



**April 2023  
Newsletter**

Dear NFI Community,

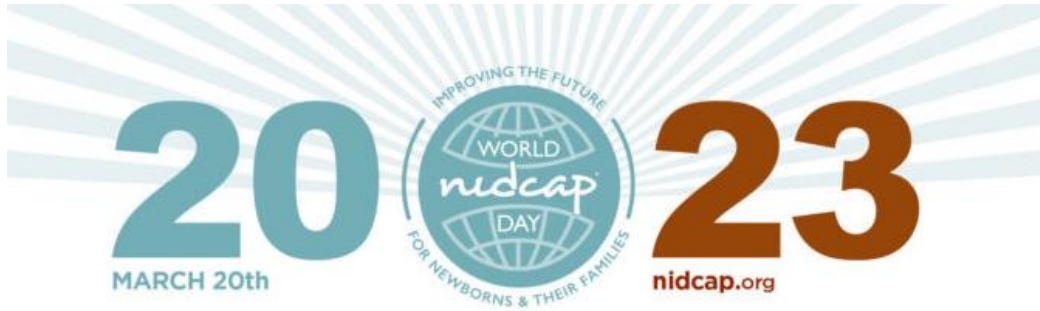
What an amazing fifth annual **World NIDCAP Month** we just had! NIDCAP's model, approach to care, training and most especially its people all around the world were recognized and celebrated. It has been incredibly inspiring to hear NIDCAP messages, learn about NIDCAP Training Center activities, and see that there were conferences, presentations, exhibits, gatherings, and landmark lightings and so much more. Please see the recap of some of the ways that NIDCAP was recognized and honored in the message below.

The quote below is one that our *Founder Heidelise Als* collected. She was inspired by its message for the NFI and NIDCAP.

*The only limit to our realization of tomorrow  
will be our doubts of today.  
Let us move forward with strong and active conviction.*

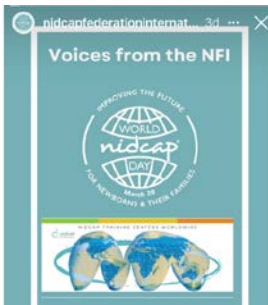
(Franklin Delano Roosevelt, April 12, 1945)

The NFI and NIDCAP has many challenges *and* opportunities ahead. With the truth of our NIDCAP model and our incredible NFI members, may the momentum of the attention to and celebrations of NIDCAP continue to sustain us as we continue the work *to improve the future for infants and families around the world.*



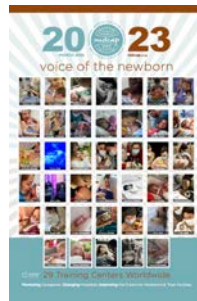
## World NIDCAP Month Activities

### Learn About Us



#### NFI Voices

On our Instagram and Facebook sites, many incredible short videos from Healthcare Professionals & Families are available for inspiration.



#### NIDCAP Care Around the World

Members shared beautiful photographs of newborns and infants and their families, and the healthcare professionals caring for them.



#### NIDCAP Training Centers

A new interactive map was created on our website to share compelling short videos and images of training center teams and their NIDCAP activities and stories.

## Town Hall

### Mid-Year Membership Meeting

On March 29th, we held our first virtual Town Hall bringing together NFI Members and Directors of the Board. A Town Hall is a forum to share updates and invite questions and comments. We will explore continuing to offer this format to support the NFI's communication and growth.



## Social Media



[Instagram](#)



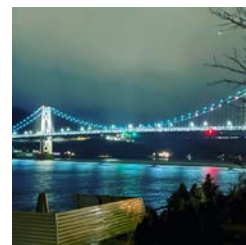
[Facebook](#)



[Linked In](#)

To support the Mission and Vision of the NFI, we have taken a fresh social media approach to share our NIDCAP/NFI story and inspirations from our members and training centers. With the support of a Digital Content Creator, we have lots of new posts and content that we invite you to see and share.

## Illuminations



Many landmarks were lit in teal in honor of the World NIDCAP Day!

In the USA

- Massachusetts: Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge, Longfellow Bridge, Fore River Bridge
- New York: Mid-Hudson Bridge
- Arkansas: Big Dam Bridge

And at the border of New York, USA & Ontario, Canada

- Niagara Falls (Special Thanks to The Niagara Falls Illumination Board)

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## NFI Member Activities



On March 1, Boston Children's Hospital Fuss Research Seminar *Celebration of the Life and Enduring Legacy of Heidelise Als, PhD* with Speakers *Samantha Butler, PhD* and *Jacques Sizun, MD*, Moderated by *Gloria McAnulty, PhD*.

