



THE UNIVERSITY OF
**WESTERN
AUSTRALIA**



**Universität
Zürich** UZH

MEDIA STATEMENT

07 July 2015

**New Chair for Human Lactology in Biochemistry
donated by the Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation – a world first**

Mothers, breastfeeding infants, families and the community will benefit from the creation of major new research positions in human lactation (breastfeeding) at the University of Western Australia (UWA), as a result of the initiative and a \$8.6 million donation provided by The Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation.

The research team formed will include, an Endowed Chair in Human Lactology (the first in the world in Biochemistry), a postdoctoral position and a postgraduate opportunity. It will be complemented by a Chair and supporting positions at the University of Zurich (UZH), also funded by the Foundation, with the two research centres working collaboratively to advance global knowledge of breastfeeding and its long-term health benefits to mothers and babies. The research centres will be focused on Biochemistry at UWA and Medicine at UZH.

The research carried out will set new standards for the care of breastfeeding mothers - until now health professionals have relied to a large extent on experience-based advice to help breastfeeding mothers, but have had limited clinical research and evidence to assist in the diagnosis and treatment of mothers and their babies.

With the establishment of the research centres at UWA and University of Zurich, medical practitioners will soon be able to draw upon new evidence which will allow them to improve the diagnosis and treatment of mothers experiencing breastfeeding difficulties.

The Foundation's decision to support UWA with this leadership donation is testament to the internationally renowned research in human milk conducted by Emeritus Professor Peter Hartmann.

Professor Hartmann said the creation of the new research centres would provide a global focus on research into breastfeeding and human lactation, which he hoped would lead to other centres being set up around the world.

"This will have vast benefits internationally for mothers, the nursing community and medical practitioners as for the first time there will be a dedicated discipline for this specialised field," he said.

UWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson said UWA was delighted to receive the generous donation from the foundation.

"The establishment of the centres will enable vital research to be carried out, which will help medical practitioners better diagnose and treat patients," he said.

"The centres will be connected to an international hub of researchers, which will allow us to make a tremendous difference to the lives of women and their infants."

Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Board Chairman Michael Larsson said the endowment of two Chairs was an important first step for the foundation in terms of its mission to promote the scientific and public recognition of human milk nutrition.

"The Foundation chose the School of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the UWA because of the school's highly advanced, innovative, and non-invasive methods for researching human lactology," Mr Larsson said.

"We are pleased to support research in this important area. By integrating the Chairs within the fields of biochemistry and medicine, we hope to ensure that human lactation is studied in an interdisciplinary fashion."

MEDIA REFERENCE

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Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation

The Family Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation is the first foundation in the world with a primary focus on promoting and supporting human milk and breastfeeding. Based in Zug/Switzerland, it was established in 2013 with the aim of promoting the scientific and public recognition of human milk as the best nutrition for newborns. It sees itself as an instigator and promoter of new knowledge about human milk and breastfeeding. The foundation invests globally in projects and scientific activities in human milk research and breastfeeding promotion. It places high value on an interdisciplinary approach and sustainable impact for the well-being of mother and child.

www.larsson-rosenquist.org

The University of Western Australia

The University of Western Australia is one of Australia's leading universities, with an international reputation for excellence in teaching, research and community engagement. Already ranked among the top 100 universities in the world, UWA aims to be counted in the top 50 by 2050. UWA is a member of the prestigious Group of Eight, a coalition of leading research-driven Australian universities. Its strong research culture attracts outstanding staff and high levels of competitive research funding. For more than a century, UWA's talented researchers have produced quality outcomes that have contributed substantially to the social, cultural and economic development of Australia, and the university continues to play a vital role in scholarship and discoveries of global significance.

www.uwa.edu.au

University of Zurich

As a member of the League of European Research Universities, the University of Zurich (UZH) is one of Europe's leading universities. Numerous high-level scientific awards, including twelve Nobel Prizes, are testament to the university's international reputation. With its 26,000 students, UZH is the largest university in Switzerland and offers the broadest range of courses in the country, with approximately one hundred subjects. More than 5,000 academics, including over 500 professors, research and teach at around 150 institutions. Established in 1833, the UZH was the first university in Europe to be founded by a democratic state government.

www.uzh.ch