Candidate for Director

Mariana Colmenares Castaño MD FABM IBCLC



Current Position: Clinical Director, Breastfeeding Clinic and Specialty Doctor in Community Pediatrics

Institution/Employer: NHS England

Location: London, United Kingdom

Primary Specialty: Breastfeeding Medicine and Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics

Education

- 2025 – Diploma, Neurodevelopment: Early Detection and Interventions in Neurodevelopment, Universidad Anáhuac Querétaro, Querétaro, Mexico
- 2008 – Paediatric Specialist, Instituto Nacional de Pediatría, Mexico City, Mexico
- 2003 – MD, Medicine, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico City, Mexico

ABM Involvement

- Board of Directors: Secretary, 2022–2026
- Board of Directors: Director, 2019–2022
- WEPNTK Task Force: Member, 2026
- Leadership Academy: Participant, Inaugural Cohort

Other Breastfeeding Medicine Leadership

- European Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine: Educational Committee Member, 2025–Present
- La Leche League International: Medical Advisory Team Member, 2026–Present
- Breastfeeding Counselling Course, COA Nutrición and ACCLAM: Director, 2017–Present
- LILAC Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine Fellowship, University of Rochester: Mentor, 2024–Present
- Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative Committee: ABM Representative, 2026

Current Volunteer Commitments

- Global Breastfeeding Collective: Collective Committee Member, 2025–2027

Candidate Statement

I joined ABM in 2012 and quickly found my tribe. One of the most rewarding aspects of my time in ABM has been connecting with colleagues who share the same passion and commitment to supporting mothers, babies, and families. The relationships, learning opportunities, and sense of community have had a profound impact on both my personal and professional journey.

Being elected to the Board for the first time in 2019 was especially meaningful to me. As an international member, it represented ABM's commitment to inclusion and diverse perspectives. Since then, I have had the privilege of growing as a leader, including participating in the inaugural Leadership Academy. Through my Board service, I have gained valuable experience in governance, strategic planning, and decision-making, while witnessing the organization's growth and evolution.

I am seeking re-election because I believe I still have meaningful contributions to make. My clinical, academic, and leadership experience, combined with my work across two countries, provides me with a broad perspective that can help inform thoughtful and inclusive decisions. I value collaboration, listening, and building connections, and I remain deeply committed to ABM's mission and future.

It would be an honor to continue serving the Board, contributing my experience and enthusiasm while working alongside colleagues to support the continued success and growth of our organization.