On March 20, The NICU Parent Network (NPN) invited the NFI to share about NIDCAP and *World NIDCAP Day*. The NFI's *gretchen Lawhon, PhD, RN, FAAN* joined the NPN's Founder Keira Sorrells.

On March 29, as part of NIDCAP awareness month, the meeting "Los Pétalos de Viola" was held. 34 Spanish-speaking professionals and parent association leaders from Italy, Spain, Portugal, Argentina, Chile, and Israel met to share and reflect on working and training from the perspective of the Synactive Theory with a clinical case.

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# NFI - Endorsed Conferences



## 36th Annual Gravens Conference

In the USA on March 8-11, *The Future is Now for Babies, Families, and Systems* was held. The legacy of [Heidelise Als, PhD](#) was highlighted, [Björn Westrup, MD, PhD](#) was honored, [Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN, FAAN](#) presented on the NIDCAP Nursery Program and much more of NIDCAP was highlighted.



## Dia Mundial Do NIDCAP

In Portugal on March 20, Nascer Prematuro and SMIPN CHUALGARVE marked [World NIDCAP Day](#) with the conference *Via Mundial do NIDCAP*. [Jacques Sizun, MD](#) and [Fatima Clemente, MD](#) presented on the implementation and training of the NIDCAP program and care.



## Swedish Conference on Ultra-Early Intervention

In Sweden on March 23, *Always Together- Caring for newborn babies together with their parents in skin-to-skin contact and Mother-Newborn Couplet Care* from the time of birth. The faculty of this meeting included many NFI members [Silke Mader](#), [Björn Westrup, MD, PhD](#), [Elisabeth Olhager, MD](#), [Agnes Linnér, MD, PhD](#), [Stina Klemming, MD](#) as well as the teams from *The Karolinska NIDCAP and Lund-Malmö NIDCAP Training Centers*.

## In Honor of Dr. Als

On **World NIDCAP Day**, March 20th, in honor of NFI Founder Emerita Professor *Heidelise Als, PhD*, the Harvard Medical School flag was lowered to half mast. *Gloria McAnulty, PhD*, *Sandra Kosta, Samantha Butler, PhD* and *Jack Connolly* (Dr. Als' Neurobehavioral Studies Team at Boston Children's Hospital) gathered together to mark this event.



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## NFI Exhibit



The 36th Annual Graven's Conference created the wonderful opportunity for the NFI to have an exhibition booth at the meeting in Clearwater Florida, USA. *Dorothy Vittner, PhD, RN* facilitated the event and took the lead in staffing our table. A number of NFI Members/Trainers took shifts at the booth as well! Information was shared, questions were fielded, and materials were distributed.

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# Membership Drive

[Family](#) and [Allied](#) one-year **memberships** were available for a reduced rate all month long.

Please continue to invite people to join the NFI throughout the [year!](#)



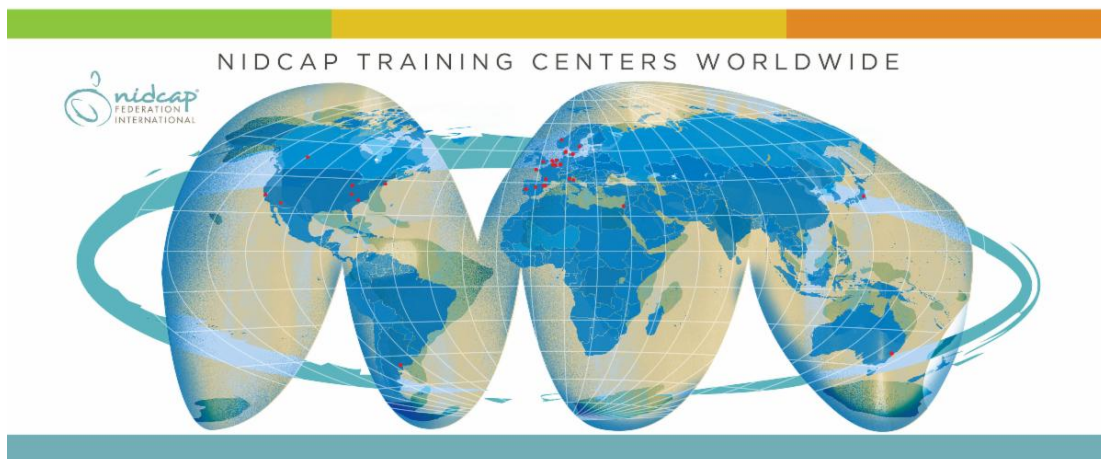
Memberships

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Please share your World NIDCAP Day activities with the NFI ([shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org)). Please have permission to share your submissions.

