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Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine



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2nd Annual Summit on Breastfeeding, June 16-17, 2010: U.S. Surgeon General Joins Key Health and Policy Leaders To Assess Progress in Establishing a National Breastfeeding Agenda

New Rochelle, NY, May 13, 2010—Key leaders in health and public policy representing government, academia, industry, and grassroots programs will convene for the 2nd Annual Summit on Breastfeeding, "First Food: The Essential Role of Breastfeeding" in Washington, DC on June 16-17, 2010. The Summit will address the unmet health needs of underserved mothers and their vulnerable children associated with low rates of breastfeeding, and work proactively toward reducing barriers to breastfeeding.

The new U.S. Surgeon General, Regina Benjamin, MD, will be a keynote speaker, bringing her clinical expertise and leadership role to this important issue.

Last year's 1st Annual Summit on Breastfeeding, which marked the 25th anniversary of the landmark Workshop on Breastfeeding and Human Lactation initially hosted in June 1984 by then Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD, has had a significant impact on health policy and reform. But clearly, much remains to be accomplished to improve breastfeeding rates effectively, remove barriers to breastfeeding, and eliminate health disparities. This year's Summit will serve as a benchmark to assess annual progress in breastfeeding policy and practice.

"There is no debate...about whether or not breastfeeding has important health outcomes," says David Meyers, MD, Director of the Center for Primary Care, Prevention, and Clinical Partnerships, Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, a featured presenter at last year's inaugural Summit. Breastfeeding represents a cost-effective, easily accessible, low-tech solution to reducing infant mortality rates (the U.S. ranks 29th in the world), decreasing morbidity, and improving both immediate and long-term health issues for mothers and their young children. And, with national attention focused on childhood obesity, we can no longer ignore the fundamental role of breastfeeding in reducing the risk of obesity as well as other chronic diseases and conditions.

Ruth Lawrence, MD, Editor-in-Chief of *Breastfeeding Medicine* and Professor of Pediatrics, University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry and Cynthia Howard, MD, MPH, Senior Associate Editor of *Breastfeeding Medicine* and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry will again co-chair the Summit. Dr. Lawrence also chaired the 1984 Workshop. Attendance at the Summit is by invitation only; however, a limited number of press passes have been reserved.

The Summit is being presented by the **Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine** and its official peer-reviewed journal, ***Breastfeeding Medicine***, published by Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., and is being supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for the second year. The proceedings and recommendations emanating from the Summit will be published in ***Breastfeeding Medicine*** this fall. Proceedings of the 1st Summit are available on our [website](#).

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. 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.

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

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