

Speaker Summaries

13th International Breastfeeding and Lactation Symposium

Prof. Bruce German

[Mother's milk, the model for dietary personalisation](#)

Prof. Bruce German, Director of the Foods for Health Institute at the University of California, Davis, is the world's foremost expert on the unique biocompatibility of human milk for human infants, as the result of the "symbiotic co-evolution between a mammalian mother and her infant". He discusses human milk and its unparalleled benefits as the model for dietary personalisation.

Prof. Laurent Storme

[Breastfeeding as a medical intervention in the first two years of life](#)

As Vice President of the French Society for the Developmental Origins of Health and Disease, Prof. Storme focuses on the first 1,000 days, from development in the womb to two years after birth, as the main window of disease-prevention opportunity. He will show that mother's milk represents not merely nutrition, but a medical intervention, capable of preventing multiple lifelong diseases.

Prof. Tricia Johnson

[Short-term investment in mother's milk for exponentially greater long-term economic gains](#)

Prof. Johnson offers powerful new evidence for mother's milk as the "primary public intervention", as important to the health of infants, mothers, and the general public as vaccinations have proven to be. Her cost-benefit analysis shows that the short-term investment to promote the feeding of mother's own milk reaps exponentially greater long-term economic benefits for society.

Dr. Alecia-Jane Twigger

[Revealing the growth patterns of milk cells](#)

A fast-rising star in the field of lactation, Dr. Twigger is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Stem Cell Research at the Helmholtz Center Munich. She uses the latest scientific techniques to uncover exciting new evidence for the functional differences between activated milk cells and resting breast cells, providing never before seen ways to understand and treat abnormal mammary gland growth which can result in low-milk production and/or breast cancer.

Ass. Prof. Meghan Azad

[More breastfeeding for less asthma](#)

As a member of the Executive Council for the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation and an internationally recognised researcher, Asst. Prof. Azad is well placed to discuss the new evidence for the correlation between breastfeeding and reduced childhood asthma, and a new national campaign to educate mothers and the medical community on breastfeeding for asthma prevention.

Assoc. Prof. Donna Geddes

[New scientific evidence for better treatment of tongue-tie](#)

Chief Investigator of the prestigious Hartmann Human Lactation Research Group, Assoc. Prof. Geddes examines the controversial treatment of tongue-tied infants, and the impact this has on breastfeeding. Although the stark rise in tongue-tie diagnosis has led to widespread scientific

discussion, treatment to date been founded on less than robust clinical evidence. Assoc. Prof. Geddes' latest studies offer precise new measurements which clarify the complex interplay between the mother's and infant's physiologies, and provide a foundation for more effective tongue-tie treatments.

Prof. Jean-Charles Picaud

[Evidence supporting the use of human milk in neonatal units](#)

Head of Department of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Croix Rousse University Hospital in Lyon, France, Prof. Picaud spearheaded the national initiative to feed human milk to premature infants. Prof. Picaud will present a new standard of care for preterm infants, which centres on supporting mothers in activating lactation and providing enough human milk for preterm infants

Prof. Thomas Hale

[Can a breastfeeding mother safely smoke marijuana?](#)

Founder and Executive Director of the national Infant Risk Centre in the USA, Prof. Hale is recognised as the world's leading authority on drugs and mother's milk. Confronting the growing trend of marijuana usage worldwide, Prof. Hale presents new and exhaustive evidence of the presence of chemicals in the milk of mothers consuming marijuana.

Prof. Paula Meier

[Using evidence to design, implement and evaluate a NICU based lactation programme](#)

An internationally renowned authority and leader amongst human milk researchers, Prof. Meier is Professor of Paediatrics and Nursing and Director of NICU Lactation Services in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Rush University Medical Center. At this symposium, Prof. Meier will chronicle the evidence, policies and procedures developed to date, in order to outline a roadmap for institutions worldwide to ensure that NICU infants receive the highest possible dose of mothers' own milk for superior healing and development.

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