



IBLCE®

International Board of
Lactation Consultant Examiners

International eNewsletter from the Board of Directors

Volume 2, Issue 2
June 2013

In This Issue

[Call for Board Nominations](#)

[CBT Appointments](#)

[Certification vs. Certificate Programmes](#)

[Call for Committee Members](#)

[WHO Code Anniversary](#)

[MILCC](#)

[IBLCE Outreach](#)

[IBLCE Advocacy](#)

[Board Director Profile](#)

Call for Board Nominations

Are you a strategic and collaborative leader dedicated to IBLCE and the lactation consulting profession? Are you from an international background and do you have financial or business experience? If so, please consider serving on the IBLCE Board of Directors!

IBLCE is currently seeking three to four new Board members - application materials are due July 19. [Apply now!](#)

2013 CBT Appointments

Virtually all the 2013 examination candidates have been seated for the 2013 examination administered via computer-based testing (CBT). Thank you for your patience as IBLCE transitions to CBT. While this makes the examination closer to home for a number of candidates, CBT does involve working with a third-party testing vendor to get candidates seated, so this is a "rolling process" rather than a time-certain process. IBLCE has used social media (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn) throughout this process to keep candidates informed with real-time information and will be doing so in the future as well. If you aren't following IBLCE via social media, staying up to date on examination administration information is another great reason to link or follow IBLCE - sign up today!

If you are a 2013 IBLCE exam candidate, please carefully note that this is the last week to schedule your exam appointment if you are taking the exam using computer-based testing (CBT). If you have not [scheduled your appointment](#), please do so no later than **June 30th**. ***If you have not received your approval notification email, please contact your***

Attending the International Lactation Consultants Association (ILCA) Annual Conference in Melbourne, Australia?

Stop by the IBLCE booth for the latest information!

Are you due to recertify by CERPs in 2013?

The recertification by CERPs application is due 31 August

[IBLCE in the Americas & Israel](#)

[IBLCE in Europe, Middle East & Northern Africa](#)

[IBLCE in Australia & Asia-Pacific](#)

regional IBLCE office right away.

Certification vs. Certificate Programmes: What's the Difference? Item Development

IBLCE continues to receive questions from IBLCE stakeholders interested in the differences between certification and certificate programmes. As part of an ongoing series regarding this issue, IBLCE continues to report on this topic of interest to IBLCE constituents.

If you have ever been involved as a subject matter expert (SME) in the preparation of a certification examination, you know there is a great deal more involved than meets the eye!

A professional certification examination is not created simply by a group of smart people in a profession getting together and writing test questions!

The preparation of a professional certification examination is an intensive and laborious process, starting with a practice analysis, discussed in great detail in the last edition of the [IBLCE eNewsletter](#). As previously shared, a practice analysis, also known as a job analysis or a role delineation study is "a process by which to discover, understand the work that people in a profession, occupation, or role do. A job analysis identifies and describes in detail particular duties and requirements as well as the relative importance of these duties."

Certification: The ICE Handbook, Institute for Credentialing Excellence, Washington, D.C., 2009, page 124.

However, a practice analysis is just the foundational first step of a certification programme!

Another critical distinction between most certification programmes and certificate programmes is how questions, also known as "items," are developed.

After conducting a periodic practice analysis, an examination blueprint is then derived from the practice analysis. An examination blueprint is essentially a summary of the practice analysis and is often shown in the form of an outline.

On the basis of an examination blueprint, SMEs prepare questions, or what are known in the certification industry as "items," in conjunction with a psychometrician. A psychometrician is an expert in statistics, measurement, and evaluation.

Items are then reviewed by others, including SMEs, who see that the items are clear and elicit important information about the knowledge and skills that are related to professional practice as determined by the practice analysis.

2013 Scholarships Awarded by MILCC

The Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultant Certification (MILCC) awarded 70 scholarships to IBLCE candidates from Argentina, Australia, Bosnia, Egypt, India, France, Pakistan, Poland and the United States!

Good Luck!

The 2013 IBLCE examination is rapidly approaching. Best of luck to all candidates and recertifying IBCLCs on the examination!

Items are then selected in accordance with the examination blueprint and the entirety of an examination is carefully reviewed to make sure that it reflects the broad scope of knowledge in the profession.

