



IBLCE®

*International Board of
Lactation Consultant Examiners*

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Please remember that if your contact information changes, including email address, it is your professional responsibility to inform IBLCE.

IBCLC Examination to Be Offered in All Languages via CBT in 2017!

IBLCE® is pleased to be able to offer all of the 17 exam languages in computer-based testing (CBT) for the October 2017 exam! Please recall that the April examinations are only offered in English.

As a reminder, the October exam application window will open on **March 1, 2017**, with a deadline of **May 15, 2017**. Visit IBLCE's website for more [2017 Key Dates](#).

It should be noted that although the exam will now be offered via CBT in all languages, IBLCE anticipates that the time to receive examination results will stay essentially the same due to the small number of paper & pencil testing sites around the world, and that post-exam review for a 17 language examination involves a team of psychometric and subject matter experts.

IBLCE is excited to take this step in making the examination process more convenient for all candidates and recertifying IBCLCs, no matter where they are located around the world!

Congratulations to New and Recertifying IBCLCs in 2016!

IBLCE administered the IBCLC examinations in April and October 2016 to over 5,300 exam candidates, which was an increase of 30% from 2015 exam applications! IBLCE is also pleased to have over 3,300 IBCLCs recertify by CERPs.

The exam results for the October exam were just recently released in online accounts and mailed from the IBLCE offices in mid-December. Please recall that the paper result is the official result.

Thank you for remembering that we can't keep in touch with you if you don't keep in touch with us!

[Contact IBLCE with your new information!](#)

Quiz Result Is In!

Q: IBLCE has Country Coordinators in approximately how many countries around the world?

- A. 22
- B. 35
- C. 46
- D. 50

Answer:
d. 50!

Country Quiz of the Quarter

Question: Which of the following is true about Macau?

- A.** Macau has the world's highest population density with 20,497 people per square kilometer.
- B.** Macau is known as the "Las Vegas" of Asia.
- C.** The Population of Macau is 142,000 people.

Taking the IBCLC Examination in April 2017? Check your email!

If you are sitting the April 2017 IBCLC Exam, please be sure you are checking your email, as IBLCE recently began sending out Exam Authorization Emails for the April 2017 IBCLC Exam.

The Exam Authorization Email will provide the information you need to schedule your exam with the testing vendor, Pearson VUE. Once you receive your Exam Authorization Email it is your responsibility to schedule your exam by the deadline date specified in your email.

Thank you for your commitment to IBCLC certification, the gold standard in lactation care!

IBLCE Advocacy Update

As a periodic feature, IBLCE will provide you with updates on advocacy efforts around the globe. In the last edition of the newsletter, IBLCE spotlighted its official visits with the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in Peru. In this edition, given the upcoming change in Washington, D.C. and other places in the country, IBLCE focuses on its recent advocacy efforts in the US.

IBLCE does a great deal to promote the IBCLC and breastfeeding. Given the dynamic healthcare environment worldwide, IBLCE continues to ramp up its advocacy efforts in support of you and your credential, the IBCLC! Below are brief summaries of a number of recent IBLCE advocacy activities.

IBLCE has long been a full member organisation of the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), the recognised national voice for breastfeeding advocacy and support in the United States. The Lactation Support Providers (LSP) Constellation within the USBC is slated to become a permanent, ongoing work group with USBC administrative support. Due to the great importance of improving community support for breastfeeding families, the LSP group will continue to address training and reimbursement for services. IBLCE has played an active role in this USBC work group and will continue to do so, addressing opportunities and challenges, particularly given potential changes within the political and healthcare arenas.

As the fifth anniversary of the Surgeon General's Call To Action to Support Breastfeeding approached, IBLCE submitted comments for a report to be submitted to the Surgeon General. IBLCE comments focused on key implementation strategies that would have the greatest impact on the IBCLC credential if those were to be made priorities over the next five years. These included: ensuring access, including insurance coverage, to services provided by International Board Certified Lactation Consultants; identifying and addressing obstacles to greater availability of safe banked donor milk for fragile infants; and working toward establishing paid maternity leave for all employed mothers.

