Funding World Class Research on the Global Impact of the IBCLC!

In a commitment to funding world class research with high potential for impact in promoting and protecting breastfeeding in low-income and developing countries, the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE®) announced its inaugural call for expressions of interest in May of this year.

With IBLCE funding available of up to $150K per year for three years, or a total of $450K, and the possibility for additional research exploration, IBLCE sought contemporary research approaches that produce and expand knowledge in the areas of breastfeeding support and practices, with a focus on the impact and outcomes of the IBCLC®.

IBLCE was pleased to receive an abundance of excellent expressions of interest from researchers from all over the world! Final decisions will be announced no later than November 30th of this year. Stay tuned to the IBLCE website and social media platforms to learn more outcomes from the IBLCE funded research program!
IBLCE Makes Possible New Emerging Leaders in Lactation Scholarships

In the spirit of fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion among the community of IBCLC candidates and future leaders, the Monetary Investment for Lactation Consultant Certification (MILCC) recently announced the newly established Emerging Leaders in Lactation (ELL) Scholarship!

As a result of a generous donation from IBLCE, the leader in lactation consultant credentialing, MILCC will administer this new scholarship programme and select scholarship recipients on the basis of the criteria below.

IBCLC candidates are offered the opportunity to apply for financial assistance through the ELL Scholarship fund if they:

- Have completed at least one of the IBLCE exam eligibility requirements (health science courses, OR lactation education, OR practice hours) at the time of application.
- Have demonstrated leadership potential.
- Belong to a group historically underrepresented in the profession and its leadership.
- May otherwise be unable to pursue their IBCLC credential.

Qualified applicants are eligible for full or partial financial assistance with not only the cost of the IBCLC exam itself, but also the costs associated with meeting the requirements to sit for the exam, which could include lactation and breastfeeding mentorship and access to educational resources, as well as leadership training, including professional conference attendance.

Selected Emerging Leaders will receive up to $5,000 (USD) each in financial aid, as determined by the MILCC Board, for costs associated with IBCLC certification. The number of applicants supported each year depends on the funds available.

Candidates who are selected to receive this scholarship will be encouraged to serve as leaders and mentors for others striving to become IBCLCs, thereby increasing the expert breastfeeding and lactation care that IBCLCs provide to families and babies around the world!

The scholarship application is now open!

The IBLCE Website Gets a
B. Half of Canada's provinces are governed by women.

C. Canada is the 3rd largest country in the world.

D. Canada has the world's longest coastline.

**Answer:** A, B, D are correct. C is incorrect - Canada is the 2nd largest country in the world, only behind Russia in total area.

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**Have Colleagues Interested in the IBCLC?**

Do you have friends or colleagues who are interested in the IBCLC but who have not yet applied to sit for the examination?

Do you know someone at work who has thought about pursuing the IBCLC but who is not yet in the pipeline?

In an effort to facilitate greater outreach and communication, IBLCE is compiling an email list of those who would like to learn more about IBLCE and the IBCLC. Rather than people solely heading to the IBLCE website for information, news about IBLCE will come directly to their email inbox. As always, the eNewsletter will include information about news of interest as well as any program changes coming down the pike in the future. IBLCE hopes this will keep its stakeholders even more in the loop!

If you know someone who is interested in IBLCE or the IBCLC, please simply forward this eNewsletter to them and direct them to the "Join Our Mailing List" button immediately below.

[Join Our Mailing List]

Thank you for noting that this version should be forwarded only to those who would like to receive the IBLCE enewsletter in English. IBLCE does translate its eNewsletters into other languages and will be sending this information out in a variety of languages as well.

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**IBLCE Celebrates World Breastfeeding Week!**

IBLCE was proud to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week, coordinated by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) August 1 - 7, 2017!

This year's theme was "Sustaining Breastfeeding Together" and, as you well know, IBCLCs are an integral part of the team of community of health professionals, peer supporters, governments, and others who together ensure
Director, Promotions & Advancements for the Americas & Israel Saray Hill at the WABA booth just before World Breastfeeding Week.

