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APHA and ISRHML collaborate to enhance breastfeeding to improve health

Washington, D.C. / San Diego, CA, March 19, 2018 – The American Public Health Association (APHA) and the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML) have established a partnership to foster the advancement, translation, and implementation of evidenced-based research and policy for human milk and lactation. Leaders from both organizations believe that this partnership will foster quicker translation of research from the bench to the community as it capitalizes on the broad depth of expertise, ranging from basic bench science to community intervention that is prevalent among both memberships.

"We are very excited for this new collaboration that will help advance breastfeeding as a key intervention for improving maternal and child health," said Dr. Briana Jegier, chair of the APHA Breastfeeding Forum. "This partnership continues APHA's long-standing efforts to connect experts from diverse areas so that we can build the healthiest nation in a generation."

Dr. Lars Bode, president of ISRHML, said, "One of ISRHML's prime objectives is to establish liaisons with organizations that share mutual interest and aid them in their educational efforts guided by independent, evidence-based knowledge."

As a part of the partnership, the organizations will collaboratively develop webinars that will educate members of both organizations as well as conduct live scientific sessions at their respective meetings. The first webinar is planned for the end of 2018.

Dr. Rafael Pérez-Escamilla, professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the Yale School of Public Health and past president of ISRHML says, "The newly formed APHA-ISRHML partnership is a most exciting development given the strong impact that breastfeeding has on women's and children's health globally. As far as I know, this is the first time that a major association doing world-class public health research and advocacy and a top-notch society that specializes in biological, clinical and epidemiological research join forces this way to advance the field of human lactation."

Members of both organizations will also be informed about opportunities for collaborative research, funding, and other partnerships through the sharing of organizational communications.

Dr. Ann Dozier, professor and chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Rochester and past chair of the APHA Maternal Child Health Section, said "Translational research is central to improving breastfeeding outcomes and infant and maternal child health. While ISRHML represents the entire translational research continuum, APHA and its Breastfeeding Forum add strength to the implementation and dissemination of evidence-based practices developed through members of ISRHML."

Perhaps the best feature of this partnership is the training opportunities and mentorship from senior researchers and policymakers that will be available to student members of both organizations.

Dr. Janet Williams, president of the ISRHML Trainee Interest Group, said, “I am excited that this partnership will allow ISRHML trainees the opportunity to learn more about APHA and provide more access to activities sponsored by APHA.”

For more information about this partnership or to propose an opportunity for collaboration, contact Dr. Briana Jegier, chair of the APHA Breastfeeding Forum, at jegierb@dyc.edu

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APHA champions the health of all people and all communities. We strengthen the public health profession. We speak out for public health issues and policies backed by science. We are the only organization influence federal policy, has a nearly 150-year perspective and brings together members from all fields of public health. Visit us at www.apha.org.

The International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of excellence in research and the dissemination of research findings in the field of human milk and lactation. Visit us at www.isrhml.com