

**Kellogg Foundation Supports 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Summit on Breastfeeding**  
***First Food: The Essential Role of Breastfeeding***

With support from the Kellogg Foundation, the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Summit on Breastfeeding will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Surgeon General's Workshop on Breastfeeding and Human Lactation*, a milestone event led by C. Everett Koop, MD in 1984. Ruth A. Lawrence, MD, who chaired the event on these same days 25 years ago, will chair the 2009 Summit and Cynthia R. Howard, MD will be co-chair. As an important benchmark, several participants from the original *Workshop* will be included among the invited speakers and guests.

The goal of the Summit is to bring high-level visibility in order to generate policy recommendations for a national breastfeeding agenda under the new administration's health priorities. A major focus will be to address the continuing health disparities in this field. Timely and judicious policy recommendations will be generated from plenary sessions and workgroups led by key thought leaders in health and public policy.

This year's Summit, *First Food: The Essential Role of Breastfeeding*, will be held on June 11-12 in Washington, DC at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The goal of the meeting as defined by the grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation is to bring key individuals together to document progress to date in breastfeeding rates, and identify what must be done to increase breastfeeding initiation, duration, and exclusivity, especially among underserved populations.

Approximately 75-100 participants will attend this invitation-only conference, representing government, academia, professional associations, nonprofit agencies, and other key stakeholders across a broad range of professions and disciplines focusing on those individuals who most need to hear information about breastfeeding disparities and who in turn can assess and influence breastfeeding policy.

The program will include a special keynote by the Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Senator from New York, and the only member of the U.S. Senate who is actually breastfeeding! She is also a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, with oversight for WIC.

The Summit will be presented by *Breastfeeding Medicine* which, as the *Academy's* official journal, is the appropriate vehicle to publish and disseminate the Summit proceedings and policy recommendations each year. This year's proceedings will be published as a special issue of the journal and will be available in print and online in the fall. In addition, Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Howard will present the Summit discussion and recommendations at a luncheon at 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Williamsburg, VA (November 5-8, 2009).

# REPORT OF THE SURGEON GENERAL'S WORKSHOP ON BREASTFEEDING & HUMAN LACTATION



Presented by the  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Service  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
Bureau of Health Care Delivery and Assistance  
Division of Maternal and Child Health

In cooperation with  
The University of Rochester Medical Center

June 11th and 12th, 1984

The Surgeon General's Workshop on Breastfeeding and Human Lactation represents a milestone in our continuing efforts to improve the health of our nation's mothers and infants. Research findings have documented the benefits of human milk and lactation for babies and mothers. One of the "Health Promotion/Disease Prevention Objectives for the Nation" is that by the year 1990, the proportion of women who breast-feed their babies should be increased to 75% at hospital discharge and 35% at 6 months of age.

The last decade has seen a steady increase in breastfeeding, predominantly among middle- and upper-income, educated, white women. We need to identify and reduce the barriers that interfere with breastfeeding, especially in those population groups with low prevalence of breastfeeding—among women who are minority, low income, and less educated. The Workshop has provided an opportunity

- to review progress of past efforts, in both public and private sectors, to promote breastfeeding;
- to assess the state of the art related to factors that enhance and those that inhibit breastfeeding and human lactation;
- to determine remaining challenges;
- to develop strategies and recommendations in order to facilitate progress toward achieving the 1990 Objective.

Building on the model of the Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies Coalition, this Workshop involved the participation of representatives of major professional and voluntary organizations. These organizations working in the public and private sectors will play a major role in the dissemination and implementation of the national recommendations.

The strategies developed at this Workshop will result in promotion of sound infant feeding practices and in informed decisions by more women about breastfeeding their babies.

C. Everett Koop, M.D., Sc.D.  
Surgeon General