



IBLCE®

*International Board of
Lactation Consultant Examiners*

International eNewsletter from the Board of Directors

Volume 4, Issue 1
June 2015

In This Issue

[The Quest for Healthier Mothers and Babies: Radio Media Tour](#)

[IBLCE Practice Analysis Now Available](#)

[Certification Changes for 2016](#)

[Discounted Rate for Exam Retakes](#)

[2017 Examination Dates](#)

[IBCLC Care Award](#)

[Lactation Equity Action Seminar](#)

[90 MILCC Scholarships Awarded](#)

[Certificant Spotlight](#)

[IBLCE News and Notes](#)

[Turn to IBLCE for Your Certification](#)

The Quest for Healthier Mothers and Babies: Radio Media Tour

In April, IBLCE® conducted a radio media tour that aired on nearly [1,400 radio stations in the USA and reached 8.9 million listeners!](#) The tour targeted news talk information stations reaching women ages 25 to 45, and featured interviews with past Board Chair Becky Mannel, IBCLC. The focus of the interviews was the importance and value of IBCLCs. IBLCE is proud to promote the IBCLC credential, the gold standard in lactation consultation! To listen to one of the interviews, click [here!](#)

IBLCE Practice Analysis Now Available!

As you know, the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) establishes the highest standards in lactation and breastfeeding care worldwide and certifies individuals who meet these standards. IBLCE has certified over 27,450 International Board of Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) in over 101 countries around the world who promote, protect, and support breastfeeding families. To remain on the cutting edge, it is essential that IBLCE periodically survey certificants and candidates to systematically learn of developments in knowledge and practice and to update the IBCLC examination specifications.

As you can imagine, this is an extensive, time-intensive

[and Examination News](#)

[New Summary of Health Science Education Requirements](#)

[IBLCE Board Director Profile](#)

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

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: Last eNewsletter's question was: In what months in 2016 is the IBCLC examination to be offered?

Answer: C. April & October

process and which literally involved thousands of individuals. This is a key aspect of the development of the IBCLC professional examination.

The purpose of this practice analysis was to identify the responsibilities of lactation consultants which would then inform the development of the IBCLC certification examination. The study was conducted by a renowned psychometric and testing firm, Applied Measurement Professionals, together with an International Practice Analysis Task Force, appointed by IBLCE. Applied Measurement Professionals provided the necessary support to develop specifications upon which a content valid certification examination could be built. The International Practice Analysis Task Force, drawing upon their subject matter expertise, conducted the activities necessary to identify lactation consultants' responsibilities and subsequently develop examination specifications. The diversity of this Practice Analysis Task Force was reflective of the practice settings, geographic breadth and disciplines within lactation consultation across the globe. All members of the Practice Analysis Task Force were experts in their respective areas.

The study involved the development, distribution and analysis of a web-based practice analysis survey questionnaire to lactation consultants worldwide. Examination specifications for the lactation consultants are developed on the basis of the data provided from the practice analysis survey.

The Practice Analysis Task Force met regularly between 2011 and 2014 to design the survey questionnaire through the following four distinct phases:

1) Identifying subject matter

Through a systematic review process, the main areas of knowledge and specific lactation skills and practices were identified. These were further explored via four subject matter focus groups to inform a valid, practice based survey.

2) Selecting the subject matter experts (SMEs)

Criteria were set for the selection of a representative SME group. A job description was agreed to and distributed. Practicing lactation consultants (n=23) were recruited to one of four SME groups (later combined into three) by way of their statements of interest to participate in the online discussions and conference calls.

3) Facilitating focus group and identifying practice content

Groups were facilitated by an expert lactation consultant with international leadership experience within the profession. Each group participated in a maximum of four conference calls. Participants were informed that each group should discuss content related to education, audit and future planning in

Quiz of the Quarter

IBLCE is currently celebrating how many years of service?

- A. 25
- B. 30
- C. 50
- D. 20

Check out the next IBLCE newsletter for the answer to this quiz of the quarter!

Country Quiz of the Quarter

Which of the following facts about Japan are true?

- A. Japan has a population of about 127 million
- B. The national sport is Sumo
- C. Japan is the largest automobile producer in the world
- D. Mt. Fuji is the tallest mountain in Japan
- E. Japan has an extremely high literacy rate of nearly 100%

relation to care of the breastfeeding mother, the breastfeeding baby and the pre-term breastfeeding baby.

4) Pilot-testing and translating the practice analysis survey

The survey was piloted by practicing lactation consultants and further reviewed by SME group leaders and the Practice Analysis Task Force. The final practice analysis survey consisted of three sections including: knowledge areas; the frequency of applying specific clinical skills in breastfeeding management and care; and demographic background information of respondents.

The survey invitations, containing a weblink to the online practice analysis survey, were distributed in six languages to over 25,000 IBCLCs and approximately 3,000 non-IBCLCs. There were over 6,000 usable responses from lactation consultants in more than 70 countries, approximately half of which were from the United States. For more information, see [An International Practice Analysis of the Lactation Consultant Executive Summary](#).

