Editor-in-Chief's Welcoming Comments

Arthur I. Eidelman

BREASTFEEDING MEDICINE, THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL of the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, is honored to publish the proceedings of the 5th Annual International Conference on “Human Milk Science and Innovation,” sponsored and supported by Prolacta Bioscience. In just a short period of a few years, this annual conference has established itself as one of the major forums for the presentation of the most up-to-date research in both the basic science and biology of human lactation and the outcomes of clinical research programs directed to the care and welfare of the maternal–infant dyad.

The proceedings are guest edited by William D. Rhine, MD, from the Department of Pediatrics (Neonatology) of the Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, California, and Lars Bode, PhD, from the Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation Mother-Milk-Infant Center of Research Excellence, University of California, San Diego, California. Presentations were from leading international experts from a wide variety of academic specialties. The presentations highlighted the relevance of human milk studies to our understanding of basic human biological processes and to the frontiers of clinical care of high-risk infants and children.

A special feature of this conference was the awarding of the first Ruth A. Lawrence Investigator Award for Research in Human Milk Science to Dr. Adam J. Lewandowski for his research on the effect of a human diet in minimizing cardiovascular pathology in premature infants. This award in a sense was twofold, for it honors both Dr. Lewandowski for his current academic achievements and Dr. Lawrence for her pioneering activities of the past 5 decades in the development and support of the science of breastfeeding and the medical specialty of breastfeeding. Dr. Lawrence was the founding Editor of *Breastfeeding Medicine* some 13 years ago, so it is quite fitting and appropriate that the award in her name be properly highlighted in the pages of *Breastfeeding Medicine*, an endeavor most dear to her heart and mind.

Special thanks to Prolacta Bioscience for hosting the conference in September 2017 and in facilitating the publishing of the edited proceedings.

—Arthur I. Eidelman, MD, FABM, FAAP
Editor-in-Chief, *Breastfeeding Medicine*