



NFI Membership Updates and News from the President

November 2022

Dear NFI Community,

Nearly three years in the planning, our 33rd annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting, hosted by the warm, gracious NIDCAP Germany, Training Center Tübingen, happened! We met in a new hybrid way: in person, in beautiful Bad Boll, Germany, and virtually from places around the world. Our connections with one another and with NIDCAP felt especially strong after two years of only virtual meetings and the timing of this meeting so soon after the loss of our NFI Founder and friend, Heidelise Als, PhD.

Over the three days, there were 95 participants together in Germany and another 55 that joined us online. On the first day, we held an open conference with approximately 208 participants (in-person and online). Our meeting, dedicated to Heidi, was particularly meaningful as we honored her remarkable life, her incredible work, her rich, enduring relationships and our remembrances of her. We celebrated NIDCAP, NIDCAP Training Center and NFI accomplishments and one another. We were inspired with new insights, directions and connections. For the in-person participants, we explored the beautiful German countryside and gardens of Bad Boll and the enchanting city of Tübingen. After a couple of years of imagining being together (and being together in Germany!), enormous gratitude was felt for the opportunity to be part of this year's meeting.



In her seminal paper, Heidi wrote: *Stimulation if appropriately timed or appropriate in quality and intensity will cause the organism to seek it out and move towards it, while maintaining a balanced level.* (1982. Toward a Synactive Theory of Developmental: Promise for the Assessment and Support of Infant Individuality. *Infant Mental Health Journal*. 3, pp. 238-239) Being together, honoring and celebrating Heidi, being hosted by the German NIDCAP team, seemed just right for the NFI this year. As we seek to "rebalance" ourselves after the loss of Heidi, we will continue, with a renewed dedication, to work toward realizing the NFI and NIDCAPs potential to change the future for infants and families around the world.



Our hybrid meeting, planned over nearly three years, was a huge success!

With Tremendous Gratitude



*Host: NIDCAP Germany,
Training Center Tübingen*

NATALIE Wetzel
CHRISTIAN Poets
BIRGIT Holzhüter

With the team

- **LUISE** Baer
- **REBEKKA** Bauer
- **Eva** Brenner
- **MARGRET** Fritz
- **KERSTIN** Gründler
- **EVA** Jochim
- **FRANZIOKA** Ruob
- **INA** Schmollinger
- **TABEA** Thien
- **SUZANNE** Wagner ● **ISA** Wiech



Planning Co-Chairs

JEAN Powlesland
FATIMA Clemente

With the team

- of ● **DEBORAH** Buehler
- **LAMA** Charafeddine
 - **INGRID** Hanks Drielsma
 - **RODD** Hedlund
 - **ELSA** Jörgensen
 - **STINA** Klemming
 - **SAADIEH** Masri
 - **DEBRA** Paul
 - **ELSA** Silva
 - **DOROTHY** Vittner
 - **NATALIE** Wetzel
 - **JOKE** Wielenga



*Organization &
Logistics Co-Chairs*

SANDRA Kosta
GLORIA McAnulty



Overall Facilitator
SANDRA Kosta



Presenters DEBORAH Buehler • SAMANTHA Butler • NIKK Conneman
• KELLY Janssens • OSKAR Jenni • DOMINIQUE Haumont • OSKAR Jenni
• gRETCHEN Lawhon • SILKE Mader • INGEBORG Krageloh-Mann • ELENA and
FRIEDER Pfeiffer • JACQUES Sizun • DOROTHY Vittner

Facilitators & Moderators GRACIELA Basso • FATIMA Camba • FATIMA
Clemente • INGRID Hanks Drielsma • KERSTIN Gründler • BIRGIT Holzhüter • MARIA
Maestro • SAADIEH Masri • GLORIA McAnulty • DEBRA Paul

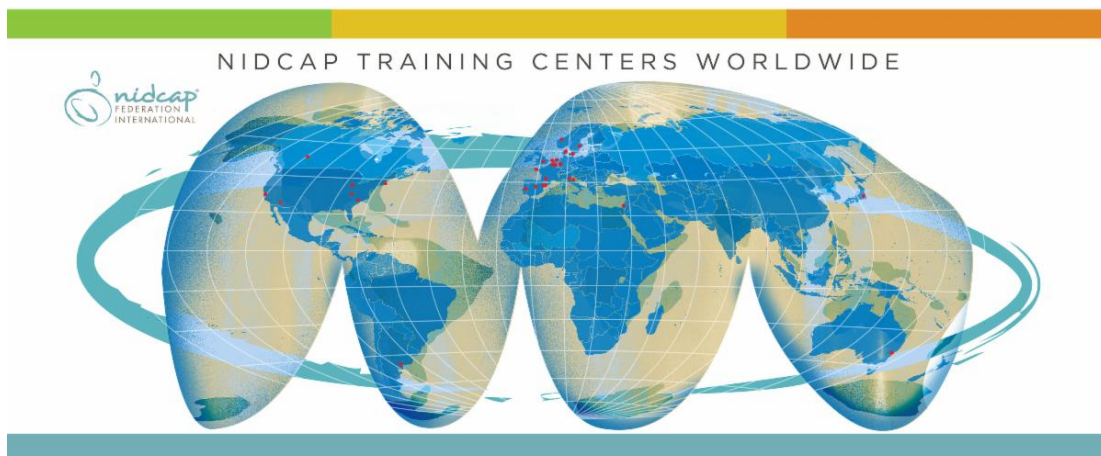
• CHRISTIAN Poets • JEAN Powlesland • DOROTHY Vittner • JUZER Tyebkhan
• CORNELIA Weichers **Mutual Introductions** KAYE Spence • STINA Klemming

