



**Dear Reader,**

We are delighted to share with you highlights from 2024 activities and achievements of the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation and its esteemed partners. Thank you for joining us on this journey from science to impact!

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## World-class research on human lactation

### Oxford and FLRF sign endowment agreement

FLRF donated GBP 9.12 million (CHF 10.5 million) to endow a permanent breastfeeding research center at the University of Oxford. It investigates hormones involved in breastmilk production, with the aim to solve hormone-related breastfeeding challenges and improve the health of mothers and children globally.



Research in a laboratory.  
 © Oxford University, Medical Sciences Division; John Cairns.



The Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Oxford Centre for the Endocrinology of Human Lactation (LRF OCEHL) is led by Prof. Fadil Hannan (back row, 3rd from left). The center and its team are embedded in the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health, John Radcliffe Hospital, University of Oxford.  
 © Oxford University; Rob Newcombe.



Endowment ceremony, University of Oxford, 24 July 2024. Prof. Irene Tracey, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford, Prof. Krina Zondervan, Head, Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health, University of Oxford with members of the Larsson Family and FLRF Managing Director Dr. Katharina Lichtner. © University of Oxford; Cyrus Mower.



## Honored at Chancellor's Court of Benefactors

On 10 October 2024, FLRF was formally admitted to the University of Oxford Chancellor's Court of Benefactors. *"Learning about the University's latest work and engaging with the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, senior leaders and other supporters was a profound honor,"* said FLRF Managing Director Dr. Katharina Lichtner.



More about the research center at:  
[www.ocehl.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ocehl.ox.ac.uk)



Scan to watch video  
 of 2024 meeting

## Launching practical tools and resources

### Public Health Ethics Framework for breastfeeding interventions



In September 2024, ethics experts from the University of Zurich published the second part of EFBRI: the Public Health Ethics Framework. It helps health practitioners answer important ethical questions like: How can an infant's rights be protected? How can a mother's dignity be safeguarded?

Prof. Nikola Biller-Andorno, Director of the Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine – a World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Bioethics at the University of Zurich – led a technical advisory group of clinicians and legal experts to compile a comprehensive compendium of ethical considerations. EFBRI part one, the Research Ethics Framework, was published in 2021. EFBRI is now available at [www.lactahub.org/lactaethics](http://www.lactahub.org/lactaethics)



Scan to watch LactaHub  
webinar with Dr. Lakati



Prof. Nikola Biller-Adorno, Director of the Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME), University of Zurich.



University of Zurich, home of the IBME World Health Organization Collaborating Centre for Bioethics.



Dr. Alice Lakati is an epidemiologist and public health expert and Director of Research and Community Extension at Amref International University in Nairobi, Kenya. She has led research and evaluations of programs in multiple countries across Africa and served on expert committees including the WHO.

### PROVIDE Training Compendium brings breastmilk to infants in intensive care

Now available in German and French, PROVIDE trains healthcare practitioners and families to bring lifesaving breastmilk to premature or very low birthweight infants. Originally created in English by Rush University Medical Center, the evidence-based PROVIDE offers over 30 educational videos filmed in intensive care and 21 illustrated information sheets.

Together with their teams, Prof. Eva Cignacco (Bernese Fachhochschule) and Prof. Claire de Labrusse (Haute Ecole de Santé Vaud, Lausanne) adapted the PROVIDE content for Switzerland and supervised the translations.



Prof. Eva Cignacco and Prof. Claire de Labrusse presenting PROVIDE at a workshop during the Swiss Midwifery Congress, Baden, 17 May 2024.



Scan to access the PROVIDE  
Training Compendium at  
[www.lactahub.org/provide](http://www.lactahub.org/provide)

### Expert guidance on human milk banking



Small Vulnerable Newborns often depend on human donor milk to survive and thrive, which is why FLRF and its partners are committed to making donations safe and accessible.