IBLCE recently signed on to an advocacy letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to urge the FDA to formally address the

Answer: A and B are true. The population of Macau is actually over 560,000!

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public health impact of misleading and confusing infant formula labelling.

IBLCE also recently signed onto a letter to Congressional leadership released by the Trust for America's Health (TFAH) opposing repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund, authorised under the Affordable Care Act and targeted for repeal. IBLCE noted that the repeal of the Prevention Fund would leave a funding gap for essential public health programmes which have included funding for breastfeeding initiatives.

IBLCE also recently formally supported a USBC and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) letter urging the U.S. Department of Labor to amplify information available on the "Reasonable Break Time for Nursing Mothers" provision within the Affordable Care Act by expanding guidance on the scope of the law's protections for employees and requirements for employers.

IBLCE will continue to work to promote and protect the IBCLC and breastfeeding throughout the US and the world. The organisation will keep you apprised of its activities and outcomes in future editions of this newsletter.

Thank You for Your Response to the IBLCE Call for Volunteers!

Thank you to all those who responded to several Calls for Volunteers over the past two months. IBLCE greatly values volunteers from a diversity of backgrounds who are current and future leaders in the IBCLC community.

IBLCE will be reaching out to applicants soon with the selection of new committee members!

IBLCE Showcases the IBCLC at the Brazilian National Conference on Breastfeeding

From November 21-25 in Florianopolis, Brazil, 1,400 people gathered together for the XIV Brazilian National Conference on Breastfeeding. The conference, held every two years, is the largest breastfeeding conference in Brazil.

For the first time, IBLCE hosted a booth in the exposition area to give more visibility and support for the development of the IBCLC in Brazil.

Approximately 15 IBCLCs attended the meeting. IBLCE Country Coordinator for Brazil **Rosane Baldissera**, and IBLCE Board Member **Roberto Issler**, with volunteer help from other IBCLCs, were available to discuss opportunities with future IBCLCs and those interested in learning more about the importance of the certification.

As has been the tradition for the



Rosane Baldissera and Roberto Issler talk with those interested in the IBCLC certification.

past three conferences, a formal meeting was offered in the official programme to gather IBCLCs and other professionals interested in

learn more about the IBCLC certification, obtaining clinical hours, and other issues concerning achieving and maintaining the IBCLC. During the meeting, a group announced the creation of the **Associação Brasileira de Consultores com Certificação Internacional em Aleitamento Materno (ABRACCIAM), the Brazilian National Association of IBCLCs**, which has the main purpose of supporting and promoting the IBCLC in Brazil.

This meeting will have an impact in increasing the number of applications and future IBCLCs in Brazil.



Brazilian IBCLCs at the Conference

Care Award Application Window Approaching!



Interested in elevating your lactation programme? Let your community know that your facility recognises the important role that the IBCLC plays in promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding! Apply for the [IBCLC Care Award](#). The IBCLC Care Award recognises maternity and community-based facilities

worldwide that hire currently certified IBCLCs.

The 2017 IBCLC Care Award will be accepting applications **Monday, January 9, 2017** through **Friday, February 17, 2017**.

Country Coordinator Corner

IBLCE has a network of Country Coordinators around the globe to help you get the answers you need on IBCLC certification and recertification. Country Coordinators are available to help with country specific questions and to answer questions in your language. If they don't immediately have the answer for you, they will help get the answer for you in your language shortly.

Virginia Tam, MBA, IBCLC



Virginia came to IBLCE as the Country Coordinator for Macau with a 10-year career in the medical device industry in the US, Japan and China. She graduated *cum laude* from University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas where she completed her Bachelor's degree and then from Thunderbird, the American Graduate School of International

Management at Arizona State University where she earned her Master's degree.

