



NFI Membership Updates and News from the President

September 2022



*The words you speak and read, the images you use, all reflect and shape who you are;
the choice and responsibility is yours.*

Heidelise Als, PhD

Dear NFI Community,

This has been a very difficult time, with the sudden loss of our extraordinary founder, Heidelise Als, PhD (Heidi). Over the past year, Heidi and her beloved husband of 44 years, Frank H. Duffy, MD, had transitioned to their beautiful farm in Vermont. While

this time might have been one of semi-retirement, Heidi continued actively to teach, write and create. She certainly wanted and planned to do so much more. And yet, over the course of Heidi's exceptional career, she has left us an enduring, vibrant, incredible legacy. She left a blueprint that will serve to guide, inform and inspire our NFI Community for years and years to come. It is up to us, as NFI Members and NIDCAP Champions, to carry on bringing NIDCAP to ever more infants and their families around the world.

Our NFI community will honor Heidi and her life's work in many ways, including tributes at our upcoming Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting in Germany. The pandemic kept us from being together in person and now we will meet in Heidi's birth country, one she always carried close to her heart. It will be so very comforting to be together.

As we prepare to honor Heidi's legacy, we reflect on the countless ways that she has inspired us. The NFI uses the metaphor of "pearls" in sharing members' and families' wisdoms around the world. Pearls are thought to represent confidence, strength and peacefulness. Heidi, herself, wore beautiful pearl necklace and earrings every day! The precious layering that forms each pearl is a beautiful symbol for the layering of meaning and approaches to care implementation that Heidi has exquisitely articulated over her decades long career.

In this spirit, we invite you to reflect on how you have been inspired by Heidi, by her teachings, by her vision, by her character, by her. Everyone is invited to participate. These reflections will be shared at our Trainers Meeting and with our Membership at large. Please send to shareyourstory@nidcap.org :

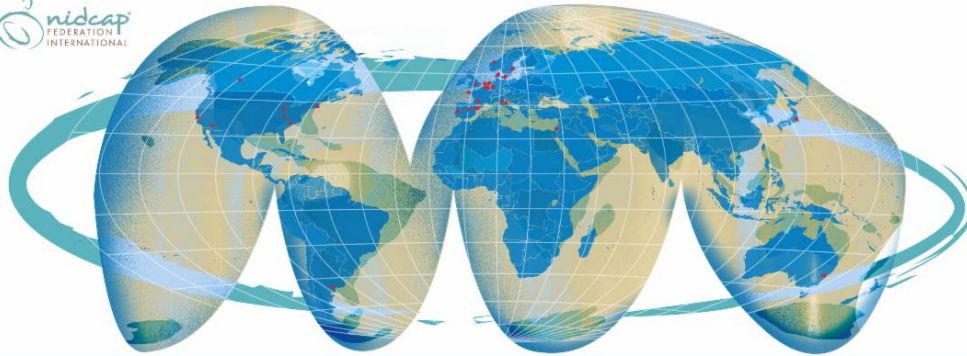
- Your Name
- Your NFI and/or NIDCAP Training Center Affiliation
- Your Location (City, State, Country)
- *An Inspiration that You Have from Heidi*
- *A Photograph of You and Heidi Together* (if you have one)

Please submit your contribution by **Friday, September 16th**.

NFI Updates & News



NIDCAP TRAINING CENTERS WORLDWIDE



Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting

7, 8, 9 October 2022

This year's annual meeting, entitled *The Impact of NIDCAP on the Infant, Family and Society*, will be held in person in Germany and also via Zoom for virtual participants. The timing of the meeting is organized around the German time zone (CEST). Invitations with registration and hotel reservation details were sent in June. There are reduced rates for NFI Members and there are guest rates for those who travel to Germany.

For more information and to register please visit the 33rd NIDCAP Trainers Meeting website page. This is a password protected page accessible only to NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Invitees.

[33rd NIDCAP Trainers Meeting Page](#)



**Universitätsklinikum
Tübingen**



NIDCAP One Day Symposium

Friday, 7 October 2022

This one-day conference, hosted by NIDCAP Germany, Training Center Tübingen, on behalf of the NIDCAP Federation International, is held in conjunction with the 33rd Annual NIDCAP Trainers Meeting. The Symposium will feature presentations about the plasticity of the preterm brain, the NICU experience of parents, and how healthcare professionals can influence the political agenda to improve newborn care.

Click button below for program and registration details.

