



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

We are delighted to share highlights from our recent annual Parent and Patient Organisations Summit, held in Freising, Germany. This event served as a powerful platform for connecting with our community of partner parent organisations dedicated to enhancing newborn care for the tiniest patients and their families. Over three inspiring days, we engaged in networking, teaching, and learning from one another, fostering valuable exchanges of ideas aimed at improving outcomes in neonatal healthcare. The summit reaffirmed the importance of collaboration in driving positive change within our field. By coming together, we amplify our collective voice and strengthen our impact, advocating for policies and practices that prioritise the well-being of preterm infants and their families.

Many thanks for your continuous support!

Warm regards,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

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PARENT ORGANISATIONS SUMMIT

The power of network: Celebrating the success of the Parent Organisations Summit

In April, we wrapped up another successful and inspiring Parent Organisations Summit (POS) hosted by EFCNI. Each year, this summit brings together the global community of parents of preterm infants to connect, network, exchange experiences, learn from one another, and foster empowering friendships. Featuring engaging presentations and interactive workshops, the POS serves as a platform to gain motivation and share

ideas with like-minded individuals from around the world. Thank you to our friends, partners, and experts for making the journey to Freising, Germany, and sharing their insights and knowledge with our community and us.

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50TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GNPI

Home game at the anniversary congress in Munich

The 50th Annual Meeting of the GNPI (German Society for Neonatology and Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine) took place in our home city of Munich in mid-April. Over three days, a varied programme attracted more than 1,600 mainly German-speaking attendees. We were delighted to welcome many visitors to our booth, which led to enriching conversations and active participation in our social media survey on-site. In addition, Chairwoman Silke Mader played a pivotal role in co-chairing several sessions together with the “Bundesverband das frühgeborene Kind e.V.” (federal association for preterm infants) and in delivering compelling patient perspective presentations throughout the congress. Please note that the linked article is available in both German and English.

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WORLD IMMUNISATION WEEK 2024

Protected before the first breath: Pertussis vaccination during pregnancy

From 24 to 30 April, the world celebrates World Immunization Week 2024, this year under the theme “Humanly possible: Saving lives through immunisation”. The motto emphasises the vital role of vaccines in enabling children to not only survive but thrive. One crucial immunisation highlighted in this context is the pertussis vaccination during pregnancy, which provides dual protection for both mother and infant. The infant may gain passive immunisation in utero against a potentially life-threatening pertussis infection from birth. Please note that all materials and the campaign website are in German.

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Network

INVESTING IN NEONATAL HEALTH

Every newborn counts, everywhere: An emotional call to action to save the lives of



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millions of newborns

A recent commentary from the 2023 Congress of joint European Neonatal societies (jENS) highlights the precarious global statistics regarding newborn health. Each year, 2.3 million newborns die, and 1.9 million stillbirths occur; 98% of these cases take place in countries of the Global South. This is a devastating number of lives lost, most of which could have been prevented. The commentary discusses why it is so important for us all to join forces and suggests ways to tackle this silent epidemic.

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Science



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NUTRITION DURING PREGNANCY

Reducing the risk of preterm birth through adapted supplementation nutrition during pregnancy

The Child Health Foundation released a new clinical practice guideline for the supplementation of omega-3 fatty acids during pregnancy, revealing great potential. A balanced diet with omega-3 fatty acids can reduce the risk of preterm birth and especially early preterm birth by up to 50-60%. The guideline offers explicit recommendations on how women can meet their omega-3 fatty acid needs and how healthcare professionals can support this safe, low-cost, and effective measure to prevent preterm birth.

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IMMUNISATION DURING PREGNANCY

Evaluating the safety and effects of Covid-19 vaccination during pregnancy

Pregnant women are especially vulnerable to falling severely ill with a Covid-19 infection, which can have a negative impact on the pregnancy outcome and drastically increase the risk of preterm delivery or stillbirth. Therefore, a safe vaccination status not only protects the infected mother, but potentially saves the infant's life. To examine the safety of vaccination during pregnancy, six cohorts from three countries across the world were reviewed. The data highlights the protective potential of the Covid-19 vaccination and reassures that a vaccination during pregnancy does not increase the risk of preterm birth.

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FOLLOW-UP AND CONTINUING CARE

European-wide reference standards can be a means to advancing infant and child health

Two new videos highlight the importance of follow-up and continuing care for preterm infants and their families. Professor Dieter Wolke, Chair of the Topic Expert Group on “Follow-up and continuing care”, and Dr Britta Hüning, Vice Chair, share insights on the imperative for unified reference standards across Europe. They emphasise the necessity of monitoring a child’s development from infancy into adulthood to ensure appropriate and comprehensive medical, developmental, and psychological support. Continuous, high-quality healthcare support is essential for children with potential or recurring health challenges to improve long-term outcomes for preterm and hospitalised infants.

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VACCINATION IN PRETERM INFANTS

Same shot, same schedule: Vaccination equality for preterm and full-term infants

Delayed immunisation among preterm infants leaves them vulnerable to preventable diseases. Despite their increased susceptibility due to underdeveloped immune systems, research shows that preterm infants can mount adequate immune responses to vaccinations. However, delays often occur due to concerns about safety and lack of understanding among healthcare providers and parents. A review article by dos Santos Rodrigues Sadeck and de Ávila Kfourri addresses this problem, suggesting the need for comprehensive guidelines and improved dissemination of knowledge among healthcare professionals and families alike.

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TRANSLATION

The information brochure is now available in Hungarian

We are proud to share that the information brochure about the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH) was successfully translated into Hungarian. Translating the brochure into Hungarian constitutes a crucial step towards making the ESCNH more accessible across Europe. It marks an important step on the road to implementation. We therefore extend our sincere thanks to BT (British Telecommunication), Professor Ertl

Tibor, and Livia Nagy Bonnard, founding member of our partner parent organisation “Melletted a helyem – Egyesület a koraszülött ellátásért” (“Right(s) Beside You – Association for the care of preterm infants”) for their efforts and support.

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EFCNI-Academy



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TEMPERATURE MANAGEMENT

Keeping preterm infants warm: Managing body temperature as crucial part of neonatal care

Learn about the critical importance of temperature management in preterm infants with our comprehensive factsheet, available on our website. Regulation of body temperature is fundamental in newborn care, particularly for preterm infants, as hypothermia can significantly increase the risk of morbidity and mortality. Our factsheet outlines key care practices to achieve optimal temperature control, helping healthcare professionals safeguard the well-being of these tiny patients. Available in seven languages, this resource provides essential guidance. Our website also offers other informative materials and expert interviews.

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