Thanks to all the many individuals who participated in this initiative, so important to the profession and the IBCLC certification programme!

Certification Changes for 2016 - Must Read!

As previously announced, IBLCE will be offering the exam twice a year in 2016. IBLCE is excited to offer increased opportunities for candidates to take the exam! This change impacts a number of requirements and deadlines.

Even if you are not recertifying in 2016, due to the transition to twice a year, all IBCLCs' expiration dates are shifting slightly.

Please read this important information! For all the information you need to know, please see the new 2016 Twice Per Year [FAQs](#) page.

IBLCE Board Approves Discounted Rate for Examination Retakes

Didn't pass the IBCLC examination? Now, if you choose to retake the examination, you are eligible to receive a discounted exam retake fee for your next three exam attempts or up to three years following the first time you do not pass the examination. Both initial and recertification exam candidates are eligible for the discounted rate.

The answer is: all of the above!

Connect with IBLCE on Social Media

Thank you for following the latest news about IBLCE on social media! IBLCE now has over 10,000 "Likes" on Facebook and 1,800 followers on Twitter!



Like us on Facebook!



Follow us on Twitter!



Connect with IBLCE on LinkedIn!



Visit us on YouTube!

Mark Your Calendars! Examination Dates for Calendar Year 2017

Like to plan ahead? Then mark your calendar now for the IBCLC examination administration dates for 2017!

There will be two administrations in 2017: the week of April 3, 2017 (English) and the week of October 2, 2017 (all languages).

More information on 2017 will be disseminated as it is available. Stay tuned to the IBLCE eNewsletter, website, and social media for the latest info!

IBCLC Care Award Announces Recipients!

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2015 IBCLC Care Award! The IBCLC Care Award recognizes hospital and community-based facilities that hire currently certified International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs), have demonstrated that they provided training for staff that care for breastfeeding families, and have implemented programmes to promote, protect and support both breastfeeding and the IBCLC credential.

Facilities receiving the award include hospitals, birthing facilities, hospital-based birthing services and community-based agencies.

This year, 73 hospital-based facilities received the IBCLC Care Award, as well as 12 community-based agencies. Recipients are listed in the [IBCLC Care Directory](#), and enjoy the benefits of enhanced attractiveness to potential patients, a competitive edge in recruiting staff and general community goodwill. Congrats to this year's awardees! IBCLC Care Award applications for 2016 will open January. For more information on the IBCLC Care Award, recipients, and applications, visit ibclccare.org.

Lactation Equity Action Seminar Coming in July!

The Lactation Consultant Equity Initiative, with support from IBLCE, will be hosting the [Lactation Equity Action Seminar: Breaking Down Barriers to the IBCLC Profession](#) on Tuesday, July 21st at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, DC. This free seminar is open to anyone interested and will continue to explore issues discussed at the

[2014 Lactation Summit](#). The interactive seminar will be led by author and breastfeeding advocate Kathi Barber, BS, CLEC, and Clifton Kenon Jr., DNP, RN, IBCLC, presenting in a private capacity. Space is limited, so register [here](#) to reserve your spot!

90 MILCC Scholarships Awarded!

Did you know that the affiliated non-profit [Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultation Certification](#) (MILCC) gives out scholarships each year to deserving IBCLCs and those working towards the IBCLC? IBCLCs recertifying by exam and by CERPs are also eligible. This year, 89 individuals from 19 countries were awarded the MILCC Scholarship and 1 individual was awarded the JoAnne W. Scott Scholarship, a mother-to-mother support scholarship. Applications for scholarships towards the April 2016 exam open in mid-September - stay tuned for more info!

Certificant Spotlight

IBCLCs work around the globe in a variety of practice settings in lactation care. This feature of the eNewsletter and [IBLCE website](#) highlights 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!



Yohei Matsuzaki with colleagues at Keio University Hospital

Yohei Matsuzaki, MD, IBCLC

After graduating from Keio University, Yohei Matsuzaki joined the Division of Neonatology, Keio University Hospital in Japan, where he has been working in the NICU and counseling mothers for the past 10 years. While working with mothers, Yohei realized there were some questions about breastfeeding he couldn't fully answer. This, along with the great importance

of breast milk to the low birth weight infants he treated in the NICU, led Yohei to expand his knowledge about breastfeeding, and to pursue the IBCLC, the gold standard in lactation consultation.

Yohei realized his goal of becoming an IBCLC in 2014, when he became the first IBCLC at Keio University Hospital. Yohei credits the IBCLC with the opportunity to learn extensively about breastfeeding and how best to help mothers and infants, particularly those infants of very low birth weight. He finds that the IBCLC, together with his IBCLC colleagues, assist him in helping patients resolve difficult breastfeeding issues.

Yohei has found that breastfeeding rates in the hospital, although demonstrating room for additional growth, are gradually increasing. He is committed to helping families on their breastfeeding journeys and helping other professionals seeking the IBCLC.

IBLCE News & Notes

IBLCE, including the Board of Directors and staff, do much more than administer the International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) examination and are pleased to share information about the many initiatives in which IBLCE is involved.



