



Mothers' Milk Bank of New England

Sharing the Health

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From the Director

Since our last newsletter, there has been a flurry of activity at MMBNE. We hosted a very successful HMBANA conference, April 12-13. Over two hundred milk bank and health care professionals spent two days learning about research and clinical practice in human milk banking, networking and celebrating together one hundred years of milk banking in North America.

Our milk-processing lab is complete and on May 16 we held a gala opening celebration during which we presented the MMBNE Share the Health Award to Georgia Morrow, director of the Mothers' Milk Bank of Ohio. Georgia has been a wonderful mentor and advisor, always available to answer questions, often ones we haven't even thought to ask yet. Thank you, Georgia!

The MMBNE staff is working hard this summer to complete our donor-screening procedures and test our lab equipment and protocols to ensure that the milk we process and dispense is safe for the babies who will receive it.

We have received three very special gifts for the milk bank. Larry Malsky has donated the birth and breastfeeding library of his beloved wife, Laura Schaefer, in her memory. Artist Christina Stahr has donated the block print, "Map" from her collection Lactogenesis to the milk bank. Lactogenesis is "an ongoing series of delicate paper collages that map the lactating breast." All the images in the series can be seen at the artist's website: www.christinastahr.com. To see "Map" up close, come visit our office. Furthermore, we have also received a very generous donation of \$10,000 for equipment from the Landry Lewis Albertson Memorial Fund.

Enjoy reading about the exciting and important things going on at MMBNE. All of you who have supported us along the way and continue to do so can be proud of the work we are doing together.

Naomi Bar-Yam, Ph.D.
Executive Director
MMBNE

MMBNE Gala Opening Celebration

On a beautiful Sunday in early May MMBNE celebrated our Grand Opening at a party for friends and supporters. Partygoers enjoyed refreshments and "got to see the place all fixed up!" Executive Director Naomi Bar-Yam, young family members, and Dr. David Newburg, MMBNE board member, inaugurated the lab with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Andrea Jorgensen Suh, our Outreach Director, and Kelli Purchase, our Laboratory Director, conducted tours of the fully-equipped milk processing lab and gave interviews to an attending lactation blogger.

The highlight of the party was the presentation of the second annual MMBNE Share the Health Award to Georgia Morrow, director of the Mother's Milk Bank of Ohio. Our sister milk bank in Columbus has been providing milk for our recipients since our opening, and will continue to do so until the point in the near future when we will be able to accept and process donor milk in our own lab. Georgia spoke movingly about her personal experience with milk banking and what it has meant to her to be so instrumental to MMBNE getting off the ground.

It was very gratifying for everyone involved with the labor of love that is MMBNE to gather on this occasion to reflect with wonder on how far we have come and to look forward with enthusiasm to the vital and inspirational work that lies ahead.

Milk Money Fund

MMBNE is receiving an increasing number of prescriptions for milk and we are committed to making milk available to all babies with medical need, regardless of the parents' ability to pay. To that end, we work with families and hospitals to secure insurance coverage and we have established the Milk Money Fund. This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000 for this fund, allowing us to provide 2,000 - 5,000 ounces of milk free or on sliding scale to babies in need.

Painless Fundraising

You can help the milk bank in other ways, at no cost to you. Please see www.milkbankne.org/support.shtml for more details.



MMBNE Hosts HMBANA Conference 2010

MMBNE hosted the third international conference of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America in Boston, April 12-13: *100 Years of Milk Banking: Looking Back and Reaching Forward*. The conference celebrated the centennial of donor milk banking which began in Boston in 1910 and 25 years of HMBANA, established in 1985.

Planners and attendees alike agreed that it was a wonderful success and well exceeded expectations. The conference, an inspiring and joyous blend of research, clinical practice, networking and celebration, was attended over two hundred physicians, nurses, researchers, lactation consultants, midwives, dieticians and administrators. Over fifty New Englanders representing over a dozen hospitals as well as other practices and organizations were able to share the excitement of their colleagues from all over North America, as well as Europe and Asia.

The conference featured internationally-renowned researchers in various fields of medicine and science who presented their work on subjects ranging from the history of donor milk; to viruses and disease transmission in human milk, to calcium and phosphorus supplementation and bioavailability, and many other fascinating topics. Clinical sessions addressed practical and strategic issues related to real-life is-

Two MMBNE Board Members Honored in New Hampshire

Congratulations to two members of the executive board of MMBNE: Jane Crotteau and Kathleen Marinelli. They were honored at the New Hampshire Breastfeeding Coalition's 21st Annual Conference in Lebanon, NH on May 17, 2010. Jane Crotteau, RNC, IBCLC, was recognized for her life's work in the field of lactation, her commitment to the New Hampshire task force and her efforts to get MMBNE up and running. Kathleen Marinelli, MD, IBCLC, FABM, was also recognized for her lifetime commitment to lactation support, promotion and protection, especially noting her most recent work in educating and promoting pasteurized donor milk and her role as the medical director of MMBNE.

