



UZH and FLRF launch open access ethics framework for biomedical research in breastfeeding and lactation and announce upcoming interventions module

Zurich and Frauenfeld, Switzerland, 18 November 2021 – The University of Zurich (UZH) and the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation (FLRF) are pleased to announce the launch of EFBRI – An Evolving Ethical Framework Informing Breastfeeding Research and Interventions – on LactaHub.

EFBRI is an open access compilation of ethical principles created to guide biomedical research in breastfeeding and lactation. Based on established international standards, EFBRI is easy to use and globally applicable. It can help researchers, reviewers, healthcare practitioners, funders and other stakeholders align their work to universal research ethics standards, confidently and efficiently.

“Our objective was to amalgamate accepted ethics principles, then package them for relevance to breastfeeding and lactation. We believe EFBRI can streamline processes for people working with all populations of breastfeeding mothers and children, particularly in cross-border research and collaborations. EFBRI is also meant to lay the groundwork for best practice ethics in healthcare policy, implementation and funding activities,” says Dr Katharina Lichtner, Managing Director, FLRF.

EFBRI is a modular, living framework. It is designed to grow with the needs of the professionals who use it and as ethics evolve globally. Module 1 focuses on research and is available now on **LactaHub**. Module 2 will focus on interventions – it is under development by UZH and expected for release in 2022, thanks to a grant from FLRF. Future modules will take shape as the need arises.

“In the tradition of community science, we invite explicit user feedback and suggestions. They, along with periodic reviews, will help us build EFBRI into a comprehensive, evergreen resource. In addition, discussing the principles laid out in the framework in the light of real-life cases will contribute to a continuously refined understanding of the multifaceted ethical issues of breastfeeding and lactation research and how they can best be solved,” says Prof Dr med Dr phil Nikola Biller-Andorno, Director, Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME), a WHO Collaborating Center, UZH, who created EFBRI together with Dr Mirriam Tyebally Fang, M.B.B.S. (NUS), M.R.C.S (Edin.), a research fellow at IBME.

“Ethical considerations play a huge role in breastfeeding and lactation research. For us as an international funder, it is paramount we apply the same ethical standards to every project in every location. EFBRI can help safeguard the rights and dignity of all people when advancing health around the globe,” says Hans Schmidtner, Chair of the Board, FLRF.



**University of
Zurich** ^{UZH}

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About UZH

The University of Zurich (UZH) is the largest university in Switzerland with over 28,000 students. The UZH was founded in 1833 as the first university in Europe by a democratic state and is today one of the best universities in German-speaking countries. Seven faculties offer a wide range of study opportunities at bachelor, master and doctoral level. In addition, the UZH has a broad portfolio of further education.

<https://www.uzh.ch/en.html>

About FLRF

The Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation, established in Switzerland in 2013, is an independent philanthropic organisation revitalising the breastfeeding journey from science to impact. We take a unique approach: our priority is to increase breastfeeding rates worldwide, so our focus is on helping build innovative, efficient pathways to get there. Our team supports and collaborates with researchers, policymakers, practitioners, government leaders and partner organisations working to ensure every child has an optimum start in life through the benefits of breastmilk. Our work is focused in three areas across the breastfeeding journey to empower others: evidence generation to fill critical gaps; evidence-based tools and resources to inform new approaches; and collaboration and partnership to activate sustainable change.

www.larsson-rosenquist.org/en/

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