While breastfeeding her daughter, Virginia found her calling in breastfeeding consulting and education. She has been supporting breastfeeding dyads in the Macau Special Administration Region (SAR) since 2009 both online and by volunteering at the public health centers. In 2012, she became a La Leche League Breastfeeding Peer consultant.

She continued to pursue her education in lactation and was awarded a JoAnne Scott Scholarship under the auspices of Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultant Certification (MILCC). In 2015, she became the first IBCLC with a non-medical background in Macau. In December 2016, she co-founded the Macau Breastfeeding and Nurturing Promotion Association with the hope of further increasing the awareness of breastfeeding. In the same month, she was appointed a member of the Macau SAR Women's and Children's Commission, the goal of which is to assist in creating policies for the benefit of women and children.

Virginia has been serving as the Country Coordinator of Macau since January 2016.

Certificant Spotlight

IBCLCs work around the globe in a variety of practice settings in lactation. This feature of the eNewsletter and [IBLCE website](http://www.iblce.org) highlight IBCLCs and the important work they perform for mothers, babies and families. Read about certificant around the world and why they value the IBCLC credential!



Stacy Davis & her sons

Stacy Davis

Stacy Davis, a lifelong resident of Detroit, Michigan, USA, has had a passion for improving the health of her community since childhood. As many of the memorable journeys that have happened in her life, Stacy's IBCLC journey has been one of the greatest. Stacy does admit, however, that this career path was not her chosen path, but rather a path that had been divinely chosen for her. To date, the state of Michigan has just 10 African American IBCLCs. Never in her wildest dreams had she imagined that she would be in that number.

Stacy, like many African American women in her Detroit community, desired and was determined to breastfeed, but lacked adequate resources and support to successfully do so with her first two sons. After the birth of her third son, Stacy faced many of the same challenges she had with her previous children- lack of familial and community support, along with latching issues. With the help of a spirited Women, Infant, Children's breastfeeding peer counsellor and an introduction to a breastfeeding club for African Americans, Stacy was equipped with the tools to successfully breastfeed her son for 11 months. In 2013, Stacy received her calling and began her journey toward the IBCLC credential.

Since becoming an IBCLC in 2014, Stacy has used her personal and professional experiences and expertise by working tirelessly, in an effort to reduce infant mortality rates. She has done so by creating equitable access to care in the Maternal Infant Health field both locally and nationally. Stacy's passion continues to be driven by the value she sees in community-based lactation and birth support. Stacy believes that community-based programmes provide an invaluable service that bridges gaps between the health care provider and the community, as continuity of care, offering women of colour the socio-cultural support to birth, nourish, and nurture healthy children.

Currently, Stacy is the Executive Director of the National Association of Professional and Peer Lactation Supporters of Color (NAPPLSC), Board Member of the Lactation Education Accreditation and Approval Review Committee (LEAARC), Secretary and LEAARC Equity Ambassador for Lactation Equity Action Committee, and member of the Center for Social Inclusion's First Food Racial Equity Cohort. She is also employed with Ascension

Health System, where she assisted two hospitals in the health system achieve Baby-Friendly designation and mentored aspiring IBCLCs of colour.

Stacy attributes her success while on this sometimes challenging journey, to the love and support of her four sons, family and friends.

IBLCE Board of 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 IBCLC community and the public.



Roberto with wife Beth and two of their sons André (left) and Eduardo (right)

Roberto Issler is a paediatrician from Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil. He has been an Assistant Professor in Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul since 1993, where he earned his MSc in 1993 and his PhD in 2009. His interest in breastfeeding began during his graduation and residency, and he became an IBCLC in 1998. From 2008 to 2015 he served as IBLCE's Country Coordinator for Brazil and has been working in his private paediatric clinic since 1989. Roberto was recently appointed as a member of the Breastfeeding Scientific Department of the Brazilian Paediatric Society.

Roberto's wife Maria Elizabeth is an MD/GO, and they have three sons, all breastfed. In his spare time, Roberto enjoys travelling and watching soccer.



Happy
Holidays &
New Year from
the Board &
Staff of IBLCE