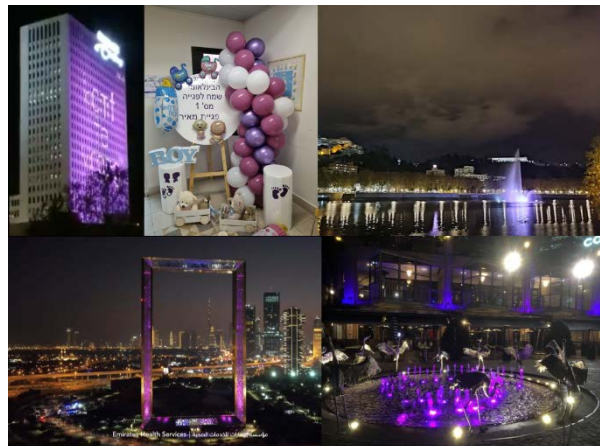


Dear NFI Community,

Every year, we move closer to our goal to bring NIDCAP to and improve the future for ever more infants and their families in hospitals around the world. Just look at what we shared on our Facebook page in just this past month:

- *NIDCAP training occurred in Cyprus, France, Portugal and Australia.*
- *NFI Members, Silke Mader and Carmen Pallás chaired presentations at the XIII International Kangaroo Mother Care Congress.*
- *The 5th Mentoring Meeting of NIDCAP Professionals, in Spanish and Portuguese was held for “Sharing and reflection” from clinical cases and from a family center care and Neurodevelopmental care perspective with NIDCAP approach, with participation of more than 40 professionals from Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Italy, Israel, Chile and Uruguay.*
- *Fatima Clemente presented NIDCAP care and the Model of NIDCAP Nursery at the Annual Congress of the Portuguese Society of Neonatology in Portugal.*
- *And... Celebrations of 2022 World Prematurity Day were marked worldwide!*

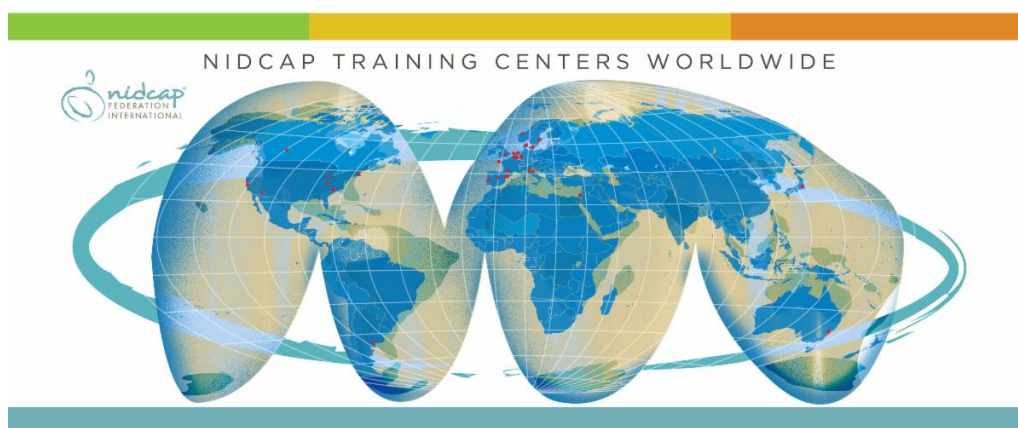


Thank you Fatima Clemente for posting and sharing our updates all year long! Members, you are welcome to send your plans and updates for others to learn about to [shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org).



**Everyday**, NIDCAP care is being experienced in hospitals. **Everyday**, healthcare professionals are training with NIDCAP and receiving mentoring. **Everyday**, professionals, families, supporters and the general public are learning about NIDCAP and its importance. With heart and determination, each of you play an integral part in bringing our mission to life. As we come to the end of this calendar year, let's celebrate our accomplishments. Let us also recommit to our resolve that *individualized, developmental, family-centered, research-based NIDCAP care* for premature and ill infants in hospitals, and their families, is their right. And that our NFI members and community continue to strive, with wisdom, creativity and dedication, to realize this care for all.

## NFI Updates & News





## Two New NIDCAP Trainers in Training

In November, the Board of Directors approved two new NIDCAP Trainers in Training: **Beverley Hicks**, Neonatal Developmental Specialist, UCLH, from the UK NIDCAP Training Centre and **Elsa Silva**, RN, from the Algarve University Hospital Center. Both Beverley and Elsa will be mentored by **Nikk Conneman, MD**, Master NIDCAP Trainer/APIB Trainer.



