Welcome to eighth edition of the GCNC Neuroprotective Newsletter for 2017. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact: Nadine.griffiths@health.nsw.gov.au

**NIDCAP Training Update**

After two weeks of intensive training we are delighted to congratulate Nicola and Catherine who have completed their NIDCAP training and are now NIDCAP Certified Professionals. Congratulations also to Jane as she commences her NIDCAP Advanced Practicum.

Keep posted for more news about our journey towards becoming a NIDCAP training Centre!

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**Resiliency in Parents of Preterm infants**

A recent study found parents of very low birth weight children did not differ in a comparison of quality of life with parents of healthy term infants 27 years later. Psychologists have linked this to resiliency and coping. The research undertaken in Germany found factors that did not influence a parents quality of life included their level of disability, academic achievement or the parent-child relationship during childhood. Yet the child’s mental health and peer relationships were deemed as important, leading to higher levels of parental satisfaction. The study is seen as reassuring for parents in relation to long term stress.

www.cbsnews.com

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**Developmental Focus**

A recent paper highlighted the negative outcomes of the NICU sensory environment:
1. Exposure to bright lighting in the NICU may have a detrimental effect on some aspects of later motor development;
2. Exposure to alarm sounds may disrupt the functional use of the tactile system;
3. Exposure to painful procedures has a negative relationship with cognitive and motor development.

Numerous positive components were identified yet the authors indicated the longer-term effects of exposures in the NICU on sensory outcomes in preterm infants admitted to the NICU remain understudied.

Philpott-Robinson et al. British Journal of Occupational Therapy

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**Social Media**

Are you following us on Social Media we have both Facebook and Instagram pages where we provide updates on our work as a NIDCAP Training Centre and links to relevant neonatal news. Find us @NIDCAPAustralia

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**We are interested in your opinion....**

**Unit based developmental round survey**

If you are a staff member in GCNIC please complete the electronic survey so we can continue to ensure the round meets infant and family needs

**Former FINE Graduate?**

Please complete the electronic survey forwarded to you so we can ensure the program translates to clinical practice.

*Your opinions will help shape the services we offer that support neurodevelopmental outcomes in neonates.*