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Joint news release: Fudan University, Tongji University and the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation

Fudan University and Tongji University, both located in Shanghai, and the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation establish the first-ever centre for basic research with a global focus on the epidemiology of human lactation

Shanghai and Zug, Switzerland, 6 March 2019 – Fudan University (FU), Tongji University (TU) and the Family Larsson Rosenquist Foundation (FLRF) have jointly established the Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Shanghai Breastfeeding Research Centre (LRF SBRC) – the first-ever hub for epidemiological investigation with a global focus into critical questions surrounding breastfeeding-related physiology and best practices linked to the long-range health of mothers and children.

In association with the Children's Hospital of Fudan University and the Shanghai First Maternity and Infant Hospital, the LRF SBRC will host four endowed professorships focusing their basic research on the importance of breastfeeding and breastmilk on maternal and child health globally:

- Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Chair in Women's Population Epidemiology and Lactation (FU)
- Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Chair in Children's Clinical Epidemiology (FU)
- Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Chair in Children's Population Epidemiology and Lactation (TU)
- Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Chair in Women's Clinical Epidemiology and Lactation (TU)

FLRF will endow a total of CHF 11 million to the new centre and its professorships to ensure long-term financing. Located in Shanghai, researchers at the LRF SBRC will conduct large-scale, comprehensive and internationally relevant epidemiological studies that have the potential to generate significant impact around the globe.

"We have found a fertile environment focused on excellence in basic research where, together with these leaders in science, we can advance the global epidemiological understanding of human lactation," says Göran Larsson, Chairman of the Board, Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation. "It's an honour to collaborate with those that stand among China's premier academic and medical institutions to establish what we hope will become a beacon in epidemiological research in the field and serve as an international resource for all those interested in epidemiological aspects of breastfeeding and breastmilk. This is a position of great privilege and promise for the future."

The partners believe that in creating a permanent resource such as the LRF SBRC, the global epidemiological understanding of human lactation can be accelerated to the benefit of all babies – healthy term-born infants as well as those with medical issues – and their mothers. The LRF SBRC will also focus on other objectives with universal relevance such as: policy formation,



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scaling up breastfeeding programmes, developing young, international scientific talent and improving bedside care.

“A partnership bringing together two top-tier universities and two prestigious hospitals, in a location with a large population, provides an opportunity to answer questions about infant and women’s health to the benefit of everyone,” says Dr. Katharina Lichtner, Managing Director, Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation. “We expect the collaboration between these academic and clinical institutions of excellence will produce positive momentum for the field on a worldwide level.”

The LRF SBRC’s financing has been structured to provide funds in perpetuity, an important element to address complex, long-term questions with global implications and to attract innovative research projects. Its researchers will have the opportunity to collaborate with other members of the larger, interdisciplinary FLRF research network, which includes centres and projects throughout the world, all focused on different aspects of breastfeeding and breastmilk research. Furthermore, the centre is encouraged to seek collaborations with any group interested in advancing the understanding of the complex issues in breastfeeding and breastmilk research.

“The endowment model and the topical, global focus combining the key strengths of four independent institutions, still a novel approach in China, offers us new scope for conducting critical research over extended horizons in terms of both geography and timeframe,” says Gui Yonghao, Professor of Pediatrics, Executive Vice President, Fudan University and Inaugural Director, Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Shanghai Breastfeeding Research Centre. “We are delighted, as our partnership represents a unique opportunity to develop our work over the long-term, supported by appropriate financing.”

“The four endowed professorships, which all operate with a Western-style approach combining basic research with free access to patients, are designed to support a unique combination of basic research and clinical practice,” says Zheng Jialin, Professor of Regenerative and Neuroscience/Neurology and Dean, School of Medicine, Tongji University. “This is a development in the right direction and we expect it will lead to research results with global impact.”

About Fudan University

Fudan University was established in 1905. It was the first institution of higher education to be founded by a Chinese person. In 2000 it merged with Shanghai Medical University. Today featuring 11 faculties, Fudan has become one of China’s top comprehensive research universities of international prestige.

More information: <http://www.fudan.edu.cn/en/>



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About Children's Hospital of Fudan University

Children's Hospital of Fudan University is a comprehensive tertiary paediatric hospital that combines medical care, research, teaching and protection. It is the main unit of the National Children's Medical Center and has ranked first in children's hospitals for six consecutive years in the China's Best Tertiary Hospitals Rankings. It has also ranked first in pediatrics and second in pediatric surgery in the China's Best Speciality Hospitals Ranking for nine consecutive years. More information: <http://www.ch.shmu.edu.cn/show/english>

About Tongji University

Tongji University is one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions of higher education in China under direct administration from the Ministry of Education and is ranked as a Double Class university. The history can be traced back to 1907 when the German Medical School was founded by Erich Paulun, a German doctor working in Shanghai. Today covering 10 broad categories of academic disciplines, Tongji has become a comprehensive, international, research-oriented university with distinct features and global influence. More information: <http://en.tongji.edu.cn/>

About Shanghai First Maternity and Infant Hospital

Shanghai First Maternity and Infant Hospital was established in 1947, one of the earliest established maternal and child health care centers in China, and was evaluated as one of the first baby-friendly hospitals in the country in 1992. The hospital has been authorized by the municipal government to be the Emergency Neonatal Consultation and Rescue Center of Shanghai, Prenatal Diagnosis Center of Shanghai, Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Care Center and Training Center of Shanghai. With years of development, the Obstetrics Department has become a national key clinical specialty and the Gynecology Department has become the most important clinical key discipline in Shanghai. The hospital has ranked in the top 10, both in China's Best Obstetrics-Gynecology Hospitals and in the Science and Technology Evaluation measurement (STEM) of China's Obstetrics-Gynecology Hospitals Ranking. More information: <http://med.tongji.edu.cn/En/Content/254>

About 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 breastmilk and breastfeeding. Based in Zug, Switzerland, it was founded in 2013 with the aim of promoting the scientific and public recognition of breastfeeding and human 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 breastmilk. It places high value on multidisciplinary collaboration and supports projects with a sustainable impact on the wellbeing of mother and child. More information: <https://www.larsson-rosenquist.org>



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