Journal Club JUZER Tyebkhan **2024 Meeting Previews** JEAN Powlesland

Reflections & Summaries NIKK Conneman • DOROTHY Vittner

• gRETCHEN Lawhon **NFI Photographers** MANDY Daly • SUSANNA Pissarra

NFI Updates & News



Developmental Observer

On November 8th, the date of Heidise Als' birthday, a commemorative issue (Volume 15, No. 3) of the *Developmental Observer* will be published. The issue will include past *Developmental Observer* articles that Heidi wrote, recent tributes and remembrances, a listing of Heidi's publications and more. Please watch for this special release next week.

NFI-Related Happenings



World Prematurity Day

November 17, 2022

[World Prematurity Day 2022](#), 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 note the EFCNI's new World Prematurity Day resource on [Trello](#). This EFCNI platform includes events, graphics, resources and more.

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



NFI Members Present on Immediate Kangaroo Care

On October 27, Björn Westrup, MD and Stina Klemming, MD presented Grand Rounds, simulation sessions and small group discussions at UCSF (California USA) on the *Immediate Kangaroo Care to Improve Survival of Low Birth Weight Infants: A Town Hall of International Experts*. This was one of four global events hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Björn and Stina's presentations were very inspiring and reassuring for the attendees from UCSF and across the Bay Area to consider how to successfully implement immediate skin to skin practices.



NFI Board and Officers

The NFI held its Board of Directors election this year through an online voting system for NFI Members in Good Standing. Results were announced at the 2022 NFI Membership Meeting. The two incumbent Board members, Fatima Clemente, MD (Open Seat) and Jennifer Degl, MS (Family Seat), were re-elected to serve on the Board. Charlotte Tscherning, MD, PhD was elected to fill the second open seat. Welcome Charlotte! Tremendous appreciation is expressed to Maria López Maestro, MD for her three years of Board service.

Over the past year, the Board of Directors have been updating the NFI's strategic plan. We received consultation from Mary Hiland, PhD to consider restructuring the make-up of our Board and our committees. Due to these potential substantial changes, as well as the recent death of our founder, the Board determined that continuity from the Board's leadership would best support upcoming transitions. I have just served six consecutive one year terms, which was the maximum number of years. An NFI By-Law revision was made to eliminate the maximum number of one year terms that the President and Vice President may serve.

Just after the NIDCAP Trainers Meeting ended, the Board met for its first meeting of the three month interim fiscal year (prior to the start in 2023 when the fiscal year will coincide with the calendar year). After welcoming the new Board, Officer elections were held and the slate of officers from the previous year was motioned. With no additional nominations to consider, the officers were re-elected for a one year term. The Board of Directors and Officers for the upcoming year are:

Officers: **DEBORAH** Buehler, PhD (President) • **DOROTHY** Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN (Vice President)
• **GLORIA** McAnulty, PhD (Treasurer) • **JEAN** Powlesland, RN, MS (Secretary) • **SANDRA** Kosta
(Assistant Treasurer, Officer Only)

Members: **FATIMA** Clemente, MD • **JENNIFER** Degl, MS • **MANDY** Daly, ACII, DLDU
• **DALIA** Silberstein, PhD, RN • **APOORVA** Sudini, BS • **CHARLOTTE** Tscherning
MD • **JUZER** Tyebkhan, MBBS

NFI Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
October 2022

The Board of Directors held their end of year meeting on October 6 and the start of the three month interim meeting on October 9. The highlights of these in-person meetings are below. Each of the full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's Membership Section when available.

Highlights from October 6 Meeting

- *The End of Year Reports from the President and the Program, Advancement, Finance and Governance Committees were approved.*
- *Minutes from July 2022 Board meeting were approved.*
- *The budget for the interim 3-month period October through December 2022 was approved.*
- *The By-Laws were amended to reflect the fiscal year change from 30 September - 1 October to a calendar year 1 January - 31 December.*
- *Samantha Butler, PhD, was approved as a NIDCAP Trainer.*
- *Discussion continued on the NFI's updated Strategic Plan.*

Highlights from October 9 Meeting

- *New Board member Charlotte Tscherning, MD was welcomed to the Board and incumbents Fatima Clemente, MD and Jennifer Degl, MS were congratulated on their re-elections.*
- *The current slate of officers (Deborah Buehler, PhD, President, Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN, Vice President, Jean Powlesland, RN, MS, Secretary, Gloria McAnulty, PhD, Treasurer, and Sandra Kosta, BA, Assistant Treasurer) was reelected to a one-year term.*
- *The Board meeting calendar was discussed.*
- *The Board informally reviewed the 33rd Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting.*



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

Warm [World Prematurity Day Wishes](#) to all,

Deborah

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Deborah Buehler, PhD
**NIDCAP Federation International, President,
Member of the Board**
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[Visit our website](#)

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

Contact Us & Stay Informed



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