IBLCE Advocacy Update

As a periodic feature, IBLCE will provide you with updates on advocacy efforts around the globe. In this edition, given the many recent changes in Washington, D.C., IBLCE focuses on its recent advocacy efforts in the U.S.

IBLCE continues its advocacy in support of breastfeeding families, women and the IBCLC in a variety of ways including high-profile policy work. Influencing policy often involves signing on to letters to decision makers or influencers in collaboration with other professional groups and nonprofits. IBLCE has been particularly busy in this regard in 2017. Just this year, IBLCE has signed on to many such letters including those from:

- NDD United to members of the U.S. Congress to protect nondefense discretionary (NDD) programmes from further cuts. The services provided through these programmes include vital ones such as medical and scientific research and public health. NDD United is a voluntary alliance of thousands of national, state, and local organisations joining forces to protect such critical programmes.
- Coalition for Health Funding, also to members of Congress, in support of a number of Federal Departments including most relevantly, Health and Human Services, urging increased funding for Fiscal Year 2018.
- The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) in support of Senator Patty Murray's bill "Save Women's Preventative Care Act." The bill guarantees coverage of certain women's support services inclusive of comprehensive lactation support services during the antenatal, perinatal and postpartum period.
- Family Values at Work, to U.S. Congressional leadership, in opposition to the proposed defunding of the Women's Bureau. The Bureau creates resources and programmes for women to know their workplace rights and connect with community leaders to improve the economic security of women and their families.
- The Trust for American Health, to Congressional leaders, opposing repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund by the American Health Care Act at the end of Fiscal Year 2018. States use these funds to keep communities healthy and safe by addressing public health imperatives at the local level.

These are but a few of the recent advocacy efforts by IBLCE on behalf of its valued certificants and breastfeeding families.
IBLCE also recently participated in USBC’s Breastfeeding Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The IBLCE team comprised of Executive Director Sara Blair Lake, Deputy Executive Director Pam Weber and staffers Hyunji DeVer and Sarah Stallard (pictured right) visited both Senate and Representative offices to discuss pending Congressional legislation pertaining to breastfeeding including the Friendly Airports for Mothers Act. This legislation provides for private lactation areas in the terminals of large and medium hub airports. Advocacy Day participants stressed with legislators and their staff that "Breastfeeding is Bipartisan."

IBLCE Promotes the IBCLC in Spain

The Chair of the IBLCE Board of Directors, Regina Roig-Romero, was honoured to be chosen as one of the plenary speakers at the IX Spanish Maternal Breast Feeding Convention in Zaragoza, Spain from March 23 - 25th. Regina presented "Llegó a La Casa....¿Y Ahora Qué? La Transición de un Bebé Prematuro al Pecho Después de su Hospitalización" or "He’s Home...Now what? The Transition of Premature Infants to the Breast After Discharge."

In keeping with the IBLCE tradition of holding some Board Meetings in different regions of the world in order to reach out to diverse groups of stakeholders, the IBLCE Board of Directors and Senior Staff joined the Chair in Zaragoza to hold their meeting. While In Spain, the Board and Staff were able to meet with IBCLCs from across Europe, including IBLCE Country Coordinators
News & Notes

IBLCE continues to promote the IBCLC credential through different venues, opportunities and interactions with key stakeholders in the health field to gain recognition of the credential and the work IBCLCs do for families and the community.

In February, Director, Promotion & Advancement for Asia-Pacific & Africa Karolyn Vaughan attended the Possums Conference "Moods, Breastfeeding, Sleep and Crying" in Brisbane, Australia. This multidisciplinary conference integrated issues of infant feeding, sleep and unsettled behaviours and the importance of having professionals like the IBCLC with an in-depth evidence-based knowledge and practice to support mothers. Also in February, Country Coordinator for New Zealand Rachel Walker attended the New Zealand Lactation Consultants Association Conference "Evidence and Teamwork." Over 100 IBCLCs and breastfeeding advocates attended the conference.

