



1st International Conference on  
**Milk Banking in India :  
Retrospective and Current Progress**



Organised by :  
**Network of Human Milk Banks**  
and

**Dr. D. Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Pimpri Pune**

To,  
Dr. Pravin Mehta,  
Honorary Secretary General,  
IAP, Mumbai

Dear Sir,

It gives me immense pleasure to inform you that 1<sup>st</sup> International conference on Human Milk Banking - 'Milk Banking in India (MBI2015): Retrospective and Recent Progress' is being held on the 10th and 11th of April at Dr. D Y Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Pune. The conference is organised jointly by Network of Human Milk Banks(NHMB) and Dr. D. Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Center in Association with National Medicos Organisation, National Neonatology Forum (Maharashtra State Chapter), Indian Medical Association (Pune) and Indian Association of Pediatrics (Pune) along with International body Norway- India Partnership Initiative (NIPI) which is a joint initiative of Government of India and Government of Norway. This initiative has been started as reciprocation to United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

The conference will be represented by delegates across the nation. The President of European Milk Banking Association Ms. Gillian Weaver is travelling to India for deliberating in the conference. The Royal Norwegian Embassy Health Mission will also be represented at the conference. From Government of India we are looking at Shri J P Naddaji, Hon. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare to grace our Conference. Government of India will be represented from Central as well as State Governments.

**Venue :** Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Center, Pimpri Pune.

**Network of Human Milk Banks**

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This is the first international conference to be held on Human Milk Banking in the Asian subcontinent. As a SAARC nation, this is our opportunity to emerge as leaders in Human Milk Banking from this region on the world canvas. We look at this as a new and unique means for service to Humanity by helping reduce the Infant Mortality Rate. This will in turn contribute towards Nation Building.

This is the part of our mission to promote breastfeeding and help development of human milk banks across India. It will help in reduced use of infant formula and bottles which is rampant in many hospitals. The establishment of such a Network of Human Milk Banks will facilitate good Innovations and Research which is lacking in this area. It is important that all experts in this field come together to fulfill this mission of Human Milk Banking.

There were certain concerns voiced by some members of IAP regarding the sponsorships taken from Medela and Sterifeed. Please find below the facts on the same as stated below.

Medela and Sterifeed have several equipments that are needed for milk banks. Hence, they were natural partners in this process. They have an international presence and had offered sponsorships as this was a good effort for networking and liaison at an international level. As a part of this conference, their equipments namely breast pumps and pasteurizers were being demonstrated. However, as Medela, India also manufactures milk bottles, it seems that it may contravene the IMS Act. We have thus declined their sponsorship. It is paradoxical that PEDICON, Gurgaon (2015) had a stall of Medela with paid sponsorship!!!

Sterifeed does not manufacture feeding bottles. They supply bottles used for their pasteurizer – solely for human milk. We do not feel that their sponsorship contravenes the IMS Act. They do not sell any feeding bottles in India. However, due to the view of some of our colleagues we have declined their sponsorship too.

It is high time that we mature enough to see the spirit and the mission of an event rather than opposing for the sake of opposition. Good work being done needs support and appreciation from academic bodies and mindful contribution which will nurture the spirit of the event. Human Milk Banking promotes breast feeding and reduces use of infant formula.

Finally we are proceeding with the event without the sponsorship of Medela and Sterifeed. This is done completely against our view. We hope that our academicians will in future learn to think broadly and coherently with respect to the IMS Act and not use it as an impediment to progress in education, promotion and research in the field of infant feeding.

Sincerely

Ms. Amrita Desai  
Organising Secretary

Mrs.Vrushali Deshpande  
Organising Committee Member