A new package of best-practice resources can help, following calls for standardized, evidence-based global guidance. The package emerged from the 2019 'International Expert Consultation on the Donation and Use of Human Milk' organized by the Institute of Biomedical Ethics (IBME) and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), at the University of Zurich.

*"Together these new resources bring us a welcome step forward in aligning global practices on the safe creation and sustainability of human milk banks,"* said Prof. Nikola Biller-Andorno, Director, IBME.



International Expert Consultation on the Donation and Use of Human Milk, Zurich, July 8-9, 2019. Photo courtesy of Institute of Biomedical Ethics and History of Medicine (IBME), University of Zurich.

The package was published as a special issue: Expert overview of critical focus areas toward the development of global human milk bank standards in *Maternal & Child Nutrition* (June 2024). It includes five publications covering the critical aspects of human milk banking.



Scan to access the special issue at [wiley.com](http://wiley.com)

### Knowledge dissemination

## LactaHub reaches over 10,000 subscribers

LactaHub is an online platform for evidence-based breastfeeding knowledge. In 2024, it reached over 10,000 active community members! The platform offers evidence-based tools and resources to health practitioners, policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders in human milk and lactation. LactaHub is a partnership project by FLRF and The Global Health Network (University of Oxford).



Join the LactaHub community at [www.lactahub.org](http://www.lactahub.org)

## Global focus on bringing knowledge into practice

### Ghana pilot project: Addressing the “operationalization gap” and building a social enterprise

In Ghana, FLRF is collaborating with government leaders and public health experts to complete the Breastmilk for Life project and build a social enterprise – a center of breastfeeding excellence – for West Africa.

The partners aim to improve national breastfeeding environments and increase breastfeeding rates. How? By bridging the “operationalization gap” between policy and real change with step-by-step action plans that can be scaled up and adapted to different regional needs. The Ghana pilot is also the blueprint for additional social enterprises planned for rollout in the Global South.



Ghana is home to the Breastmilk for Life pilot project aimed at improving breastfeeding rates in Ghana, West Africa and beyond.



Dr. Ernest Konadu Asiedu is a Public Health Physician Specialist with the National Centre for Coordination of Early Warning and Response Mechanism at the Ministry of Health in Ghana, and the distinguished co-creator of the Breastmilk for Life – Ghana project.



Richmond Aryeetey is a Professor of Public Health Nutrition at the University of Ghana School of Public Health and one of our distinguished partners contributing to the success of Breastmilk for Life – Ghana.



Philomena Amofah is the Breastfeeding and Nutrition Lead at Ubora Institute, working on the Breastmilk for Life pilot project in Accra, Ghana.

#### DESPITE MANY YEARS OF EFFORT BELOW TARGET

- Despite many years of investment
- An upward trend observed for early 1998 to 2008 (Demographic Health

The Ghana Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) on breastfeeding and exclusive breastfeeding

Ghana's breastfeeding goals:  
 - Increase initial breastfeeding  
 - Increase exclusive breastfeeding  
 - Increase concise and comprehensive practice  
 - Increase potential improvement

## Global Human Milk Research Consortium

### 5 endowed independent research centers around the world

The Global Human Milk Research Consortium (GHMRC) tackles challenges with fresh ideas born from interdisciplinary collaboration. When these scientists come together, innovation in breastfeeding research happens! The GHMRC met twice in 2024, in April at the University of California in San Diego and in September at the University of Zurich. The GHMRC will launch three projects this year, focused on improving outcomes for Small Vulnerable Newborns.



LRF NGN and LRF CEB at University of Zurich.



LRF OCEHL at University of Oxford.



[www.ghmrc.org](http://www.ghmrc.org)



LRF MOMI CORE at University of California San Diego.



LRF CIBF at The University of Western Australia.



GHMRC meeting, Zurich, September 2024.



Each project involves early career researchers – we are delighted to introduce them here:



'Characterising the Impact of Maternal Well-being on Hormone-regulated Lactation Initiation: A Longitudinal Study', with **Xin Meng**, LRF OCEHL, Oxford, and **Dr. Tilman Reinelt**, LRF NGN, Zurich.