Examination items thus are the culmination of a great deal of time and effort and are the very core of certification programmes. Items literally play a key role, in addition to eligibility requirements and ethical considerations, as to who ultimately earns a credential. Items also represent much of an organisation's valuable intellectual property. Certification experts estimate that given all the work that goes into the creation of each item (such as the meeting of subject matter experts and psychometric review) that *each* item is worth approximately \$1,000 USD, inclusive of translations, of a certification body's limited resources.

Certification: The ICE Handbook, Institute for Credentialing Excellence, Washington, D.C., 2009, page 289.

Considering the intensive resources poured into the creation of each and every item, the loss of even just a handful of items significantly damages a certification programme, but more than just financially. Even more significantly, the loss of items, whether by a breach of security or even just careless chatting among test takers, can damage a credential's credibility. Only those who demonstrate mastery of the knowledge on an objective and thoughtful examination should earn a professional credential. This is particularly the case in healthcare professions. Thus, it is clear that examination items should never be discussed among candidates or even among those who have taken an examination and are discussing what they felt was good, or otherwise, about an examination. To do so not only can diminish a credential's value and the certification body's finances, but can also even bring into play ethical and legal issues.

The item development process is another key component of certification programmes and another distinguishing factor from certificate programmes. As discussed in previous articles in this series, "the primary focus of an assessment-based certificate program is on facilitating the accomplishment of intended learning outcomes" and thus does not typically include such a rigorous item development process.

Defining Features of Quality Certification and Assessment-Based Certificate Programs. ICE, Washington D.C. 2010.

As IBLCE enters into the 2013 examination season, IBLCE wishes all candidates the best of luck on the examination and notes it again will be making a post-examination survey available by email shortly after the examination. Thanks for making sure your current email address is on file with IBLCE and for remembering that any thoughts or comments on the examination you may have should only be shared via the post-examination survey.

Survey Results Are In!

Q: Last eNewsletter's question was: What organisation provides scholarships to IBLCE exam candidates?

A: MILCC!

58% of respondents chose the correct answer!

Others Indicated:
United Way (6%)
WHO (30%)
LEAARC (6%)

[Learn more about MILCC in this eNewsletter](#)

Quiz of the Quarter

Where are the newest IBCLCs?

- a. Vietnam
- b. Aruba
- c. Guatemala
- d. Haiti
- e. Paraguay
- f. All of the above

[Click here to take the quiz!](#)

Thanks for your participation in the IBLCE certification programme!

Call for Members On New IBLCE Subcommittee

Item Writing Subcommittee

Did the article on item development above interest you? IBLCE is looking for a subject matter expert (SME) who has an interest and skill in item writing to join the recently established Item Writing Subcommittee to develop items for the IBLCE examination. [Click here for more information regarding the committee](#). Interested? Please send your C.V. and a letter of interest to international@iblce.org

WHO Code's Thirty-Second Anniversary

IBLCE recognises and salutes the World Health Organization (WHO) as May 21 marked the thirty-second anniversary of the [International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes](#). IBLCE thanks WHO for its leadership, past and continuing, on this issue so important to mothers and babies!

MILCC: An Investment in the Future

The Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultant Certification (MILCC) is an international, nonprofit organisation which provides financial assistance to International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) exam candidates. IBCLCs play a critical role in the lives and well-being of many new mothers and infants, and some candidates need financial assistance to obtain certification. As highlighted [in this eNewsletter](#), MILCC awards scholarships to IBCLC exam candidates from all over the world.

MILCC is funded in part from private contributions donated by fortunate individuals interested in helping aspiring candidates in need. MILCC offers [pins](#) as gifts, if you choose, and [monetary donations](#) are greatly appreciated as well. Your contribution can make a difference for candidates who are seeking certification to care for breastfeeding mothers and babies. Please [donate to MILCC](#) or [purchase a gift](#). In many jurisdictions, donations are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

IBLCE Outreach

IBLCE Chair **Rebecca "Becky" Mannel** presented "The IBLCE: The Global Lactation Certification Program" at the GOLD Lactation Online Conference on May 15th.

Connect with IBLCE on Social Media



Like us on
Facebook!



Follow us on
Twitter!



Connect with
IBLCE on
LinkedIn!



