



## Nathalie Charpak

Scientific coordinator of the three KMC Centers of Excellence in Colombia

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Dr. Nathalie Charpak is currently the scientific coordinator of the three KMC Centers of Excellence in Colombia. In addition, she is a founding member, senior researcher and director of the "Fundación Canguro" in Bogotá, Colombia since 1994.

Dr. Charpak received her M.D. from the "Paris Sud" University and her paediatrician diploma from "Rene Descartes" University in Paris, France. She migrated in 1986 to Colombia where she validated her title as Paediatrician and began in 1989 to work on the evaluation of the Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Method. She is now a Colombian citizen. With several colleagues she founded in 1994 the "Fundación Canguro" in Bogotá, an NGO devoted to research, teaching, training and direct medical care related to KMC for premature and low birth weight infant. Fundación Canguro has conducted large clinical trials on KMC and has been actively disseminating KMC predominantly in low and middle income countries in Latin America, South East Asia, India, Africa and Eastern Europe. In 1996 in Trieste, Italy she was amongst the group of international researchers, physicians and nurses who created the International Kangaroo Network -INK- an international alliance devoted to collaborating, enhancing and disseminating the KMC Method.

Dr. Charpak continues to work as a paediatrician (audit in the KMC Programs) and amongst her research interest are integrative methods for summarizing and placing into action what is known about KMC in the form of an evidence-based practice. Her main research interest is exploring the long term effects of KMC in adolescents and young adults that were low birth infants exposed or not exposed to KMC during the neonatal period.