French Polynesia is an ‘overseas collectivity’, part of the French Republic, located in the South Pacific Ocean, 8000km from Australia and Chile and 4000km from Hawaii. It comprises 118 islands of which 76 are inhabited. These islands, with their heavenly landscape, extend over a maritime surface equivalent to Europe. It has approximately 280,000 inhabitants, with a majority of Polynesians ‘maohi’ (65%) and metis/mixed ‘demis’ (16%), a minority of Caucasians ‘popâa’ (12%) or Asians (5%), mostly from Chinese origin. This population is young: 36% under 20 years old. The Polynesian language (Maori) remains widely used in daily life. The artistic heritage is rich in particular songs, dances, and the very old art of tattooing.

Culturally the child exists from procreation and not only from birth. There is a close continuity between the mother and the child: only one body. Massage, breastfeeding, skin to skin are major elements of traditional Polynesian care, the expression of bodies and emotions. The nuclear family is a recent concept. Traditionally, the child is cared for at the beginning by the mother and then by the clan. The child can be designated "faamu" and then change his/her caregiver, on the decision of the grandmother or the group, in the event of failure of the mother, or traditionally to support grandparents. The child can also be given to a sister, a cousin, or a loved family member because this woman has no child. However, the infant must remain in contact with his original family. This tradition has been disrupted by European adoption of international children causing a break with the biological parents and a change of family name, creating loyalty issues for the developing child.

The French Polynesia Hospital (CHPF) is a modern hospital that opened in 2010. The neonatology department includes 24 intensive care beds and six neonatal beds within the maternity unit. It is the only level three neonatal center in Polynesia. It stays in a relationship with the maternity units or perinatal centers in Papeete, the capital, or in other archipelagos (Society and the Marquesas Islands), some over 1400km from the CHPF.

**The French Polynesia Hospital**

The neonatal care team includes six neonatologists, a nurse manager, 30 nurses and 19 assistant nurses, a psychologist, a therapist, a breastfeeding consultant, and a milk-bank manager. The NICU cares for preterm and full-term newborns and their families. Newborns who require urgent neonatal surgery are transferred to Auckland NICU (New Zealand) or Paris (France). The entire population has health insurance.

The former medical directors, Dr. Micheline Papouin and Phippe Kuo († 2019) were the initiators of the implementation of family-centered developmental care in the unit. The training began in 2004 with the support of the Brest NIDCAP Training Center (Dr. Nathalie Ratynski, Pr. Jacques Sizun). That year, all medical and nursing staff benefited from a short training (two days), ‘Introduction to developmental care’ focused on brain development, the importance of the early environment, the crucial role of parents, and system change. This training was renewed in 2005 and 2012.
Developmental care training group in 2018
In 2019, Dr. Ratynski started FINE 2 training, mainly via video conference and email exchange due to the COVID pandemic. Three neonatologists and three nurses have thus become FINE 2 certified.

One of the challenges in maintaining an optimal quality of developmental care is the high turnover of the nursing team. This underlines the need to train professionals very regularly. The current project is to train a trainer (Temara Mariteragi) to achieve certification both in NIDCAP and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative.