



IBLCE®

*International Board of
Lactation Consultant Examiners*

International eNewsletter from the Board of Directors

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In This Issue

[Twice Per Year
Exam
Administration](#)

[Board Meeting in
Brazil](#)

[Post-exam Survey
Results](#)

[Online Credential
Management
System](#)

[Key Dates & Fees
for 2014](#)

[MILCC
Scholarships](#)

[IBLCE Outreach](#)

[IBLCE Transitions](#)

[Board Director
Profile](#)

IBLCE Examination to Be Offered Twice Per Year Commencing in 2016

Given the decided and increasing demand, and to afford greater convenience to IBCLCs and candidates, effective 2016, IBLCE will be offering the IBCLC examination twice per year.

The examination will be offered twice in English per year, spring and autumn, no matter the hemisphere in which you live! In transitioning to twice per year administrations, IBLCE will be discontinuing the July administration which IBLCE heard from many of you represented an inconvenient time of year due to holidays and family vacations.

The examination will be offered in a variety of languages in October or November each year (precise month TBD). IBLCE hopes that providing a second examination administration in English each year satisfies demand for a second administration and by transitioning the dates, both recertifying IBCLCs and candidates can enjoy greater flexibility and convenience. IBLCE is disseminating this information now to allow plenty of lead time for planning purposes. [The IBLCE examination will be offered in July in both 2014 and 2015.](#)

Further details on this transition will be available in the first quarter of 2014.

Survey Results Are In!

Q: Last eNewsletter's question was: What country are the newest IBCLCs located in?

A: All of the above! There are now IBCLCs in Vietnam, Aruba, Guatemala, Haiti and Paraguay!

82% of respondents chose the correct answer!

Quiz of the Quarter

MILCC provides scholarships to:

- a. New IBCLCs
- b. Recertificants by Exam
- c. Recertificants by CERPs
- d. All of the above

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

September 2013 Board Meeting in Brazil

In September, the IBLCE Board and select staff traveled to Porto Alegre, Brazil to hold the semi-annual Board Meeting and meet with IBLCE's Country Coordinator for Brazil, **Roberto Issler**, MD, IBCLC and his fellow Brazilian IBCLCs at the Hospital de Clinicas de Porto Alegre.

Dr. Issler arranged two busy and rewarding days. The group toured the hospital and held a meeting with Brazilian IBCLCs to determine how to best promote the IBCLC credential in Brazil and South America.

Many thanks to Dr. Issler for hosting IBLCE and making the group welcome in Brazil!



Update on IBLCE Transition to Computer-Based Testing (CBT)

Satisfaction with CBT Exceeds That of Traditional Paper & Pencil Format

IBLCE first offered a pilot of computer-based testing (CBT) in 2011. Of all the candidates to sit for the IBLCE examination that year, just 8%, or 498 people, took the examination via CBT. In 2012, IBLCE offered CBT in more locations, including for the first time, in the Asia Pacific & Africa Region. In 2012, the percentage of candidates taking the IBCLC examination via CBT rose to 49% of the total.

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Recertifying in
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the latest real
time information
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In 2013, IBLCE offered CBT in all three regions: the Americas & Israel, the Asia Pacific & Africa Region and in the Europe, Middle East & North Africa Region. By 2013, the percentage of candidates taking the IBCLC examination by CBT rose to 83%.

Despite challenges attendant with any major transition, 2013 post-examination survey data reveals greater overall satisfaction with the CBT administration than with the traditional paper & pencil format.

Specifically, the data revealed, of the candidates who took the examination via CBT, 61% reported that it was their first time taking any examination via computer-based testing. Of those taking the 2013 examination via CBT: 27% rated their experience as Excellent; 44% rated their experience as Good; and 22% rated their experience as Satisfactory. Just 7% of CBT test-takers rated their experience as less than satisfactory.

Of those taking the examination via paper & pencil: 9% rated their experience as Excellent; 43% rated their experience as Good; 39% rated their experience as Satisfactory; and 9% rated their experience as less than satisfactory.

With respect to scheduling of appointments through the third-party CBT testing vendor, 88% of the calls were answered in 90 seconds or less and the CBT reservation system, excluding maintenance, was available over 99% of the time. In response to the testing vendor survey, IBCLC candidates gave an "Overall Satisfaction" rating of over 96% based on factors such as satisfaction with the test centre, staff centre responsiveness and quality of service.

IBLCE will continue to work with its third-party CBT vendor partner to continuously enhance the IBCLC CBT testing experience. Thank you for your feedback and your participation in the IBLCE certification program!

