

## **Joint media statement: ISRHML and Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation**

Kanagawa and Zug, 11 October 2018

### **The International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML) and the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation (FLRF) announce 2018 awardees of the Trainee Expansion Program (TEP) and open application process for 2019 TEP scholarships during 19th ISRHML Conference in Kanagawa, Japan.**

For the third year in a row, ISRHML and FLRF are supporting the next generation of scientists in the field of human lactation research through TEP. The project awards scholarships to young, talented researchers in two different programmes: a one-year Trainee Bridge Fund (TBF) and a three-month Trainee Travel Fund (TTF). 10 scholarships were awarded in 2018 (see below).

TBF aims to provide awardees with a bridge finance toward becoming an independent academic focused on human lactation research – including young scientists from related disciplines who strive to move into the field of human lactation research. TBF helps the awardees to gain national and international exposures and to establish a professional collaboration-network. A TBF awardee can receive up to USD 100,000 for a year-long research project.

TTF aims to provide awardees with the opportunity for additional scientific training to advance their academic or career development in the field of human lactation research. The programme covers short-term activities which can be performed within a period of time of maximum three months. The awardees have the chance to learn new techniques, to expand their repertoire of skills and to gain relevant experience in a different research setting. A TTF awardee can receive up to USD 10,000 for a short-term project of maximum three month.

Both programmes allow young and talented scientists to advance their career, get valuable mentoring by leading experts from the field of human lactation research, and to work on a project at some of the world's top universities.

The next TTF applications will be accepted until 1 December 2018, the next TBF applications until 30 June 2019. Proposals are peer-reviewed by established scientists and constructive feedback will be provided even for those applications which are not awarded. Graduate students, recently graduated students, postdoctoral fellows, early career scientists, and clinicians or those who have completed professional training and wish to cultivate their talents and careers in the field of human lactation are encouraged to apply here: [bit.ly/TraineeExpansionProgram](http://bit.ly/TraineeExpansionProgram).

“The Trainee Expansion Program can create the necessary visibility for young and talented scientists in the field of human lactation and boost a scientific career. With their vision and dedication, the awardees are propelling the field forward, and we are more than delighted to support them in their endeavours,” says Göran Larsson, Chairman of FLRF Board.

“The scope of research undertaken since TEP was initiated, continues to expand. We are pleased to have awardees working on a wide range of projects: from implementing social media campaigns which promote breastfeeding to exploring breast milk's influence on an infant's microbiome,” adds Shannon Kelleher, TEP Committee President.

ISRHML and FLRF launched TEP in 2016 to help foster careers in a field which is growing in importance, thanks in part to recognition from organisations like the WHO, which has challenged the world to increase rates of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life up to at least 50 percent by 2025<sup>1</sup>.

Since TEP's inception, 23 young scientists have participated. The 2018 TEP cohort includes 10 trainees (two TBF recipients and eight TTF recipients) who applied from universities across five countries and three continents.

<sup>1</sup><http://www.who.int/nutrition/global-target-2025/en/>

## Awardees 2018

**TBF recipient** Eva Naninck, from the University of Amsterdam, is exploring the field of human lactation for the first time. “I am looking at the effect of maternal stress on breast milk composition and the neonatal gut microbiome,” she says. “It’s been fascinating and my experiences have encouraged me to continue in the field.”

**TBF recipient** recipient Stephanie L. Martin, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, is furthering her work in the field, researching interventions to improve exclusive breastfeeding among mothers in urban Tanzania who work in the informal economy. “Thanks to TEP, I will be able to investigate solutions which could have a positive impact on breastfeeding rates in Moshi, Tanzania and in other places with similar demographics.”

## TTF recipients

- Alba Boix Amóros, Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain) to the University of Western Australia (Australia): Breastmilk biomarkers for mastitis
- Anita Esquerra-Zwiers, Hope College (USA) to the University of Western Australia (Australia): Human milk biomarkers for perceived insufficient milk supply
- Camille Dugas, Laval University (Canada) to Nantes University (France): Gestational diabetes, breastfeeding and the risk for obesity and type 2 diabetes in children
- Kristen Meyer, Baylor College of Medicine (USA) to University of Trento (Italy): Maternal IgA and the infant microbiome
- Rukshan Mehta, Emory University (USA) to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – Central Food Technological Research Institute (India): Mycotoxin contamination of human breast milk
- Shirin Moossavi, University of Manitoba (Canada) to MacMaster University (Canada): Breast milk bacteria strain diversity
- Grace Carroll, Yale School of Public Health (USA) to Universidad Iberoamericana (Mexico): Costing a maternity leave cash-transfer to support breastfeeding among women employed in the informal economy
- Yimin Chen, University of Illinois at Chicago (USA) to Oregon State University (USA): Bioactive peptides in digested human milk



## **International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation**

The International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of excellence in research and the dissemination of research findings in the field of human milk and lactation. Established in 1988, it strives to accomplish its goals by fostering communication among members and established liaisons with government agencies, public health authorities, industry, and other organisations interested in human lactation. ISRHML holds a biennial international meeting, and annual symposia and mini-symposia to discuss research findings and cultivate international and interdisciplinary collaborations. More information: [www.isrhml.com](http://www.isrhml.com)

## **About the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation**

The Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation is one of the first foundations in the world with a prime focus on promoting and supporting breast milk and breastfeeding. Based in Zug, Switzerland, it was founded in 2013 with the aim of promoting the scientific and public recognition of breastfeeding and breast milk as – given the current state of science – the best nutrition for newborns and infants. It considers itself as an instigator and promoter of new knowledge. The Foundation invests globally in projects and scientific research in breastfeeding and breast milk. It places high value on multidisciplinary collaboration and supports projects with a sustainable impact on the well-being of mother and child. More information: [www.larsson-rosenquist.org](http://www.larsson-rosenquist.org)

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