Candidate for Director

Melody Jackson MBBS FRACGP FABM IBCLC MPH DCH DCBT BSc(Nurs) GC Onc/Haem GCB GC in Traumatic Stress Studies



Current Position: Principal and Founding Doctor

Institution/Employer: Breastfeeding & Beyond

Location: Bella Vista, New South Wales, Australia

Primary Specialty: General Practice and Breastfeeding Medicine

Education

- 2023 – Postgraduate Certificate, Traumatic Stress Studies, PESI Healthcare Education
- 2020 – Fellowship, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners
- 2014 – MPH, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia
- 2014 – MBBS, University of Notre Dame Australia, Sydney, Australia
- 2007 – BSc(Nurs), University of Southern Queensland, Queensland, Australia

ABM Involvement

- Board of Directors: Director, 2023–Present
- Newsletter Committee: Member, 2023–Present
- Nominations Committee: Member, 2024–2026
- Governance Committee: Member, 2025–Present
- Conference Taskforce Committee: Member, 2024–2025
- 2027 ABM/EABM Conference Scientific Committee: Member
- Leadership Academy: Participant, 2025–2026

Other Breastfeeding Medicine Leadership

- Breastfeeding Medicine Network Australia and New Zealand: Board Member, 2024–Present
- Breastfeeding Medicine Network Australia and New Zealand Advocacy Committee: Chair, 2025–Present
- Breastfeeding Medicine Network Australia and New Zealand Education Committee: Member, 2022–Present
- Breastfeeding & Beyond: Principal and Founding Doctor, 2020–Present

- University of Technology Sydney: PhD Project, 1st year – “Infant Feeding as an Embodied Expression of Childhood Trauma: A National Study of Australian Parents”

Candidate Statement

Serving on the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Board of Directors has been both a privilege and a deeply meaningful opportunity to contribute to an organisation whose mission closely aligns with my clinical, academic and advocacy work. I am seeking a second term because I believe I can build on the knowledge, relationships and governance experience that I have developed during my first term and continue to make a thoughtful and practical contribution to ABM’s future.

My first term has strengthened my understanding of the responsibilities of nonprofit governance and the importance of careful stewardship, transparency and strategic decision-making. Through my work on the Board and Governance Committee, I have valued the opportunity to contribute to discussions about how ABM can remain clinically authoritative, internationally relevant and responsive to the changing needs of its members and the communities they serve, whilst also meeting the financial demands of running an organisation of this size. A second term would allow me to provide continuity while taking on greater responsibility within the organisation.

As a breastfeeding medicine doctor working in Australia, I bring the perspective of a clinician practising at the intersection of lactation, primary care, perinatal mental health and complex maternal–infant health. I am particularly committed to strengthening trauma-informed and relational approaches to breastfeeding care, improving education for health professionals, and supporting the development of breastfeeding medicine as a recognised and sustainable field of clinical practice.

I feel particularly passionate about continuing to support ABM’s international reach. The challenges facing families and clinicians differ across health systems, cultures and countries, and ABM is uniquely positioned to bring people together around rigorous evidence whilst remaining attentive to local context. I hope to help strengthen connections with clinicians and professional organisations outside North America, broaden participation in ABM activities, and ensure that diverse international perspectives are represented in its education, advocacy and strategic planning.

If appointed for a second term, I would bring continuity, curiosity and a willingness to undertake the less visible work that effective governance requires. I would continue to listen carefully, collaborate respectfully and contribute constructively, including when decisions are complex. Most importantly, I would remain focused on ABM’s responsibility to advance evidence-based, compassionate and equitable breastfeeding medicine and to support the clinicians who carry this work forward.