MMBNE in ABM's News and Views

The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine published a quarterly newsletter, *News and Views*, in its early years, and retired it in 2006 with the introduction of its peer-reviewed journal, *Breastfeeding Medicine*. Due to popular demand, *News and Views* was reborn in April and the debut edition included an article on donor milk banking submitted by Kathleen Marinelli. The article featured a brief history of milk banking and MMBNE, and an announcement of the HMBANA conference in Boston.

Newsletter

This newsletter was edited by Tsila Sloane with assistance from Naomi Bar-Yam and Heather Greene. Please direct questions to newsletter@milk-bankne.org.

sues involving donor milk and its attainment and uses.

The gala dinner on Monday evening featured Kevin West, who presented his short film *Mother's Milk* about a bereaved mother who found much comfort in donating her milk. He also discussed the feature-length documentary on donor milk and milk banking that is currently being filmed.

The conference included a dozen posters showcasing new research from milk banks and labs around the world. Several posters presented reflected the fact that six hospitals in New England have recently implemented or are in the process of establishing protocols to use donor milk as standard of care in their NICUs and nurseries.

Thank you to the many people involved in all stages of planning and executing this conference. It was an important opportunity to learn from internationally-recognized experts in the field and from clinicians throughout the world who are using these best practices. MMBNE looks forward to HMBANA 2012, wherever it might be held.

Baby Clive

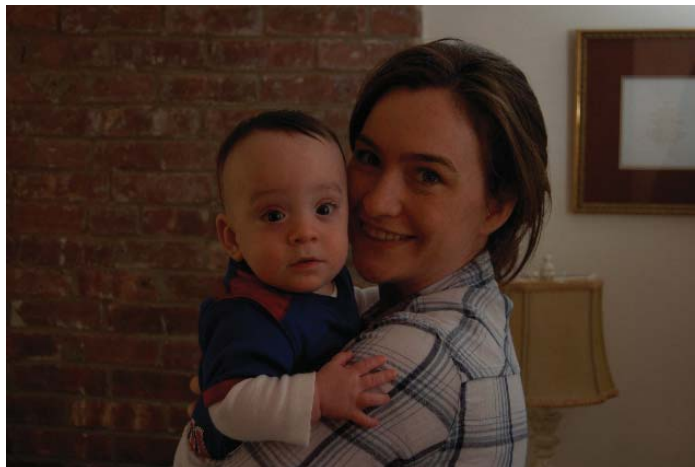
In August 2009, Erin Bazadona and her husband Damian were on vacation on Cape Cod, 23 weeks into a healthy pregnancy with their first baby, when her water broke. She was taken to Tufts Medical Center where the staff decided against doing an emergency Cesarean delivery. Instead, Baby Clive managed to wait seven precious days in his "porcelain egg" (Erin) before he was born, vaginally, weighing 1 lb. 8 oz. After she was discharged from the hospital, Erin and Damian visited Clive every day in the NICU from their temporary residence at a nearby hotel. The nurses and Lisa Engers, the lactation consultant at Tufts, encouraged her to start pumping her breast milk immediately following Clive's birth, stressing how important human milk is to a premature baby's survival and growth. Erin was only able to collect tiny amounts of her colostrum at first, which Clive received through his feeding tube. Though her supply remained very low despite a dedicated pumping schedule (for five months!), she was able to provide enough for Clive's needs for about the first 25 days of his life.

One day as Erin sat pumping in the hospital, she noticed the MMBNE newsletter tacked up on the wall and she read the article about premature Baby Violet (May 2009 newsletter) who was a donor milk recipient. She immediately asked Clive's care team about donor milk, but was initially dissuaded by the staff because of the cost. She asked Clive's doctor, "If money wasn't an issue, would you recommend donor milk for Clive?" When he answered, "Absolutely!" her mind was made up. Erin was put in touch with Naomi, and Clive had his first batch of donor milk shipped to the hospital.

Clive did very well on his diet of fortified donor milk and two months after his birth his condition was judged stable enough for him to be transferred to the Hackensack University Medical Center so that the family could move back home to New Jersey. There, Erin felt like a real celebrity, known even before Clive's arrival as "the mother with the donor milk." The nurses and other staff had rarely if ever encountered this situation before, and Erin found herself challenged by various organizational and attitudinal obstacles as she blazed a trail for all future donor milk recipient families. For instance, there were no protocols in place for storing the milk Clive was receiving from MMBNE, even after Erin began having it shipped to her house and only brought over to the hospital small amounts at a time. She continued to calmly and competently educate the hospital staff and other patients about the availability and benefits of donor milk throughout Clive's month-long stay.

Erin and Damian found it difficult to wean themselves from the precious breast milk shipments that Clive continued to receive from MMBNE. He was finally discharged from the hospital in November, a tiny, but healthy breast milk-fed baby! His parents eventually decided to continue feeding him donor milk until he was six months old.