'From Lactation to Innovation: Leveraging Human Milk Extracellular Vesicles for Neurodevelopment', with **Michelle Ma**, LRF OCEHL and **Dr. Maria Consolata Miletta**, LRF NGN.



'NeuroNurture: Unveiling Neurodevelopmental Trajectories Promoted by Colostrum', with **Savannah Machado**, LRF CIBF, Perth, and **Dr. Maria Consolata Miletta**, LRF NGN.



At the September 2024 meeting, the first-ever FLRF Fellowship was granted to **Bryony Davies** ('Impact of maternal and infant morbidity on secretory activation'). She will work across two labs under the mentorship of Prof. Fadil Hannan, LRF OCEHL, and Prof. Lars Bode, LRF MOMI CORE, San Diego.



Dr. Michaela Turan, FLRF Head of Research and Dr. Katharina Lichtner, Managing Director, co-hosted the successful GHMRC meeting.

## Trainings and conferences: sharing breastfeeding knowledge globally

Whether facilitating workshops and webinars or speaking on panels, FLRF and LactaHub participated in various events and conferences. Meeting and learning from practitioners and researchers is vital if we want to share knowledge, best practices and learn how to close gaps between policy and effectively increase breastfeeding rates. 2024 brought FLRF and LactaHub to events in Kenya, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania and the United States.



FLRF Managing Director Dr. Katharina Lichtner (4th from left) with Amref International University faculty in Nairobi, Kenya.



Healthcare students participating in the entrepreneurship workshop series 'From Idea to Impact – Building a Public Health Social Enterprise' at Amref International University, Nairobi, Kenya – March, 2024.



LactaHub with partners at the Paediatric Association of Tanzania Annual Scientific Conference (PAT) – October, 2024.



LactaHub with partners at the Kenya Paediatric Association Annual Scientific Conference – April, 2024.

## Working with partners in South Africa and Pakistan

FLRF is working with partners in South Africa and Pakistan on two efforts to bring knowledge into practice.

The Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Advocacy Project in South Africa aims to publish an action plan that other countries can use to build their own advocacy campaigns. The work aligns with the World Health Organization initiative to help countries strengthen legislation that counters aggressive formula marketing outlined in the 2022 WHO and UNICEF report: How the marketing of formula milk influences our decisions on infant feeding.



Cape Town, South Africa.



The Aga Khan University in Pakistan.

With The Aga Khan University in Pakistan, the goal is to make knowledge more accessible and useful. In other words, this project seeks to bridge gaps between research, policy and practice in public health. Upon completion, the Translation of Research-Based Breastfeeding Knowledge: Making the Latest Science Accessible project aims to bring three types of materials to stakeholders in breastfeeding and breastmilk:

- Scientific literature summaries
- Lay-science summaries
- Fact sheets and infographics



Learn more about these and many more FLRF-supported projects at [www.flrf.org](http://www.flrf.org)

## Promoting breastfeeding knowledge in Switzerland



**LactaSuisse: working toward a national breastfeeding policy**

Now with over a dozen supporting organizations, LactaSuisse is bringing together stakeholders across Switzerland with the shared goal of a national breastfeeding policy. FLRF is delighted to serve as a convener and share practical support in any way it can.

Awards ceremony, 28 November 2024, HESAV School of Health Sciences, Lausanne, Switzerland. The Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation award for Best Bachelor Thesis went to Léa Elise Adèle Charrier, Charlotte Gisèle Annie Chappet, Mélanie Chantal Eliane Deronzier and Heidi Olivia Claire-Lise Deswaziere (not shown). Congratulations!

### Out and about in our neighborhood

What better way to introduce the local community to the public breastfeeding room in our Frauenfeld office? Showcase it on a big screen! FLRF was proud to sponsor the OpenAir Cinema and all breastfeeding mothers who attended the week-long event.