IBLCE Online Credential Management System Opening Soon for 2014 Recertificants and New Candidates

IBLCE is transitioning to an online credential management system! Advantages include applying for certification and recertification online, the ability to access certification activity and online payment histories, upload supporting documentation and more. The portal to the credential management system is designed to be user-friendly and provide secure, password-protected and readily available access to certification records. Currently, the system is being made available to IBLCE by the vendor in English only.

This system is being phased in and first being made

available exclusively to: 1) IBCLC certificants due to recertify in 2014; 2) individuals whose IBCLC certification lapsed in 2013; 3) those candidates who took the examination in 2013 and would like to re-take the examination in 2014; and 4) completely new candidates for 2014.

If you fall within one of the first three categories above, you will be receiving detailed information regarding the online credential management system within the next week, including a user's guide as well as system access information. (This information will also be posted to the IBLCE website). For those who are completely new candidates for 2014, detailed information, including a user's guide, will also be available in the next week on the [IBLCE website](#) and through IBLCE social media platforms.

If you are an IBCLC due to recertify in future years, IBLCE will notify you in future communications about how to access the system. There is nothing you need to do at this time. If you are an IBCLC recertifying in any year other than 2014, thank you for not attempting to access the system at this time as IBLCE staff will be attending to those with immediate needs: those recertifying in 2014 and those taking the examination in 2014.

IBLCE understands that change can be challenging so please know that IBLCE staff is here to assist you, its valued certificants and candidates, with questions you may have about the new system. IBLCE looks forward to this latest enhancement to its infrastructure and working with you as you navigate the new system.

IBLCE Key Dates and Fees for 2014

As IBLCE progresses toward more widespread use of computer-based testing (CBT) for administration of its certification examination around the world, more advance coordination with the CBT vendor is needed to secure blocks of appointments sufficient to provide seats for exam candidates. It is customary for these appointment blocks to expire 90 days before the date on which the exam is administered.

Since the IBLCE exam is administered in late July, the CBT appointment block expires on or about April 30. Therefore, in order to provide sufficient time for review of applications for eligibility and for candidates to make CBT centre appointments, the exam application deadline for next year will be March 31, 2014.

Applications are reviewed on the basis of the date they are received in the IBLCE office. Therefore, the sooner you submit your application, the sooner you are likely to be able to make your CBT centre appointment.

Please note that the International Lactation Consultant Association (ILCA) conference will end the day before the date of

the IBLCE exam administration. Therefore, IBLCE has reserved additional CBT seats in Phoenix, Arizona, the location of the ILCA conference. If you plan to take the exam in Phoenix, please apply early for the exam so that you can make your CBT appointment as soon as possible.

Key Dates in 2014

January 31	MILCC Scholarship Application Postmark Deadline: Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultant Certification (MILCC) awards scholarships to qualifying IBLCE candidates and recertificants. If sitting for the exam, a completed IBLCE exam application must be sent at the same time as your MILCC application and you must complete all IBLCE exam requirements before submitting your MILCC application. Visit www.milcc.org for details.
March 31	Exam Application Deadline
May 31	Exam Withdrawal Request Postmark Deadline
Last Week in July	Appointments for computer-based testing (CBT) will be available on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 28, 29 and 30, depending upon the country in which the testing centre is located. Paper & pencil based testing will occur on Wednesday, July 30.
August 31	Recertification by CERPs Deadline

IBLCE Exam Fees

There will be no fee increase in 2014; however, IBLCE has refined its methodology for establishing fees. In order to make its certification program financially accessible to all those qualified to participate, despite the wide variance in economic conditions throughout the world, IBLCE has carefully determined that the appropriate methodology is the use of the purchasing power parity (PPP) per capita metric as determined by international organisations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. PPP takes into account the relative cost of living and the inflation rates of countries. The exam and recertification fees for 2014 can be found in the [Candidate Information Guide](#) and the [Recertification Guide](#).

MILCC Scholarship Funds Available!

Planning on sitting for the 2014 Examination? Wish to be considered for financial assistance? Mark your calendar now to be considered for a MILCC scholarship! The deadline to apply is **January 31**. Did you know that MILCC Scholarships are available to recertificants as well? [Click here for more information!](#)

IBLCE Outreach

IBLCE has appointed **Rebecca "Becky" Mannel**, BS, IBCLC, as its alternate representative to the U.S. Breastfeeding Committee (USBC). She joins **Joan Meek**, MD, IBCLC as an IBLCE representative to this influential independent nonprofit organisation which includes more than forty organisations that support the USBC mission "to improve the Nation's health by working collaboratively to protect, promote and support breastfeeding."

