



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

As we enjoy the warmth of summer holidays, we are excited to bring you the August edition of our newsletter, filled with vital updates and upcoming events.

We are thrilled to announce that early registration for EAPS 2024 is now open! This year's theme, "Harmony between cutting edge science and clinical care", promises to bring together the latest research and practical applications in neonatal care. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this transformative event.

Additionally, we delve into the critical topic of neonatal nutrition, exploring how proper feeding practices can significantly improve health outcomes for our youngest patients.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

EFCNI



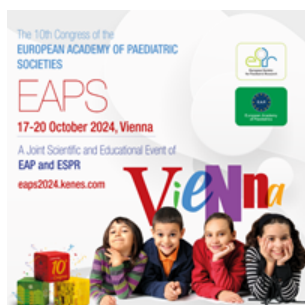
JOB OPPORTUNITY

Join our team: Programme Lead for the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health

We are hiring a Programme Lead for the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH). In this role, you will manage ESCNH's content and programme, including scientific monitoring, development of self-assessment tools, and workshop coordination with medical experts and patient representatives. A health-related doctorate, 10+ years in international project management, and leadership skills are required, fluency in English and German is essential. This full-time, remote role requires permanent residency in Germany. Join our team and make a meaningful impact on neonatal care!

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Network



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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

Experience the future of paediatrics: Attend the EAPS 2024 in Vienna and online

You are invited to the 10th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies, EAPS 2024, taking place from 17-20 October 2024 in Vienna, Austria, and online. This year's theme is "Harmony between cutting edge science and clinical care". Join us for world-class networking opportunities, learn new best practices, and gain a global perspective on the current state of paediatrics. EAPS 2024 provides state-of-the-art knowledge and connections that will transform not only your career but the field globally. Registration is now open! You can save up to EUR 100 when you register and secure your spot before 25 September. Additional discounts are available for nurses, early career investigators, pharmacists, physiotherapists, students, residents, EAP/ESPR members, and attendees from low and lower-middle income countries. Get your ticket today!

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WEBCAMS IN NICUS

Facilitating family-centred care with information technology

The Neo-CamCare research project at the University of Cologne evaluated the use of webcams in neonatal intensive care units (NICUs) from both parent and staff perspectives. The key findings showed a significant increase in parental reassurance and engagement while demonstrating no measurable increase in staff workload, thus maintaining operational efficiency. Additionally, the approach aligns with current healthcare regulations and data protection standards. Although no significant clinical effects were observed, the subjective assessments from parents and healthcare professionals were consistently positive. The study provides valuable insights for considering the implementation of webcams in NICUs. EFCNI and its German partner parent organisation “Das frühgeborene Kind” (“The preterm child”) supported the project.

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Science



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HUMAN MILK BANKS

Finding consensus on the best international practices of human milk banking

Despite the growing number of human milk banks, there is still no internationally accepted guideline ensuring quality and ethical standards. This gap is addressed in a review of best practices from eight national guidelines and three regional guidelines. The quality recommendations cover donor screening, milk donation, transport, and processing as well as ethical considerations and sensitivity to fate-related concerns. These measures aim to ensure high-quality milk for the receiving sick and preterm newborns and a dignified experience for donating mothers.

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INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Bridging the information gap: supporting parents of preterm infants

Effective information exchange is crucial for parental involvement in newborn care, especially for preterm births. However, a lack of information can leave parents feeling insecure and anxious. A recent study compared current information practices for impending preterm birth and identified parents' information needs. The authors found that although many hospitals and medical staff provided some degree of information about preterm birth, many parents still sought additional resources, focusing on emotional support and practical information about long-term outcomes. The study urges healthcare providers to improve communication and provide tailored, empathetic support.

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European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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NUTRITION

Bridging the gap: Nutrition standards for newborn health

In two exclusive videos, Professor Berthold Koletzko, Chair of the Topic Expert Group for "Nutrition", discusses the necessity of European-wide reference standards for newborn nutrition. He underscores the critical role of the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (ESCNH) in bridging the gap between complex existing guidelines and their practical application in NICUs. Professor Koletzko outlines the steps required to implement these standards in the coming years, emphasising the importance of developing unit-specific guidelines tailored to the unique challenges of each NICU. Furthermore, he highlights the role of the ESCNH in fostering collaboration and information exchange between healthcare professionals and parents, ensuring comprehensive and effective nutritional care for preterm and ill newborns.

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PRETERM GROWTH MONITORING

New study reveals challenges in monitoring growth of preterm neonates

A recent study of 462 preterm infants at the University General Hospital of Heraklion in Greece revealed critical insights into neonatal growth monitoring. By comparing the Fenton 2013 and INTERGROWTH-21st growth charts, researchers found significant discrepancies in the classification of Small for Gestational Age (SGA) and Extrauterine Growth Restriction (EUGR) depending on which chart was used. The study also highlights the impact of early feeding practices and parenteral nutrition on growth outcomes, emphasising the need for standardised growth monitoring practices in NICUs. These findings underscore the importance of developing appropriate and scientifically sound growth charts and refining nutritional strategies to improve the health and development of preterm infants.

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The EFCNI 2024 policy and advocacy training workshop for patient and family representatives is supported by a restricted grant from Pfizer.

This online newsletter is issued by EFCNI - European Foundation for the Care of Newborn Infants. Share your comments, suggestions and feedback by emailing news@efcni.org. If you wish to unsubscribe, please click [here](#).

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