Promotion of the local FLRF breastfeeding room at the Frauenfeld OpenAir Cinema.

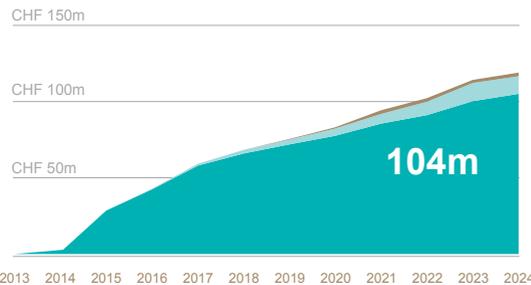
## CHF 104 million in philanthropic funding

The highlights featured in this newsletter touch on just a few activities the Foundation and its partners engaged in last year. Since its founding in 2013, FLRF has provided CHF 104 million in philanthropic funding for scientific research, knowledge translation and dissemination as well as practical implementation projects. Speaking of our partners, collectively they have now published over 400 open-access articles with full or partial FLRF support. We are deeply grateful for their amazing work and partnership!



Scan to search for articles on flrf.org

### PHILANTHROPIC FUNDING in millions



Additional funds attracted  
Interest generated from endowments

FLRF philanthropic funding  
79m Endowments & other charitable funding  
17m Own charitable projects  
8m Administration & project support

FLRF endowments have generated an additional 11.5m in interest and 2.3m in extramural grants for breastmilk research, as of 2024.

### Revitalizing the Journey – from Science to Impact

#### KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY



#### KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION



#### KNOWLEDGE DEPLOYMENT



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[www.larsson-rosenquist.org](http://www.larsson-rosenquist.org)

## Summary of key activities in 2024

- Endowment ceremony for research center at Oxford University
- Launch of Public Health Ethics Framework: EFBRI part II
- PROVIDE Training Compendium to bring mothers' own milk to infants in intensive care translated to German and French
- Expert guidance on human milk banking available in a new package
- Global Human Milk Research Consortium (GHMRC) met in San Diego and in Zurich; 3 new research projects for Small Vulnerable Newborns
- LactaHub online knowledge platform reaches over 10,000 subscribers
- Trainings, webinars, workshops and conferences by FLRF and LactaHub in Kenya, Spain, Switzerland, Tanzania, and the US
- Gained ISO 9001 Quality Management System Certification
- Published FLRF 10-year anniversary book
- Progress on various projects:
  - Breastmilk for Life project in Ghana: an innovative approach to operationalize the country's national breastfeeding policy
  - South Africa Infant and Young Child Feeding Advocacy
  - Translation of Research-based Breastfeeding Knowledge
  - Promoting breastfeeding and preparing for implementation of the BBF (Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly) methodology in Switzerland.

## FLRF anniversary book available online



Would you like to learn more about the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation? A commemorative book about the Foundation's first 10 years is available online, or contact us if you wish to receive a hard copy.



Scan to access the ebook on  
[www.larsson-rosenquist.org/en/about-us/anniversary](http://www.larsson-rosenquist.org/en/about-us/anniversary)

## Vision

A world in which every child has an optimal start in life through the benefits of breastmilk.

## Mission

We base all work on sound science and evidence. We revitalize the journey from science to impact, building efficient, proven pathways to get there. We partner with organizations and experts to turn this vision into concrete plans and measurable impact.

- Founded in 2013 by the Larsson-Rosenquist family in Switzerland
- CHF 104 million in philanthropic funding since 2013
- FLRF is the world's first and only foundation dedicated entirely to supporting breastfeeding and breastmilk

**Backed by sound science, FLRF aims to drive changes in practice that will increase rates of breastfeeding and improve the health of mothers and children worldwide.**



[www.larsson-rosenquist.org](http://www.larsson-rosenquist.org)

## Get in touch:

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Since 2024, the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation is ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems certified. The certification reflects the Foundation's drive for top-level performance, transparency and ongoing improvement.