Greetings from the Editor

Welcome to our first issue for 2021. Let us hope that this year will be kinder, and we may start to move forward and heal together. Looking back on 2020 several themes have emerged from the impact of the Pandemic.

First, during the challenges of COVID-19 restrictions the strength of families and staff are demonstrated through several abstracts from the 31st NIDCAP Trainers Meeting. The group from Modena showed if staff feel offering kangaroo care is safe then parents become involved with less stress. The team from Beirut revealed that despite restrictions of COVID-19 kangaroo sessions can increase. The group from Rimini nicely demonstrated that if staff are supported, they in turn support parents to be involved in their baby’s care.

The second theme focussed on how we strive to improve what we do. The Graven’s group presented the important Standards for Infant and Family Developmental Care to guide our practice, and we heard about how the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) quality cycle can be used to change practice by Inga Warren and her team.

Lindsay Gilmore, a mother, in her insightful article Heartbreak and Hope during the Pandemic gives us an understanding of the stress families experience. We learn about the success of innovation through the Little Readers Read-a-Thon from Therese Gisondi. And Julia Giesen returns with another perceptive poem in Poet’s Corner.

Despite the challenges we have all encountered this past year, The UK NIDCAP Centre demonstrates how COVID-19 impacted on the work of their Centre and how they adapted to ensure their goals were met. Inga Warren, Senior NIDCAP Trainer received a Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in recognition of her work with premature infants and training. We learn about the amazing work in Serbia in giving NIDCAP and developmental care a focus. We can learn from these interesting articles and the innovative ways we all strive to improve the care and experiences of the babies and their families.

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