the following have been endorsed:
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwest Developmental Care Conference: Practical Application held April 21 – 22, 2016 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center presented by the Cincinnati Children's Hospital NIDCAP Training and Research Center and the Children's Hospital at the University of Illinois NIDCAP Training Center
  - The Training Course 'Supporting Oral Feeding in Fragile Infants' (SOFFI), conducted by Erin Ross, PhD, Lafayette, Colorado, June 16-17, 2016.
  - The European Association for Developmental Care Symposium Multisensory Processing & Developmental Care, planned for the European Academic Pediatric Societies Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, to be held 24 October 2016.
  - The Infant Behavioral Assessment and Intervention Program (IBAIP) developed by Rodd Hedlund, MEd.

- 🕒 The NFI Family Advisory Council has been formulated under the leadership of Mandy Daly and Samantha Butler and has been meeting through teleconferencing. They will explore ways to support collaboration among international parent groups and the NFI and are currently planning for World Prematurity Day activities.
- 🕒 We have had several changes in NIDCAP Training Centers with the approval of the relocation of the UK NIDCAP Training Centre to the University College Hospital, London. UK; the approval of the NIDCAP Training Center in development at the Grace Centre for Newborn Care, the Children’s Hospital at West Mead, Sydney, Australia, with Nadine Griffith as NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training; and the Sooner NIDCAP Training Center moved to an Inactive Status.
- 🕒 The second NFI one day conference “NIDCAP: Developmental Care for NICU Infants and Families from Admission through Discharge” was held at Abington Memorial Hospital on April 29, 2016. Unfortunately the third NFI one day conference scheduled for September 30, 2016 in New York City was cancelled due to the unexpected death of John Chappel, one of the three speakers.
- 🕒 The NNACP Site Reviewer Training Policy has been created and approved as well as the Certification Renewal documents. With the September 2016 site review accomplished, we should hear very shortly the outcome for Centre Hospitalier Valenciennes, Valenciennes, France.
- 🕒 The NFI Board of Directors met in Burlington, MA on May 5 and 6, 2016. During our meeting we reopened the second family representative appointed position on the Board; voted to open the approval process of the budget to the membership at the annual membership meeting to be held in Italy this month; and renewed the contracts for the Director of the NNACP and the Financial Operations and Administration Director at the same financial amounts for the next fiscal year 2016 - 2017
- 🕒 Here is a brief profile of one of our NFI Directors on the Board.

Kathleen Vandenberg, PhD is a fourth generation San Francisco, California native. Her educational preparation includes a BA in philosophy, MA in special education, MA in human and organizational studies and a PhD in human development. Kathy is a true pioneer and one of the first Newborn Developmental Specialists having entered newborn intensive care in 1974. Her role at Oakland Children’s Hospital began through the Child Development Center leading to her life-long interdisciplinary collaboration and comprehensive approach to care within the NICU and transition home. She has authored *Individualized Developmental Care for High Risk Newborns in the NICU: a Practice Guideline* and *Coming Home: Transitions from NICU to Home* in addition to nearly 50 peer reviewed publications.



Kathy was a very early adopter of the NIDCAP approach to care having been APIB certified in 1980 before becoming a NIDCAP Professional in 1986, a NIDCAP Trainer in 1988 and a Master NIDCAP Trainer in 2004. She has been a Director of the NFI Board since its incorporation in 2001. Dr. Vandenberg has demonstrated her dedication to infants, families and staff through over forty years as a clinician, researcher and educator. She was co-investigator for a number of the seminal NIDCAP studies and has been the Director and Trainer/Master Trainer in three different Centers in California. Currently Kathy is at University of California San Francisco directing the West Coast NIDCAP and APIB Training Center.

Kathy exemplifies her definition of a Newborn Developmental Specialist performing neurodevelopmental/behavioral assessments, providing developmental interventions and developing a continuously evolving plan of individualized developmental support for each NICU family and infant as well as consulting with professional staff and supporting the caregiving relationship with staff, parents and extended family.

- 📌 As you might imagine, there is currently much ongoing preparation of NFI Committee reports and planning for our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual NIDCAP Trainers meeting being held in Italy October 26 – 29, 2016. For those of you who will be attending, please remember to gather all appropriate documents placed on the web in anticipation of the meeting in an effort to save a small forest. These include documents for the Thursday afternoon session on Guiding and Nurturing NIDCAP Trainers as well as the eight full journal articles for the inaugural inspirational journal club.

Finally, I want to let you know that I have decided not to run for President for another one year term. It has been a privilege and honor to serve as your President of this organization for the past four years. This opportunity has been most challenging and growth promoting and I have been as dedicated and effective as possible in achieving my personal vision for the organization. I will continue to be an active Director on the Board for the final two years of my elected term. It is my most sincere hope that some of you will embrace the leadership opportunities within the NFI and consider becoming more actively involved.

Be sure to get to know your professional organization better on LinkedIn, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter, watch us on YouTube and discover us on Pinterest.

As always, please send any comments to me at [premie@gmail.com](mailto:premie@gmail.com). Thank you for being a member of the NFI. With appreciation for all you are doing to support infants, families and staff in newborn intensive care,

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President, NIDCAP Federation International

Mentoring caregivers. Changing hospitals. Improving the future for newborns and their families.