



March 29, 2018

## ISRHML “Changing of the Guards”

Dear ISRHML members,

It is time for another “*Changing of the Guards*” as our leadership tenure ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>! This time, we are not only changing the President, but also the Secretary and the Treasurer.

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve ISRHML as your President-Elect and President over the past four years; it’s been a truly wonderful experience!

Organizing the international conference is one of the highlights serving as ISRHML President-Elect. Two years ago, at the beginning of March, we convened for our 18<sup>th</sup> conference in Stellenbosch, South Africa, and, it may sound odd, but I truly miss the many conference calls and planning meetings with **Dr. Evette van Niekerk**, **Dr. Lisanne du Plessis** and the local ConsultUS organizing team. Evette and Lisanne, you hosted a most memorable conference with top research being presented, and we all gained great appreciation for your stunningly beautiful country and its kind and wonderful people. – I personally miss this time the most and will try to come back to visit again soon.

Fostering the next generation of human milk and lactation researchers has been and continues to be one of my prime interests and passions, and I am most grateful that during my tenure we were able to develop the Trainee Interest Group (TIG) spearheaded by **Dr. Sara Moukarzel** and the Trainee Expansion Program (TEP) supported by **Janet Prince** and **Dr. Katharina Lichtner** at the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation (FLRF). The TIGers, now under **Dr. Janet Williams’** leadership, are the most active and vibrant part of ISRHML, and TEP has already generated immense momentum in identifying and supporting great new talent. - The future of human milk and lactation research is looking very bright!

One of ISRHML’s key objectives is to establish and maintain liaison with other organizations or groups that share mutual interests and aid other organizations in their educational efforts concerning topics of mutual interest. Over the last few months, we have begun to formalize liaisons with the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and the International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD). While the formal frameworks are now in place, it will be up to the members of each society, including you at ISRHML, to fill these partnerships with life, and I encourage you all to get involved!

With a lot of progress being made over the past four years, there remains to be a lot of room for improvement. The very first letter in ISRHML stands for ‘international’, and I strongly believe that we can do so much better in becoming a truly international society. While our membership

has almost doubled over the past four years, large areas of the world remain underrepresented. Africa, Asia as well as Central and South America have very strong teams working in human milk and lactation research and we, as an international society, need to do a better job engaging these teams and providing value and space for them to join ISRHML. I truly hope that future ISRHML leadership will continue to make this effort a top priority.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank our outgoing Secretary **Dr. Donna Geddes** and Treasurer **Dr. Shelley McGuire** for their outstanding service. Shelley had been the Secretary/Treasurer for almost a decade before we split the position into two, and Donna came on as Secretary three years ago while Shelley stayed on as Treasurer. During their terms, ISRHML has gone through major reorganizations and by-laws changes, and, today, our total membership count is at an all-time high and our financial foundation is stronger and more solid than ever before. Thank you both, Shelley and Donna, for the countless hours you dedicated to ISRHML!

A strong financial foundation has also allowed us to seek professional support and partner with Global Management Partners (GMP), a full-service association management company that provides a strong infrastructure, proven processes and systems and shared resources – particularly in the area of financial management. With GMP's dedicated team of association professionals, our incoming ISRHML leadership team will be able to fully focus on advancing our objectives for the society to thrive and grow.

As of April 1, **Dr. Sharon Donovan** will be serving as ISRHML President and **Dr. Berthold Koletzko** will become President-Elect. They will be supported by **Dr. Meghan Azad** as Secretary and **Dr. Nancy Hurst** as Treasurer. With such an amazing team, I am highly confident that ISRHML will be in very good hands moving forward.

I wish all of you, our members, continued fun and success with your research in human milk and lactation!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lars Bode', written in a cursive style.

Lars Bode, PhD  
ISRHML President