Erin is confident that donor milk was the perfect food for Clive, the perfect solution for their situation, and that the expense was well worth it. She is so grateful that he was born here in Boston where there was an awareness and appreciation of donor milk and its availability. She is still amazed at the serendipity that led her to discover MMBNE and she fervently thanks all those involved in getting donor milk to Clive so reliably.



Welcome Outreach Director Andrea Jorgensen Suh

We are proud and excited to welcome our new Outreach Director, Andrea Jorgensen Suh, IBCLC, to the Mother's Milk Bank of New England. Andrea has a unique interdisciplinary educational and experiential background including (among other things): a BA in Anthropology with her senior thesis focused on the relationship between women and food in American culture, an intensive program at New England Culinary Institute, extensive experience as a chef at a local acclaimed restaurant, and selling sustainably-harvested seafood to chefs across the country when she worked at a "funky little start up called EcoFish."

It was while she was employed by EcoFish that she became pregnant with her first child. Unfortunately, her baby's serious medical condition at birth caused their nursing relationship to get off to a very rocky start "It was through the experience of having so many things go wrong with breastfeeding that I learned about it and came to have such a respect for it and the properties of mothers' milk." says Andrea. After becoming an accredited leader with La Leche League, she was offered a job at Lactation Care, Inc. in Newton. From there she continued to acquire clinical counseling hours as a CLC and LLL Leader. She sat for the IBCLC exam in July of 2009 and received her accreditation in October 2009. "It was Raechel Hackney, IBCLC, who suggested I consider the Outreach Director position at MMBNE. It has turned out to be the perfect job! My rather bizarre skill set that combines safe food handling, perishables shipping, knowledge of lactation and a can-do attitude seems a perfect match for a start-up milk bank."

As Outreach Director, Andrea handles inquiries that come in to the milk bank and refers potential donors to our sister HMBANA milk banks. Once we're online to process milk in our own lab, she'll be spending more time screening potential donor mothers. In the meantime, she helps coordinate our weekly shipments of from Ohio, receives the milk, and helps LCs at various hospitals in New England and beyond get milk to their respective institutions.

"I'm looking forward to getting more milk to more babies and more hospitals in New England. Local, sustainable "cuisine" has been my thing for a long time now. Instead of serving adults chichi entrees and appetizers, I'm serving the infants of New England with the best nature has to offer. My journey to the milk bank has been circuitous for sure, but it feels like I'm home now."

Welcome to Laboratory Director Kelli Purchase

MMBNE gratefully welcomes Kelli Purchase as our new Laboratory Director. Kelli sums up her new position with satisfaction, "I'm bridging the gap between two of my favorite things -- the lab world and breast milk." Kelli received her BS in Medical Technology from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia as part of a "4+1 program". She spent four years as a Biochemistry major at the University of Scranton, PA before moving to Philadelphia for a year of internships, after which she successfully passed board exams administered by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists. Kelli has experience working in many laboratories including: a transplant stat lab, Children's Hospital, vector-borne specialty labs (she can identify more species of ticks than she'd like to admit), and hematology/oncology office labs. She really enjoyed the hematology/oncology field the most, "It can be difficult at times, but I've met some amazing survivors -- the babies that the Milk Bank serves will be the newest survivors I intend to meet!"

Kelli is also a mother of two small children. She became involved in La Leche League early on, and she has fallen in love with the science behind breast milk. She is fascinated by the immunologic properties of breast milk. "Clearly it is meant to be what babies should be drinking!"

Currently Kelli is tackling the challenge of finding the best facilities and procedures for having our breast

milk donors' blood tested. She is helping to put in place the screening materials needed for donors to ensure the safety of the babies receiving their milk and ensuring that all of our manuals and lab equipment are in working order. "This bridge has been a long one, but I am starting to see the other side."

The "Tour de New England"

Kathleen Marinelli, Medical Director of MMBNE, has had a busy spring spreading the word about donor milk throughout New England, as the Milk Bank gears up to start processing milk for the first time.

In March, she spoke to a group of community health care providers involved in NICU baby-care after discharge at a nutrition conference in Hartford. A week later she was in New York City speaking at a conference for registered dietitians.

In mid-May Concord Hospital in New Hampshire, the first New England hospital to institute donor milk as standard of care, invited her to discuss just that: "Donor Human Milk in 2010: Is There Evidence for Standard of Care?" Then it was on to the Maine Lactation Consultant Association Annual Conference, to talk about donor milk banking in a specific context: "Understanding Perinatal Loss and Grieving—Is There a Role for a Donor Mother's Milk Bank?"

Shortly thereafter, she attended the New Hampshire Breastfeeding Coalition 21st Annual Conference and was a guest speaker at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. To complete this circular tour, she returned home to speak on the subject: "Hot Topics in Neonatal Care," at an all-day conference sponsored by Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Thanks to Kathleen, the word is definitely getting out there!