

We are pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the International DOHaD Society and the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML).

Both societies have congruent scientific goals and each strive to educate scientists, policy makers and key global organizations with regard to evidence that may impact public health. The DOHaD Society was established to “Promote research into the fetal and developmental origins of disease and involves scientists from many disciplines,” and the primary objective of ISRHML is to “Promote excellence in research on all aspects of human lactation including the composition of human milk and the effects of human milk/breastfeeding upon the infant or the mother.”

“Breastfeeding and exposure to human milk during infancy impact health and disease development later on in life”, says ISRHML President Lars Bode at the University of California, San Diego, and adds that “bringing together scientists from the DOHaD Society and ISRHML will further boost our efforts to better understand the underlying mechanisms and long-term consequences.”

The MOU establishes the terms and understanding between the ISRHML and DOHaD Societies to facilitate collaborative activities that are mutually beneficial for both societies. In particular, as outlined under the MOU:

- ISRHML and DOHaD will seek to run joint workshops biannually.
- As collaborating societies, organisers of ISRHML and International DOHaD Society meetings will be encouraged to give discounted registration rates for the members of each other’s Society, where appropriate.
- Members of both societies will be encouraged to apply for any awards. Applicants must meet the requirements as set out by the society offering the award, including membership if stipulated.
- Every effort will be made to expose trainees of both societies to opportunities provided by either society.

As an example, ISRHML hosted an industry-sponsored symposium during the DOHaD conference in Rotterdam in 2017, which is just the beginning of what both societies envision to be a fruitful long-lasting partnership.

We are enthusiastic that this partnership will strengthen and advance the interests and activities of each Society, and continue to promote excellence in our shared research, education, and marketing strategies.

The International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) unites basic and clinical scientists, public health and policy experts from across the globe to collaboratively promote research into the fetal and developmental origins of disease. Visit us at <https://dohadsoc.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

Sincerely,

Lars Bode, PhD
President, International Society for Human Milk and Lactation

Lucilla Poston, PhD
President, *International Society for Developmental Origins of Health and Disease*