

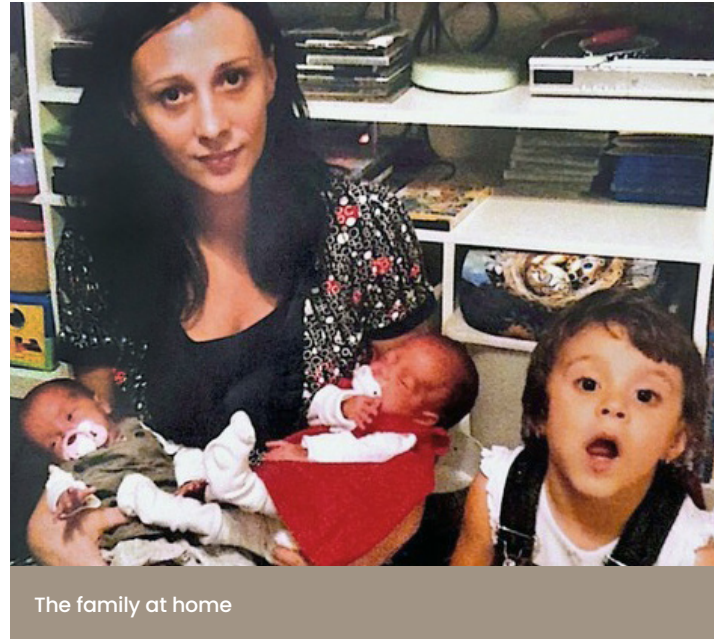
But when I look back now, after 16 years, I see a woman who had become disconnected from her own children. My daughters did not have a mother. They had a “nurse” engineered by nine weeks of neonatal survival. They had a “physiotherapist” whose mission was to help them recover. I wasn’t mothering; I was performing.

Everything began to shift years later, in my role as President of the Romanian Association of Parents of Long-term Hospitalized Newborns - ARNIS, when I encountered the FINE (Family and Infant Neurodevelopmental Education) curriculum. It was the first time I saw, with painful clarity, that things could have been different — gentler, more humane. That realization opened the door to guilt, then to grief, then to regret.

Today, I find myself in a new place: celebrating every Romanian nurse who completes a FINE course, becomes attentive to the baby’s cues, who notices stress and pain and responds with sensitivity. Nurses who bring humanity back into spaces where fragility reigns.

I remember vividly the first time I watched Inga Warren (FINE Developer and NIDCAP Trainer) handle a training doll. Every gesture was thoughtful: how she approached it, moved it, positioned it, and closed each care sequence. I was equally captivated by Mary O’Connor’s (FINE facilitator and NIDCAP

Trainer-in-Training) hands — how they held the doll, waiting for it to “recover” from the smallest sign of stress. Their work revealed something profound: that careful, attuned handling



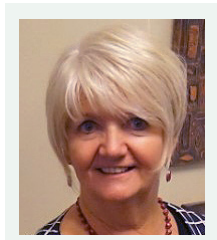
The family at home

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Editorial

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The Global Reach of NIDCAP



As we celebrate 25 years of The NIDCAP Federation International (NFI), this issue offers a powerful reflection on how far the Organization has come and how widely NIDCAP principles have taken root worldwide. The abstracts and articles represent work from 14 countries, highlighting innovative

programs and practices grounded in NIDCAP philosophy and adapted to diverse cultural and clinical settings.

Mandy Daly’s inspiring Heidelise Als Lecture reminds us that embracing NIDCAP is ultimately about cultivating a culture. That culture is evident throughout this issue, across countries and continents. Larissa Korostenski’s reflection captures the impact of engaging in NIDCAP discussions at international meetings and the value of sharing ideas beyond local boundaries. We also celebrate an important milestone with the certification journey of the newest NIDCAP Training Center in Ghent, Belgium, further strengthening the global NIDCAP network.

The power of partnership and lived experience is beautifully illustrated in the Family Story by Corina Croitoru

from Romania. Her story highlights the vital role of families, education, and role models, and it is especially encouraging to see parents taking the lead in advancing developmental care for premature and sick newborns. These shared experiences deepen our understanding and enrich our practice.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to the contributors who shared images for this issue of the *Developmental Observer*. The striking cover photograph, taken by Petra Sztahovits, is part of a series she has generously offered for future issues. It is a reminder that images, like stories, can transcend language and geography, speaking directly to the heart.

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