



Dear friends and supporters of EFCNI,

In this edition, we turn our attention to two critical topics in neonatal care: parenteral nutrition and the prevention of serious infections in preterm infants. Parenteral nutrition plays a pivotal role in supporting the growth and development of vulnerable newborns, yet challenges remain in its standardisation and safe delivery. We explore current guidelines and innovations to optimise outcomes for neonatal and paediatric patients.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce our next “Speak out session” under the umbrella of the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health, taking place on 23 October at 4 pm CET. This session will provide a platform for affected families to share their personal stories, alongside expert insights on infection prevention and treatment. Your participation in these discussions is invaluable as we continue to advocate for better care and outcomes for hospitalised infants.

As always: Many thanks for your continuous support!

Warm regards,

Silke Mader and the EFCNI team

EFCNI



#### RSV ADVOCACY WORKSHOP

### Back for more: Advanced Policy and Advocacy Workshop on RSV 2.0 held in Munich

From 12 to 15 September 2024, EFCNI hosted an advanced workshop on policy and advocacy for RSV in Munich. Parent and patient representatives from 18 countries participated in

engaging sessions covering the epidemiology and prevention of RSV, stakeholder mapping, and effective advocacy strategies. Participants explored practical tools such as PubMed searches and digital campaign development, while also sharing experiences from their home countries. Highlights included a deep dive into maternal vaccination and social media pitfalls, alongside networking and implementation strategy sessions. The event fostered a vibrant exchange of ideas, empowering advocates with new skills and insights to drive change in RSV care.

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## OPTIMAL PARENTERAL NUTRITION

### Awareness campaign: The importance of evidence-based guidelines for parenteral nutrition for preterm and sick newborns

Parenteral nutrition is a high-risk medication, and every stage of its administration – from the initial indication to solution composition, delivery, and application – presents significant challenges. Even minor inaccuracies can lead to serious complications such as infections, sepsis, liver dysfunction, and metabolic disorders in vulnerable infants. Adhering to and implementing evidence-based guidelines is therefore critical to improving the care of preterm and sick newborns, as individual practices may deviate from current standards. The “Did you know? Facts about parenteral nutrition” campaign, featuring an interactive infographic and expert insights from Dr. Mattias Paulsson, Uppsala University Hospital, Sweden, and Professor Nadja Haiden, Kepler University Hospital Linz, Austria, highlights the importance of a safe, evidence-based approach to parenteral nutrition therapy in neonatal care.

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## IMMUNISATION

### Protecting our future: The Pertussis vaccination during pregnancy

Pertussis poses a significant threat to the health of newborns and babies, often leading to severe complications and, in some cases, fatal outcomes. In our latest publication in the German medical journal “Geburtshilfe und Frauenheilkunde” (“Obstetrics and Gynaecology”), EFCNI’s Senior Communications Manager Dr. Annika Brunck, together with PD Dr. Dietmar Schlembach, President of the German Society for Prenatal and Perinatal Medicine (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Pränatal- und Geburtsmedizin, DGPGM), argues that the pertussis vaccination during pregnancy is pivotal to maternal and newborn health. This preventive measure not only safeguards maternal health but also establishes an early line of defence for the unborn child, mitigating risks even before birth. Despite its crucial benefits, awareness of this vaccination remains insufficient in Germany.

The authors advocate for enhanced collaboration among healthcare professionals, including physicians, midwives, and medical associations, to foster widespread understanding and implementation of this essential intervention. Please note that this article is in German.

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## Network



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### FINAL CALL FOR REGISTRATION SAVINGS

## Last chance to save on your EAPS 2024 ticket!

The paediatric and neonatal community is getting ready to convene in Vienna and online to advance and shape the future of child health. Join them at the 10th Congress of the European Academy of Paediatric Societies, which will be taking place between 17-20 October 2024. Registration savings end today at midnight. Register now and save up to 100 €. You can save even more if you are a nurse, early career investigator, pharmacist, physiotherapist, student, resident, EAP/ESPR member, or attending from a low or lower-middle income country. Discover all sessions in the full and interactive programme and prepare to advance your expertise in paediatrics.

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## Science



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### SENSE PROGRAMME

## Supporting sensory development in the NICU

A preterm infant's hospitalisation in a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) subjects the newborn to a highly stressful environment, despite the essential and often life-saving care provided. Such an experience can lead to developmental delays, alongside emotional and neurocognitive challenges. The SENSE programme is designed to support NICU healthcare professionals and the parents of hospitalised neonates, with a focus on improving outcomes for both the infant and their caregivers. Recent findings from the SENSE programme indicate a marked increase in sensory exposure for newborns and a notable improvement in the mental well-being of parents.

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### STANDARDISATION IN PARENTERAL NUTRITION

## Optimising parenteral nutrition in paediatric



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## care: Addressing key challenges

A recent study explores the critical role of parenteral nutrition (PN) in paediatric care, particularly for preterm infants, and highlights ongoing challenges such as variability in practice and associated risks. The study discusses potential solutions, including the use of Multi-Chamber Bags (MCB), to improve both the safety and efficiency of PN delivery. The research emphasises the importance of precise management and strict adherence to evidence-based guidelines and stresses the need for better coordination among healthcare teams. Standardising practices is essential to optimising outcomes for paediatric patients reliant on PN, with the latest recommendations offering a pathway to overcoming these challenges.

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## European Standards of Care for Newborn Health



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### EDUCATION & TRAINING

## Ensuring excellence: The future of neonatal education and training

This month, we focus on the crucial topic of education and training in neonatal care. We present two insightful videos featuring our esteemed Topic Expert Group. In the first video, Professors Willem de Boode and Linda Johnston, along with Assistant Professor Agnes van den Hoogen and Dr. Florian Langhammer, discuss the necessity of European-wide standards for neonatal education and training. They emphasise how these standards foster a common understanding and comparability of qualifications, ensuring high-quality training across Europe. The second video explores the requirements for implementing these standards, highlighting the need for accessible training programmes, advanced technology, and collaboration with academic institutions. These videos offer valuable perspectives on achieving uniform excellence in neonatal care.

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### PROTECTING NEWBORN HEALTH

## Join our upcoming “Speak out session” on RSV

We are excited to announce our next “Speak out session” on 23 October at 4 pm CET, focusing on Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). RSV is a common cause of bronchiolitis in young children and poses significant risks to infants and the elderly. This session will feature personal stories from Dina Hediger, a mother of preterm twins affected by RSV and founder of our partner parent organisation “Frühchen Schweiz” (“Premies Switzerland”), and Dr. Barbara Plagg, a researcher and mother of a full-term infant hospitalised with RSV. Additionally, Assistant

Professor Lindsay Broadbent, a virologist and science communicator, will provide expert insights. Save the date and tune in live on all our social media channels.

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#### SIMULATION TRAINING FOR NEONATAL SAFETY

### Advancing neonatal safety through innovative simulation training

A pioneering study at the Medical University of Graz, Austria, is transforming neonatal care through the use of in situ simulation training. Conducted over nearly eight years, this immersive, on-site training has led to a significant reduction in safety risks during neonatal emergencies. By enabling healthcare teams to identify and mitigate latent threats in real time, the programme has improved both patient safety and emergency preparedness. The findings highlight the crucial role of regular interprofessional simulation training in improving neonatal care practices and outcomes for the most vulnerable patients.

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© Preemie Success Programme (PSP)

#### PREEMIE SUCCESS PROGRAMME

### Supporting preterm children's development from NICU discharge to preschool

The Preemie Success Programme (PSP) is a groundbreaking initiative in Cyprus that provides comprehensive support for children born preterm from the moment they are discharged from the NICU to their preschool years. By focusing on developmental follow-up, early intervention, and fostering parent-child interaction, PSP aims to prevent learning difficulties and facilitate school readiness. Anchored in the European Standards of Care for Newborn Health, this programme equips families with the tools to help their children thrive both academically and socially.

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## GLANCE - Global Alliance for Newborn Care



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#### INNOVATIVE INTEGRATION AND ACCESSIBILITY TOOLBAR

### “Miracle Babies Foundation” enables barrier-free access to online content and services

As part of their diversity and inclusion strategy, the “Miracle Babies Foundation”, our partner parent organisation in Australia, has introduced a range of accessibility and language support

tools to enhance website usability. Assistive technology now allows visitors to customise their digital experience, ensuring barrier-free access for individuals with disabilities, learning difficulties, visual impairments, or English as a second language. The assistive toolbar features screen reading functionality, multiple reading aids, customisable styling options, and a live translation service that supports over 100 languages, including 65 text-to-speech options. This innovative tool ensures that individuals from diverse cultures and backgrounds can easily access the foundation's services and information.

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## ESSAY CONTEST: YOUR IDEAS FOR FAMILY-CENTRED CARE

### Win £500 and help put families at the heart of Small and Sick Newborn Care (SSNC)

Are you passionate about improving care for small and sick newborns? Ahead of World Prematurity Day, the Implementation Toolkit for Small and Sick Newborn Care (SSNC) is calling for essays on “How can families be at the centre in all components of health systems change for small and sick newborn care?” With a prize of £500 for the best essay in both English and French, this is your chance to make a difference! The essay contest aims to spark action and ideas to put families at the heart of SSNC at all levels, using the resources of The Newborn Toolkit website. Open to caregivers, clinicians, biomedical engineers, professionals working in SSNC, and also parents, the contest encourages individual and group submissions. Submission deadline is 11 October 2024. The competition is sponsored by the Chiesi Foundation. For more information on eligibility and contest guidelines, please visit the contest website.

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## NEW PODCAST: PRETERM BIRTH STORIES

### Subscribe now to hear inspiring journeys from South Africa

We are excited to introduce “Untold Premature Birth Stories”, a podcast by the Mahlogonolo Thobile Foundation, which shares the personal journeys of families navigating the challenges of preterm birth in South Africa. The episodes feature diverse experiences, covering topics such as pre-eclampsia, Kangaroo Mother Care, and the complexities of low birth weight. Each 15-30-minute episode gives listeners an intimate look into the emotional and physical highs and lows of life with a preterm baby. This month, healthcare professionals also share their insights on prematurity. Tune in on YouTube and subscribe to the latest episodes.

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