Dr. Virginia Thorley, OAM, PhD, IBCLC, FILCA with Board Chair Dr. Tomoko Seo at the LCANZ Conference in March

IBLCE Board Chair **Dr. Tomoko Seo** attended the Lactation Consultants of Australia and New Zealand (LCANZ) "More than Milk" Breastfeeding Conference, held in Brisbane in March. Also in attendance was **Dr. Virginia Thorley**, OAM, PhD, IBCLC, FILCA, one of the first IBCLCs (pictured above). Dr. Thorley sat the very first IBLCE exam in 1985, and has remained certified as an IBCLC continuously since then! At the conference, Dr. Seo, on behalf of IBLCE, was proud to present her with a certificate in honour of this great achievement and her dedication to the IBCLC credential.

In March, the IBLCE Board of Directors held a meeting in Brisbane, during which they met with the **LCANZ Board**, as well as with ILCA President **Decalie Brown**, RN, IBCLC, to discuss promotion of the IBCLC across the globe.

Board Member **Dale Hansson** presented at the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative for Neonatal Wards (Neo-BFHI) conference held in Uppsala, Sweden May 19-20th, presented by the Nordic and Quebec working group and the Department of Women's and Children's Health, Uppsala University, and arranged in collaboration with the Swedish Paediatric Nurses Association. Dale presented a poster on the value of the IBCLC, authored by Dale and Board Member **Micaela Notarangelo**.

Rachel Walker, IBLCE Country Coordinator for New Zealand, exhibited at the New Zealand Lactation Consultants Association (NZLCA) May Conference in Auckland.

Pam Weber, CAE, IBLCE International Director of Certification, co-presented with **Debi Page Ferrarello**, MSN, MS, RN, IBCLC of the USLCA at a webinar for the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition in May. The one-hour webinar focused on an overview of the IBLCE eligibility pathways, the value of an IBCLC in various settings and the status of IBCLCs in Nebraska.

IBLCE Regional Director **Ilse Bichler** exhibited at the La Leche League Italia Conference in Tirenna in April. The conference was attended by over 350 participants from various parts of Italy and included midwives, paediatricians and IBCLCs. In attendance were IBLCE Board Member **Micaela Notarangelo** and **Ornella Fantini**, IBLCE's new Country Coordinator for Italy. During the conference, IBLCE met with the Milan University Program for Midwives, AICPAM Professional Association of IBCLCs for Italy and Professor Adriano Catteaneo, the Coordinator for the EU Blueprint for the Promotion of Breastfeeding in Europe.

IBLCE was proud to sign on to the coalition letter in support of the [Friendly Airports for Mothers \(FAM\) Act](#), introduced in the US House of Representatives by Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth and supported by the **United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC)**. The FAM act would require large and medium hub airports to provide private, non-bathroom lactation areas in each terminal for mothers to express milk. The Act further provides that areas have to be shielded from public view and free intrusion from the public.

Turn to IBLCE for Your Certification and Examination News!

There are a number of organisations which support the IBCLC, the gold standard in lactation consulting. IBLCE thanks all of these groups which are so important to this credential and to mothers and families!

In this information age, with a wealth of information available, sometimes information disseminated, with the best of intentions, may include some inaccurate information.

If you are looking for facts about the IBLCE certification or examination, please contact IBLCE or access our website, www.iblce.org. The IBLCE staff is here to assist you and is pleased to serve you. We have also streamlined the website, and are continuously updating it. Have questions? Please contact the Regional Office which serves you. Thank you for your dedication to the IBCLC!

New Summary of Health Science Education Requirements

To further assist initial candidates, IBLCE recently posted a summary page of the Health Science Requirements that provides a comprehensive overview and outlines the criteria to look for to determine if a course meets the requirements. [Check it out now!](#) An infographic, the IBLCE Health Sciences Visual Graph, also designed to assist candidates, is available [here](#).

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.

Micaela Notarangelo

Micaela holds a PhD in Economics from Hokkaido University, Sapporo, and joined the IBLCE Board in 2013. She serves on both the Finance and Marketing Committees.



Micaela Notarangelo with daughter Chiara in Japan in 2004

Her interest in breastfeeding began in 2002 shortly before the birth of her first child, when an American friend and mother of seven children introduced her to the classic Le Leche League book, "The Womanly Art of Breastfeeding," a book that strongly impacted her mothering experience and sparked her interest to learn more. In 2005 she became a Le Leche Leader and obtained her IBCLC certification in 2010.

In 2013 Micaela decided to make lactation consultation her

career and started a private practice in Lerici, La Spezia, Italy. Her private practice on the northwest coast of Italy is thriving, and she loves having the privilege of helping mothers and babies achieve their lactation goals.

Micaela lives with her husband and three children, and in her spare time loves reading English literature and snorkeling.

- The Board & Staff
of IBLCE!

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to international@iblce.org by international@iblce.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Rapid removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [About our service provider.](#)



IBLCE | 6402 Arlington Boulevard | Suite 350 | Falls Church | VA | 22042