From **Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN FAAN**, NFI Program Chair: *You are incredible assets to the NFI community and your commitment to this process provides significant assurance to the NFI for securing the future of NIDCAP & APIB Training process and therewith for the continued improved outcomes for newborns and their families in hospital settings.*



## Two New and One Re-Certified APIB Professionals

NIDCAP Professionals, **Angeline Perez, RN** and **Eveline Van Dijk, RN** became certified Assessment of Preterm Infant Behavior (APIB) Professionals by **Joy Browne, PhD, PCNS-BC, IMH (IV) Clinic Mentor**



**Delphine Druart, RN** was re-certified as a APIB Professional by **Deborah Buehler, PhD**. Delphine is preparing to embark on becoming an APIB Trainer.



Congratulations to all!

**Developmental Observer**  
The Official Publication of the NIDCAP Federation International  
2022 | VOL. 15 | NO. 3

**Heidelse Als Commemorative Issue**  
8 November 2022

**The Voice of Newborns, Infants, Children, Families and Care Partners All Around the World**  
Deborah Bushler, PhD. Presented at the 2022 Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Bad Boll, Germany, October 9, 2022

In the NICU, where technology is at its most complex and densest and infants and families are at their most vulnerable, there is the greatest obligation for transformation and change. To be successful we must become fully present, attuned and accountable to each infant and each family, and effective in supporting optimal development of all infants, families and staff.  
— HEIDELSE ALS, 2013  
Nancy Zickorski

How did it come to be that one brilliant woman observed the hospital experience for the most vulnerable, fragile infants and became such an instrumental, invaluable, powerful positive force for change — transforming care with lasting positive influences, improving futures for young infants, families and health care partners? Heidelse Als, or Heidi, had an immense intellectual curiosity about life — flowers and plants, music, literature... and most of all living beings (especially human). She brilliantly observed connections, articulated complex patterns and systems, translated visions into accessible clinical practice supports, and created and inspired a global community. And in doing so, Heidi made the world a better place. A life most definitely well-lived. A continuous thread throughout Heidi's life was the study of how people are shaped by their environments and the development and support for their health, regulation, well-being and potential.  
On November 8th, 1940, Heidelse Als was born the middle child of Elizabeth and Barrister Heinrich. Her family lived in the beautiful town of Krumbach in Bavaria Germany, between the Danube and the Alps. Yet, Heidi's early years were shaped by an unthinkably horrific time in world history, World War II in Germany. All around Heidi, there was death and destruction and suffering from the Nazis. Her home was invaded and confiscated, forcing her family to live in what she described as a "cramped" (continued on p. 2)

DOI: 10.14454/doi.v15i3.25454

## Developmental Observer

On November 8th, the date of Heidelse Als' birthday, a commemorative issue (Volume 15, No. 3) of the *Developmental Observer* was published. The issue includes Heidi's past *Developmental Observer* articles and so much more! Please be sure to read and share this very special edition.

## Heidelse Als Commemorative Developmental Observer Issue

## NFI Board of Directors



## Organizational Changes

The NFI Board of Directors plans to reorganize the structure of the Board to follow non-profit organization best practices. One goal is to separate the responsibilities of the governing Board clearly from daily operations and activities, including program development. There are many ways this could be done and we want to find the best model for the needs and future growth of the NFI.

To advise the Board, the *Governance Committee* plans to form a task force. Members with non-profit organization experience are invited to participate sharing experiences, insights, and suggestions. Participation may be flexible, including from participating in meetings to a one-time email with specific suggestions. We want to hear your voice as members of the NFI. If you can support this effort, please

email [nfigovernance@nidcap.org](mailto:nfigovernance@nidcap.org) (preferably by the end of the year). Someone will reach out to you in January to discuss how you wish to participate.

Please watch for periodic updates (at least quarterly) in this monthly newsletter.

## NFI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes November 2022

The Board of Directors held their monthly Zoom meeting on November 9. The highlights of this meeting are below. The full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's Membership Section when available.

### Highlights

#### *Decisions*

- *Board of Director September Conference Call Minutes were approved.*
- *Beverley Hicks' application as a NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training was approved.*
- *Elsa Silva's application as a NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training was approved.*

#### *Discussions*

- *Potential dates for the Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting were discussed.*
- *The NFI Board of Director's Rules of Engagement were shared with new members and reviewed for all.*
- *The Quality Assurance Advisory Council will follow up on information gathered from the hybrid training workshop at the 2022 NIDCAP Trainers Meeting.*
- *The development of a Taskforce to search for the next NFI Treasurer needs to be prioritized.*
- *The Treasurer shared the draft of the FY 2023 proposed budget and asked the Board for feedback and/or submission of requests.*
- *The NFI Strategic Plan was discussed for further revisions.*



Your feedback, questions, comments, NFI updates, and membership news written to me personally and/or to the whole board, are welcome.

Warm December Wishes to all,

Deborah

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Deborah Buehler, PhD



NIDCAP Federation International,  
President, Member of the Board  
Email: [nfipresident@nidcap.org](mailto:nfipresident@nidcap.org)

[Visit our website](#)

**Mentoring** Caregivers. **Changing** Hospitals.  
**Improving** the Futures for Newborns and Their Families.



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