[NIDCAP Symposium Page](#)



Annual NFI Membership Meeting

Sunday, 9 October 2022

The Annual NFI Membership Meeting will be held on 9 October 2022. All NFI Members in good standing are encouraged to attend. The meeting will be held in-person and simultaneously online. More information will be provided closer to the meeting date.



New NIDCAP Trainer and NIDCAP Training Center

Johann Binter, RN was unanimously approved by the NFI's Board of Directors as the NFI's newest NIDCAP Trainer.

With Johann's certification the *Salzburg NIDCAP Training Center at Gemeinnützige Salzburger Landesklinikum in Salzburg, Austria* is now established.

These exciting events were achieved with the insightful training, mentorship and support from [Nikk Conneman, MD](#), NIDCAP Master Trainer, and [Heidelise Als, PhD](#), Senior NIDCAP and APIB Master Trainer (who served as Nikk's Senior NIDCAP and APIB Master Trainer).

These accomplishments are especially remarkable since they occurred during this time of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Many, many congratulations to Johann and to all of the supporters from the Salzburg team and to Nikk and Heidi.



New Senior NIDCAP Trainer

Monique Oude Reimer, RN, NIDCAP Training Center Co-Director from the SOPHIA NIDCAP & APIB Training Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands was unanimously approved to become a *Senior NIDCAP Trainer*. As Program Chair, Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN, wrote Monique's *commitment to continued professional growth and development provides significant assurance to the NFI for securing the future of the NIDCAP Training process and therewith for the continued improved outcomes for newborns and their families as well as for the professional caregivers in intensive care settings.*



New NIDCAP Trainer in Training

Nathalie Renaud, RN has become the NFI's latest NIDCAP Trainer-in-Training! Nathalie is from the CHU Saint-Pierre University Hospital Brussels, Belgium. She will be trained and supported by NIDCAP Master Trainer-in-Training Delphine Druart, RN (with mentorship from Agneta Kleberg, RN, PhD, Senior NIDCAP Master Trainer, and Deborah Buehler, PhD,

Master NIDCAP Trainer and Master APIB Trainer in Training) and supported by Training Center Director, Inge Van Herreweghe, MD, Co-Director: Marie Tackoen, MD and the Brussels NIDCAP Training Center.



New NFI Board Member

[Apoorva Sudini](#) was unanimously appointed to a three year term on the NFI Board of Directors.

Apoorva is a graduate of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. She received honors in her studies of Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience & Public Health. She also minored in studies of Clinical and Health Psychology and English. She is currently a Healthcare Associate for PricewaterhouseCoopers in New York. Apoorva has experience with financial analysis, project management and change management implementation. She also brings skills in reflection and relationship-building.

We welcome Apoorva's future contributions to enhance the NFI's stability and growth.



NIDCAP Conference

A two day NIDCAP Francophone Meeting will be held on September 29 and 30, 2022 in Marseille, France.

The first day, "Parent from here and elsewhere" is open to all. The second day, "Preparing for the discharge" is reserved for NIDCAP/FINE/CLE professionals.



NFI Member Philanthropy

NFI

Member, [Yamile Jackson, PhD, PE, PMP](#), and [The Zaky](#), have made donations of The Zaky HUG® to NICUs across Ukraine. Yamile wrote that they wish to *nurture every baby in the NICU at the Lviv perinatal regional medical center in Ukraine. It is part of our [The Zaky CARES](#) donation program on behalf of Zachary. This is the 17th NICU in Ukraine that receives The Zaky package for every baby since the war started. For this project we collaborate with the [March of Dimes](#), [NIDCAP Federation International](#)'s [Oleksandra Balyasna](#) and other parent organizations.*

NFI Board of Directors



NFI Board of Directors Meeting Minutes August 10, 2022

The Board of Directors held their monthly conference call on August 10. The highlights of the meeting are below. The full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's Membership Section than they are available.

Highlights

- Rules of Engagement for Board of Directors' participation were adopted.
- Apoorva Sudini, a PricewaterhouseCoopers employee, was appointed to the Board of Directors for a three-year term.
- Several applications were unanimously approved: The NIDCAP Training Center in Salzburg, Austria with Johann Binter as the NIDCAP Trainer; Nathalie Renaud as a Trainer-in-Training; and Monique Oude-Reimer van Kilsdonk as a Senior NIDCAP Trainer. Congratulations all!
- Discussion was held on a possible venue for the 2023 NIDCAP Trainers Meeting in the Chicago, USA area.
- The Board of Directors' 2022 NIDCAP Trainers Meeting "NFI Next Steps" session was discussed.

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

Comforted and energized by this incredible organization and its members,



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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