Country Coordinator for Australia Marj Duncan attended the Nepean Midwifery Conference in March to promote the IBCLC. Following the birth of an infant, core business for midwives is supporting mothers and their families with adapting to a new life with their infant.

Karolyn Vaughan exhibited at the Inaugural Macau Breastfeeding and Nurturing Promotion Conference. Also in attendance was the Country Coordinator for Macau, Virginia Tam. This conference provided a unique opportunity for health professionals of the Asia-Pacific region to network and focus on infant feeding practices.

In May, Saray Hill exhibited at the 62nd American College of Nurse Midwives (ACNM) Conference in Illinois, USA. Approximately 3,000 attended the conference, including current and prospective IBCLCs.
Board Director **Clifton Kenon** presented as an invited plenary speaker at the United States Lactation Consultant Association (USLCA) "New Horizons in Clinical Lactation" conference in Texas, USA in May. **Regina Roig-Romero** and **Saray Hill** also attended the conference.

Board Director **Shakira Henderson** served as Chair of the Convention Program Committee for the 2017 Association of Women's Health Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) Convention in Louisiana, USA, in June. **Clifton Kenon, Sara Blair Lake** and **Saray Hill** also attended/exhibited at the convention. There was great interest in the IBCLC credential from the 3,000 attendees.

Also in June, **Karolyn Vaughan** and **Marj Duncan** attended the Maternal Child and Family Health Nurses Association Conference in Melbourne, Australia. With over 1,000 delegates, this is one of the largest conferences in Australia that focuses on community-based health professionals, such as the IBCLC, who support families caring for their infant and young children.

**Regina Roig-Romero** and **Clifton Kenon**, along with **Sara Blair Lake, Pam Weber**, and **Saray Hill**, attended the International Lactation Consultant Association® (ILCA®) Conference in Toronto, Canada in July. IBLCE had the honour of hosting a reception for Canadian IBCLCs during the conference, attended by approximately 100 current and prospective IBCLCs.

The Seventh National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference of the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) was held in
Virginia, USA on August 4-6. The conference "brings together breastfeeding coalition leaders from every U.S. state and territory." **Clifton Kenon, Saray Hill, and IBLCE USBC Representative Becky Mannel** attended the conference on behalf of IBLCE and the IBCLC credential.

In honour of World Breastfeeding Week, IBLCE Board and Staff took part in events around the world. Board Director **Roberto Issler** was invited to speak at a number of events around Brazil, including one in Nova Petrópolis, and at another promoted by the Municipality Bureau of Health. On August 15th he will speak in Recife at the "Mother-Infant Institute of Pernambuco," which was the very first Baby-Friendly Hospital certified in Brazil.

In early August, **Karolyn Vaughan** attended the 5th Breastfeeding Congress in Manila, the Philippines, organised by the Philippine Paediatric Society and Manila Med Hospital. The Congress brought together over 900 doctors, nurses and allied health professionals from all over the Philippines, Indonesia and Singapore to focus on the importance of breastfeeding in the early years. The conference provided a great way for professionals who are committed to protecting and promoting breastfeeding to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week.

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**Coordinator Corner**

**IBLCE has a network of Country and Resource Coordinators around the globe to help you get the answers you need concerning IBCLC certification and recertification. 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 in your language shortly.**
Ding Ren, MD, PhD, IBCLC, came to IBLCE as the Resource Coordinator for China with an 18-year career as a doctor in clinical medicine in Mainland China and the U.S. She is a mother of two children and serves as a deputy chief physician in a public hospital in Mainland China.

