



NEURO-PROTECTION CONFERENCE 2026

3rd of October 2026

Bucharest

Opening Ceremony by Prof. Emeritus Dr. Doina Anca Pleșca, President of the Romanian Society of Pediatrics

Opening Address: Why Neuroprotection Must Become a National Priority for Every Premature Baby- Prof. Emeritus Dr. Doina Anca Pleșca

Neuroprotection Starts at Birth - Prof. Nathalie Charpak, MD, Director, Kangaroo Foundation, Bogotá, Colombia, Senior Researcher, Kangaroo Mother Care Research Group Scientific Coordinator, Kangaroo Mother Care Program, San Ignacio University Hospital

Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC): The New WHO 2025 Recommendations and Their Impact on Neurodevelopment

Topics

Developing Kangaroo Mother Care: Evolution from an alternative care to a standard of care in neonatal medicine

Content:

Origins and core components of Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) as an alternative to standard neonatal care.

Scientific, clinical, and public health evolution of KMC from the original method to a globally evidence-based recommended standard of care in Colombia and worldwide.

Exploratory results supporting the impact of KMC on brain growth and neurodevelopment

An introduction to the WHO KMC guide and information on future updates

Early Intervention in the NICU: Optimizing Brain Development, Betty Hutchon, MSc, MRCOT, Honorary Consultant Neurodevelopmental Occupational Therapist University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Early Developmental Intervention in the NICU: From Brain Protection to Better Outcomes

Topics

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- Improving neurodevelopmental outcomes for infants and young children and transforming the experience for families in Early Intervention using the Ei SMART – a multidisciplinary and evidence-based framework
- Therapeutic positioning and handling
- Family-centered developmental care
- The role of occupational therapists within the neonatal multidisciplinary team

Assoc. Prof. Adrian Ioan Toma, MD, Senior Consultant in Neonatology, Specialist in Pediatric Neurology

Dr. Vlad Dima, MD, PhD, Senior Lecturer, Consultant Neonatologist, Specialist in Pediatrics
President, Academic Society of Clinical Ultrasonography (SAUC)
Vice-President, Romanian Society of Preventive Medicine (SRMP)

Developing Postgraduate Education and Training Curriculum - Romania's National Curriculum for Early Intervention in Premature Infants.

Curriculum – Training Course for Neonatologists, Pediatric Neurologists, Physiotherapists and Nurses in Early Intervention in the Maternity Unit

Topics

Neurodevelopment of the Preterm Infant

Neurological Assessment and Developmental Monitoring

Multidisciplinary Team Approach: Roles and responsibilities of neonatologists, pediatric neurologists, physiotherapists, and nurses

Early Stimulation and Early Physiotherapy

Family-Centred Care and Parental Involvement

From Neonatal Care to Long-term development: continuity of Kangaroo Mother Care and Multidisciplinary Follow-up – Pof. Dr.Ognean Livia

The Premature Infants Health Booklet – a tool for Multidisciplinary Follow-up - Diana Gămulescu - President, Romanian Association of Premature Babies