Be sure to check our [World NIDCAP Day webpage](#) for activities shared.

## NFI Updates & News





### **R3: Research, Read & Review**

From the NIDCAP and Science Sub-Committee: "The **20th** edition of the periodical dissemination of research with potential interest to our membership was shared. These reviews provide a quick glance at the study selected, with an emphasis on the relevance to NIDCAP. You might wish to reflect on its content, to think of its impact on your practice, to use it as material for discussion with colleagues and families, or just as a curious piece of information."

March's 2023 edition was prepared by *Ita Litmanovitz, MD*, from Israel.

Future submissions for consideration are welcomed. Please contact *Dalia Silberstein, PhD, RN*: [daliasil1960@gmail.com](mailto:daliasil1960@gmail.com).

With tremendous gratitude to the Subcommittee (*Jeff Alberts, PhD, Nolan Dyck, MD, Ita Litmanovitz, MD, Maria Maestro, MD, Sandra O' Connor, MSc, Dalia Silberstein, PhD, Neerja Thergaonkar, PhD and Dorothy Vittner, RN, PhD, FAAN*)





[The Milky Way: A collaborative path to improve breast milk...](#)

March 15, 2023 | By Eti Greenberg, RN

Supporting breastfeeding has always been a top priority in our NICU at Meir Medical Center in Kfar-Saba, Israel. We are lucky enough to have...

## NFI Blog

We have a new NIDCAP Blog post, *The Milky Way: A collaborative path to improve breast milk supply in the NICU*. With gratitude to Eti Greenberg, RN of the Israel NIDCAP Training Center for sharing this story.

The NFI Blog shares observations from many different perspectives on NIDCAP and its implementation: NIDCAP and APiB training, Nursery Certification, the science behind the approach, the family experience with NIDCAP, the NFI, and much more.

If wish to submit a blog for posting, we invite you to write to [shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org) with your interest!

[Read the Blog](#)



## NFI Funded Project

We are excited to announce that the recipient of the monies raised last year for education from the 2022 World NIDCAP Day Gala are being awarded to develop the Digitization of the NIDCAP Observation Sheet. This initiative was submitted by *Juzer Tyebkhan, MB and Patrick von Hauff* from the University of Alberta, Canada. Information about this project will be shared and input

sought as this initiative unfolds.



## NFI Member Award

Many congratulations to *Björn Westrup, MD, PhD* for being honored with The Stan and Mavis Gravens Award 2023. This award was made for his leadership in enhancing physical and developmental environment for high risk infants and their families.

## NFI Endorsements

Please share conferences, meetings, and materials for NFI endorsement. Endorsements will be shared with our members and announcements posted on [nidcap.org](http://nidcap.org) and on our social media channels. Requests may be sent to [shareyourstory@nidcap.org](mailto:shareyourstory@nidcap.org).

## NFI Board of Directors



**NFI Board of Directors  
Meeting**  
March 2023

The Board of Directors held their monthly Zoom meeting on March 22, 2023. Highlights from the Minutes shared (and the full NFI Board of Director Minutes will be posted within our website's Membership Section) when available.



## **Welcome to New Board Member Jennifer Hofherr MS, OTR/L, CNT, NTMTC**

We are delighted to announce that Jennifer was appointed to the NFI Board of Directors for a three year term.

The Board has been actively searching for someone to assume the roles of NFI Treasurer (Officer) and Chair of the Finance Committee (Director) from Gloria McAnulty, PhD (who has served in these roles since the NFI's inception in 2001).

Jennifer has served on the NFI Finance Committee for the past three years. This was an invaluable way for Jennifer to learn about the work of the committee and the Board. She has agreed and was appointed to succeed Gloria in her financial leadership roles. These transitions will continue over this year.

Your feedback, questions, comments, NFI updates, and



membership news written to me personally and/or to the whole board, are welcome.

Warm **NFI** 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.

## Contact Us & Stay Informed



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