Dr. Ren earned her joint doctorate in targeting therapy of breast disease from Shanghai Second Military Medical University and Cornell University in 2010. She started her postdoctoral study in the Methodist Hospital, Weill Medical College, Cornell University. During her study in the U.S., she met some outstanding IBCLCs and actively participated in public welfare activities of breastfeeding. After returning to Mainland China, she devoted herself to promoting breastfeeding. While breastfeeding her daughter, she continued to pursue her education in lactation, becoming an IBCLC in 2015.

In 2016, she set up the first IBCLC lactation consultation service centre in a public hospital in Mainland China. She actively participates in and organises domestic and international activities related to breastfeeding.

In her role as Resource Coordinator for China, Dr. Ren assists IBCLCs and candidates with questions regarding the IBCLC certification and examination. Though the IBCLC credential is still young in Mainland China, Dr. Ren believes that there will be many more IBCLCs there in the future. The efforts of these IBCLCs will continue to help families in Mainland China to initiate and maintain breastfeeding, and help provide emotional and educational support to enhance maternal satisfaction.

Certificant Spotlight

IBCLCs work around the globe in a variety of practice settings in lactation. This feature of the eNewsletter and IBLCE website highlight IBCLCs and the important work they perform for mothers, babies and families. Read about certificants around the world and why they value the IBCLC credential!

Carmela "Kika" Baeza is a medical doctor from Madrid, Spain, specialising in family medicine and sexual therapy. She also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health Education.

Dr. Baeza has been supporting breastfeeding dyads in a clinical setting since 2004, and became an IBCLC in 2005. She has also been a BFHI Evaluator since 2006. She works in a private Family Wellness Clinic, Raices, where she is in charge of the lactation programme. The program includes two IBCLCs, and offers extensive breastfeeding training for health care professionals, doulas and breastfeeding peer counsellors.

Dr. Baeza is President of the Spanish Lactation Consultant Association (Asociación Española de Consultoría Lactancia Materna).
The Mayor of Tainan City, Taiwan presents awards to IBCLCs for their contributions to breastfeeding promotion and support in Tainan County.

Dr. Baeza frequently lectures on breastfeeding topics both nationally and internationally. She has published breastfeeding articles in several popular mothering magazines in the last six years, and has made several appearances on public national television to talk about breastfeeding basics. She is also the author of "Amar con los Brazos Abiertos" (To Love with Open Arms), a parenting book.

Dr. Baeza and her husband Carlos have four children.

**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.

**Betty Hsiao's** breastfeeding journey began when, like her mother before her, she experienced breastfeeding issues after the birth of her first child. Betty was lucky to give birth in a Baby-Friendly Hospital where she had the chance to receive support from an IBCLC. As a new mother, what seemed like significant breastfeeding problems were quickly addressed with the help of this IBCLC, and further support from the Australian Breastfeeding Association. Today, Betty's mother is proud of Betty's career as an IBCLC helping families and babies with breastfeeding, providing support that she never had as a new mother.

Betty has found that one of the most wonderful things about a passion for breastfeeding is that no matter where you are, your love for breastfeeding continues. After the birth of her first child, Betty and her family moved back to her birth country of Taiwan, where she began looking for a support system like the one she had experienced in Australia. She soon found the Breastfeeding Association of Taiwan, and 12 years later, she finds that she continues to grow in every aspect as a volunteer with this association and in the field of breastfeeding.

In 2007, the first IBCLC exam was held in Taiwan and Betty became the first person with a non-medical background to become an IBCLC in Taiwan. Betty finds that the most rewarding aspect of becoming an IBCLC is that no matter the country she lives in, she is able to continue with this passion and work as an IBCLC in private practice. With the growing number of people in the Asia-Pacific region who desire to become IBCLCs, Betty’s work is now based in Australia, Taiwan and China.

*The Mayor of Tainan City, Taiwan presents awards to IBCLCs for their contributions to breastfeeding promotion and support in Tainan County.*

To be able to serve as an IBLCE Board Member is a great honour for Betty. She is proud to...
show how much an “ordinary breastfeeding mother” can achieve with the IBCLC credential.