Visit us on
YouTube!

Immediate Past Chair **Elizabeth "Kaili" Stehel** spoke for the Texas Department of State Health Services at a joint venture between the Texas Breastfeeding Coalition and the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. The May 19, 2013 meeting, *Strengthening the Fabric of Breastfeeding Support: Weaving Breastfeeding-Friendly Policies and Practices into the Continuum of Maternal-Infant Care* provided 3 hours of physical and midlevel Baby-friendly breastfeeding education.

Mannel attended the first National Conference of the United States Lactation Consultant Association (USLCA) in St. Louis, Missouri, USA May 3 - May 5 as the IBLCE official representative. IBLCE Secretary **Paula Oliveira** and IBLCE Board member **Regina Roig-Romero** also attended.

IBLCE Board Director **Andreja Tekauc Golob** gave a presentation entitled "*The New Code of Professional Conduct for IBCLCs*" at the National Meeting of Breastfeeding Lactation, held in Lasko, Slovenia on October 5th, 2012.

Karolyn Vaughan, Regional Director for IBLCE in the Asia-Pacific and Africa, attended the Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses of Australia Conference May 9-11 in Canberra. The conference attracted midwives, child health nurses and allied health professionals. Vaughan also attended the Queensland Midwifery Conference in May on behalf of IBLCE.

The National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA), of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence, selected IBLCE Staff Psychometrician, **Leon Gross**, for the Standards Revision Committee.

The NCCA also tapped IBLCE Executive Director **Sara Blair Lake** to serve on the NCCA Standards Continuing Competency Technical Advisory Group.

IBLCE Advocacy with the United States Breastfeeding Committee

Did you know that IBLCE is an active participant in the United States Breastfeeding Committee? USBC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit "coalition of more than 40 nationally influential professional, educational, and governmental organizations, that share a common mission to improve the Nation's health by working collaboratively to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding."

See USBC website www.usbreastfeeding.org

Through USBC, IBLCE signed on to the National WIC Association (NWA) coalition partner letter which was sent to the U.S. Senate and House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee members, asking them to fully fund the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) in Fiscal Year 2014. According to the United

States Department of Agriculture, WIC "provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk."

IBLCE also signed on to the USBC letter to Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) and Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR), thanking them for introducing the Supporting Working Moms Act of 2013 to the United States Congress. If passed, this act will build upon current law to guarantee that working new mothers, including both salaried and hourly-wage earners, receive ample time and space to express breastmilk in a private location.

IBLCE Board Director Profile

As an ongoing feature, the IBLCE eNewsletter features an IBLCE Board member and includes information about the focus of the Board member's work on behalf of the IBLCE certificant community and the public.

Andreja Tekauc Golob

Andreja Tekauc Golob, M.D., Assistant Lecturer, serves as an IBLCE Board Director. After finishing her medical degree she began her specialization in paediatrics, a field where breastfeeding is of utmost importance. She currently works as a neonatologist in the perinatal department of the clinic for gynecology and perinatology in Maribor, Slovenia.



Andreja's interest in breastfeeding began when she joined the national committee for promoting breastfeeding in Baby-friendly Hospitals in 1996. In 1998 she became a UNICEF International assessor of Baby-friendly Hospitals. She received her IBCLC certification in 2001, recertifying in 2006 and 2011. She helped establish the IBLCE certification in Slovenia in 2002 and with her assistance the importance of IBLCE has spread to Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well.

Having three children of her own, Andreja understands the importance of breastfeeding to the early development of a child and the strong foundation it provides for later in life. From her experience as a physician, she is able to see the problems mothers may have with breastfeeding and assist them.

Andreja has had a varied academic career in addition to her work as a physician and continues to regularly publish papers in Slovenia and abroad dealing with various issues of paediatrics and breastfeeding. She is also an assistant lecturer at the University of Maribor, where she lectures on

breastfeeding. Locally, she helps young parents by teaching a class at the "School for New Parents."

Andreja currently serves as Chair of the IBLCE Certification Committee.

In her free time, Andreja enjoys spending time with her three adult children and two granddaughters. With her husband Borut, Andreja enjoys travelling to the various corners of the world, where they relish the opportunity to ballroom dance.

- The Board & Staff of IBLCE