



## Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine

### For immediate release

Contact: Karla Shepard Rubinger, Executive Director, Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, (914) 740-2100, ext. 2153, [abm@bfmed.org](mailto:abm@bfmed.org)

## 1st Summit on Breastfeeding Attracts Health Policy Officials to Hear Experts, and Leaders from Foundations, Nonprofits and Business

*New Rochelle, NY, May 29, 2009*— The Honorable Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand and other leaders in health care and health policy will meet in Washington, D.C. on June 11-12 for the 1st Annual Summit on Breastfeeding, “First Food: The Essential Role of Breastfeeding,” to develop recommendations for a national breastfeeding agenda under the new administration’s health reform plan. Senator Gillibrand (D-NY), member of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee which oversees the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), will deliver a keynote address to nearly one hundred invited stakeholders across a broad range of professions, disciplines, and institutions. The Acting Surgeon General, Rear Admiral Steven K. Galson, MD, MPH, as America’s foremost health educator, will also be a key speaker. Federal agencies, including CDC, FDA, Health and Human Services, Office on Women’s Health, MCHB, and the WIC Program, will be represented as will major universities and medical centers, nonprofit agencies, professional associations, foundations, businesses, and grass roots organizations.

With funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, this gathering of eminent researchers, clinicians, corporate decision makers, and policymakers will address breastfeeding disparities and the cultural, social, and workplace barriers to promoting breastfeeding as a cost-effective, easily accessible, low-tech solution to disease prevention for mothers and their children.

The Summit marks the 25th anniversary of the Surgeon General's Workshop on Breastfeeding and Human Lactation, hosted in June 1984 by then Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD. Ruth A. Lawrence, MD, who chaired the event on these same days 25 years ago, will chair the 2009 Summit. Dr. Lawrence is currently Editor-in-Chief of ***Breastfeeding Medicine*** and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine. Cynthia R. Howard, MD, MPH, who is currently Senior Associate Editor of ***Breastfeeding Medicine*** and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at University of Rochester School of Medicine, will serve as co-chair. As an important benchmark, several participants from the original Workshop will be present. The meeting will open with remarks by Dr. Koop which will be available on the website of the **Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine** ([www.bfmed.org](http://www.bfmed.org)).

Attendance at the Summit, held at the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington, D.C., is by invitation only. Key members of the press will be invited but because of

space limitations, press will be included on a first-come first-served basis.

The **Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine** is a global organization of physicians dedicated to the promotion, protection, and support of breastfeeding through education, research, and advocacy. It promotes the development and dissemination of clinical practice guidelines and the most current research on breastfeeding. The **Academy** has prepared clinical protocols for the care of breastfeeding mothers and infants that are available on the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) National Guideline Clearinghouse website. Protocols have also been translated into Chinese, German, Japanese, Korean, and Spanish, and are published in the **Academy's** official journal, ***Breastfeeding Medicine***.

***Breastfeeding Medicine*** is an authoritative, peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal published quarterly. The Journal publishes original scientific articles, reviews, and case studies on a broad spectrum of topics in lactation medicine. It presents evidence-based research advances and explores the immediate and long-term outcomes of breastfeeding, including the epidemiologic, physiologic, and psychological benefits of breastfeeding.

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The *Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine*, 140 Huguenot St., New Rochelle, NY 10801-5215  
(800) 990.4ABM (914) 740.2115 Fax: (914) 740.2101  
[abm@bfmed.org](mailto:abm@bfmed.org) [www.bfmed.org](http://www.bfmed.org)

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