



Programme

Educational & Scientific Symposium “Prematurity – From the first breath to adulthood”

17:00 Greetings
President of the Miracle Babies Association, Elena Megalemou-Triantafyllides
President of the House of Representatives, Annita Demetriou

Lectures

17:15 “The European Standards of Care for Newborn Health. Parents in the centre of care”
Silke Mader
Chairwoman of the Executive Board of GFCNI (Global Foundation for the care of Newborn Infants)

17:45 “Long Term development after very pre-term birth into adulthood”
Prof. Dr Dr Dieter Wolke
Professor in the Department of Psychology, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick, United Kingdom

18:15 Questions - Answers

18:30 Closing
Reception will follow

Moderator:
Dr Christina Karaoli, MD, PhD
Paediatrician-Neonatologist, Professor of University of Nicosia Medical School, Scientific Advisor of the Miracle Babies Association

Simultaneous translation will be available throughout the event

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Dieter Wolke

Professor in the Department of Psychology, Warwick Medical School, University of Warwick. He is a member of the cross-faculty Centre for Early Life and Head of the Warwick Lifecourse and Neonatal Group.

He studied at the University of Kiel (Germany) and obtained his PhD from the University of London. He has worked at different colleges of the University of London, the Universities of Munich, Hertfordshire, Bristol and the research funding sector (Zurich) before joining the University of Warwick (UK) in 2006.



He was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant in 2022 (underwritten by UKRI) and is involved in several funded clinical trials and longitudinal studies. Dieter was or is PI/Co-PI of several studies including the Bavarian Longitudinal Study, EPICure, RECAP preterm and Understanding Society.

He provides workshops for clinical psychologists and paediatricians on how to deal with crying, sleeping and feeding problems.

He coordinates the Follow-up Care committee that developed and updates European Standards of Care for Newborn Health (EFCNI newborn-health-standards project) and is member of the Steering committee of Glance – Global Alliance for newborn care.

Publications and Press

Dieter is the author of more than 470 peer reviewed articles, has an H-Index of 118 (2025 Google Scholar) and is a Web of Science Highly cited author (1 in a 1000). He regularly comments on TV, radio or written media.

Awards

Honorary doctorates (Dr rer nat h.c.) from the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany (2014) and from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki (2022).

Doctor Psychologie Honoris Causa (Dr. h.c.) in recognition of a distinguished and impactful contribution to Psychological Science and Medicine.

Distinguished Contribution to Developmental Psychology Award by the British Psychological Society in 2020.

Supervision and review activities

25 PhDs, 10 Postdoctoral students and several visiting fellows from European institutions (KCL, Universities of Bari, Lübeck, Bochum, Oldenburg) have been supervised whilst at Warwick. Other activities include external examining, Assessor for Professorial/ Fellowship appointments and seats on Scientific Advisory Boards e.g. 2022 Member of Unit Health Living Audit Committee, TNO, The Netherlands.

Collaborators

Visiting Professor, Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology, Technical University Munich.

Examples: In the UK (Prof N. Marlow, UCL, London; Prof. S. Johnson, Univ. of Leicester).

International: Germany (Prof J. Margraf, RUB Bochum), Finland (Prof K. Räikkönen, Univ. of Helsinki; Prof. E. Kajantie, THL Helsinki; Prof Julia Jäkel, Univ. of Oulo); Norway (Profs M. Indredavik, Univ. of Trondheim); France (Dr J. Zeitlin, Inserm, Paris); USA (Profs W. Copeland, T. Moffitt & A. Caspi, Duke University; Dr. M. Bornstein, NIH); Australia (Prof P. Anderson, Prof L. Doyle; Univ. of Melbourne) and New Zealand (Prof L. Woodward, Univ. of Canterbury, Prof J. Horwood, Univ. of Otago).

Silke Mader

Silke Mader is the Chairwoman of the Executive Board and co-founder of EFCNI. In 1997, her twins were born in the 25th week of pregnancy and were not given the appropriate care. Unfortunately, one of them died a few days after birth. During her time in hospital and afterwards, Silke Mader was faced with the non-existence of support of any kind, the absence of public awareness and the lack of information and education for parents during pregnancy. Her motivation is to prevent parents from having similar experiences in such painful situations. As the conditions throughout Europe are distressingly similar and preterm children urgently need a voice within Europe and worldwide, she decided to take on the role of chair on the Executive Board of EFCNI.



Silke Mader is co-editor of the EFCNI Benchmarking Report 'Too little, Too Late? Why Europe Should do more for Preterm Infants', 'Caring for Tomorrow' – the EFCNI White Paper on Maternal and Newborn Health and Aftercare Services and technical editor of the 'Born too Soon' Global Action Report on Preterm Birth. Besides this, Silke Mader is author and editor of many other publications on topics related to maternal and newborn health.

In 2012 Silke Mader was awarded the 'Prix Courage' by ZDF television programme 'ML mona lisa' in cooperation with the cosmetics company Clarins. In 2013 she received the Medal for Particular Services to Bavaria in a United Europe. Since 2014 she is Honorary Lecturer at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland. In 2015, Silke Mader has been awarded as social entrepreneur and Ashoka Fellow and in 2016 she received the Bavarian State Medal for Services concerning Health and Long-term Care.