IBLCE Secretary **Regina Maria Roig-Romero**, MPH, IBCLC recently discussed the benefits of breastfeeding on Telemundo, an international Spanish-language television network.

Roig-Romero has also been selected by the National WIC Association to serve on a planning taskforce regarding the expansion of WIC's nutrition and breastfeeding services.



Former IBLCE Board member **Julie Wood**, MD, IBCLC presented "Breastfeeding for Global Health" at the American Academy of Family Physicians' (AAFP) Global Health Workshop on October 10, 2013. The presentation was targeted towards health care workers working with mothers and families both in their own communities and other countries. As part of the presentation, Wood emphasised the importance of the IBCLC as part of the health care team.

IBLCE Transitions

New Board Officers

IBLCE is pleased to announce the new officers for the organisation. The new IBLCE Chair is **Rachelle Lessen**, MS, RD, IBCLC. Lessen is a registered dietitian and holds a Masters of Science degree in Health Education. Lessen has worked as a lactation consultant at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania since 1996. She rotates into the position of Chair as the former Chair-Elect.

After a successful one-year term, **Rebecca "Becky" Mannel**, BS, IBCLC is now the Immediate Past Chair of the Board and has also been elected as the new Governance Committee Chair.

Tomoko Seo, MD, IBCLC is the Chair-Elect. Seo works as a paediatrician in a private maternity hospital and a paediatric clinic in Japan.

Rounding out the IBLCE officers are Treasurer **Aimee Eden**, PhD, MPH, who has also been elected for a second three-year term on the Board, and Secretary **Regina Maria Roig-Romero**, profiled in this edition's [Board Member Profile](#). Each of the officers appreciates the opportunity to serve the organisation and the stakeholders of IBLCE!

Three Welcomes and Two Farewells

In its 2013 Call for Nominations for Board members, IBLCE received an abundance of responses: close to 50! From this talented and large group of people, IBLCE had the very difficult task of selecting new Board representatives. IBLCE wishes to thank all those who applied to serve.

The newest IBLCE Board members are **Dale Hansson**, **Micaela Notarangelo** and **Young-Oak Wells**.

Dale Hansson has been an IBCLC for 11 years and a volunteer Breastfeeding Counsellor with the Australian Breastfeeding Association for 22 years. She currently works in a busy private practice in Kogarah, a suburb in the south of Sydney.

Micaela Notarangelo, IBCLC, has a private lactation consultant practice in Lerici, La Spezia, Italy and takes a particular interest in everything that concerns breastfeeding science and medicine. From 1992 to 2001, Micaela lived in Japan, where in 1998 she was awarded a PhD in Economics at Hokkaido University, Sapporo, Japan.

Young-Oak Wells received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Seoul National University, Korea and her IBCLC in 2001. She now lives in New Zealand and has been awarded her Masters in Midwifery by Charles Sturt University, Australia.

As IBLCE welcomes three new members to the Board of Directors, the organisation is also saying good-bye to a wonderful and committed Board Member, **Paula Oliveira**, who served IBLCE with dedication and generously continues to volunteer her time on IBLCE committees.

Additionally, **Leon Gross**, PhD, IBLCE staff psychometrician, has retired from the position. IBLCE is deeply appreciative of Dr. Gross' contributions over the years to the IBCLC certification program.



Paula Oliveira (center) and her colleagues at Brigham & Women's Hospital. The hospital was recently awarded the [IBCLC Care Award](#).

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.

Regina Maria Roig-Romero

Regina Maria Roig-Romero, MPH, IBCLC, serves as Secretary of IBLCE. Her interest in breastfeeding began when she joined La Leche League (LLL) during her first pregnancy in 1989. She went on to exclusively breastfeed all three of her children while serving as a LLL Leader for several years.

In 1996 she became an IBCLC and took the position of Senior Lactation Consultant for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program at the Florida Department of Health in Miami, Florida, helping to create and lead one of the most recognized and comprehensive local-level public health breastfeeding programs in the United States.

She recently graduated from Florida International University with a Master's of Public Health (MPH) degree, majoring in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. At graduation, she was proud to receive the Dean's Academic Excellence Award, given each semester to one student who demonstrates outstanding academic achievement and service.



Regina Roig-Romero during a musical performance.

In her spare time Regina enjoys photography, singing, writing, and Facebook, where she happily roots - loudly and proudly - for her favorite basketball team, the NBA's Miami Heat.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

- *The Board & Staff of IBLCE*