WABA MOURNS THE PASSING OF ONE OF ITS FOUNDERS -

Patrice Jelliffe

WABA mourns the loss of Patrice Jelliffe, one of our founders and an icon of the global breastfeeding movement. She died peacefully on March 14th in Encino, California. Along with her husband Derrick Jelliffe, Patrice made enormous contributions to the fields of child health and international nutrition. Patrice became an essential voice in raising global awareness for the infant feeding crisis, basing her research in Africa and the Caribbean. She was an educator, a researcher, an active protestor, a prolific writer, and a leader.

As a pioneer of medical-anthropology and the editor of the Journal of Tropical Pediatrics, Patrice made major contributions to the science and to the practice of Mother and Child Health. In 1993, she was awarded the Certificate of Commendation at the White House by President Clinton “for her lifetime work and commitment to the world’s children as a public health expert, promoting nutrition education in nursing education, and fostering breastfeeding worldwide.”

One of the many legacies left behind by Patrice and Derrick is the “WABA Crawl”, WABA’s Calypso influenced anthem which is still performed at many WABA gatherings. Patrice was an extraordinary person. Wherever she went she radiated wisdom, warmth and willingness to help young professionals, young mothers and young children. She will be greatly missed. (http://www.waba.org.my/pat_jelliffe.htm)
Overwhelming response to the Infant Feeding Consortium (IFC)/WABA Breastfeeding: Advocacy and Practice Course

Breastfeeding: Advocacy & Practice, A Regional Outreach Course was successfully carried out from 25th February to 10th March 2007 in Penang, Malaysia. The evidence-based course which was specifically aimed at health professionals in the region, received overwhelming response and many applications had to be turned down due to limited places available.

A total of 27 participants from 6 countries, namely Hong Kong, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines, participated in the 2-week highly intensive and participatory course. The course was mainly comprised of senior health professionals who are involved in national and local infant feeding programmes as clinicians, trainers, advisers, academicians, programme coordinators and advocates for optimal infant feeding. The course was conducted by Dr Felicity Savage and Sandra Lang from IFC and co-facilitated by Prof. Zulkifli Ahmad and Dr Zaharah Sulaiman from Universiti Sains Malaysia.

“What I find most valuable from this course is that it gives us the most updated knowledge on Breastfeeding management, the latest supporting scientific papers and most importantly conducted by the 2 best lecturers, Sandra and Felix, with their worldwide knowledge and excellent teaching techniques” – Dr Napaphan Viriyautsahakul, Paediatrician, Regional Health Promotion Center 1, Thailand

Iraq: 4.5 million children undernourished

According to UNICEF, about one in ten children under five in Iraq are underweight and one in five are short for their age.

“Many Iraqi children may also be suffering from ‘hidden hunger’ deficiencies in critical vitamins and minerals that are the building blocks of children’s physical and intellectual development” said Claire Hajaj, Communication Officer at UNICEF Iraq Support Centre in Aman (ISCA).

Hajaj emphasized the importance of children being properly fed for the first two years of their lives particularly the first six months when breastfeeding is vital. “Iraq’s exclusive breastfeeding rates are very low compared to other countries in the region. Only 12 per cent as of the last survey, which took place several years ago”.

“Infant formula is still widespread, increasing the risk of illness like diarrhea and pneumonia, which also contribute to undernutrition. Diarrhea is a major risk in the absence of safe water and basic sanitation, a problem now affecting many Iraqi communities,” Hajaj said, adding that the first step in preventing undernutrition in children is to ensure proper care for pregnant mothers.

Dr Mayssan Abdel Rahman, a paediatrician at Baghdad’s Children Teaching Hospital said that the country’s health system is crumbling and it was only UNICEF and WHO that were keeping it afloat. But that much more needs to be done, she said, as hundreds of children are dying from easily cured ailments such as diarrhea and undernutrition.

Nutrition indicators have traditionally been the lowest, three times the national average – in the poor southern of Iraq and generally in rural areas and now because of the violence, these areas suffer greater poverty than ever before.

Source: YabaNet.com 5 March 2007

Breastfeeding may boost social mobility

People who were breastfed as infants climb the social class ladder more readily as adults than those who were bottle-fed babies, UK researchers report.

Dr Richard M. Martin and colleagues from the University of Bristol found that individuals who had been breastfed were 41 percent more likely to move up at least one social class during their lives.

Breastfeeding has a number of health benefits and may also boost intelligence while reducing the risk of psychiatric problems, Martin and his team note in the Archives of Disease in Childhood. They tested their hypothesis that being breastfed might affect upward social mobility by looking at 1,414 men and women who had participated in a pre-World War II study of diet and health and were followed up 60 years later.

Individuals who had been breastfed were more likely to have completed secondary school, which accounted for some but not all effect of breastfeeding on social mobility.

“The relevance for this finding for contemporary children, therefore is that it provides indirect support for the suggestion that having been breastfed may have long term effects via associations related to social mobility, such as growth, health or IQ,” they added. However, given that other, unknown factors may account for the result’s, they conclude, more study is needed.

Source: www.sciam.com 19 February 2007
Leeds launches breastfeeding guide

Mums in Leeds, England will be able to find the best places to breastfeed their babies when a new guide is published later this year.

The “You CAN Do It Here!” guide contains a list of breastfeeding-friendly establishment in Leeds and will be available in time for National Breastfeeding Awareness Week in May. The campaign, run by the city’s branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) and Leeds PCT will start on March 1 to identify restaurants, cafés, shops and other public places where mothers are welcome to breastfeed.

Venues that sign up will be given a “Breastfeeding Welcome” sticker to put on their windows or alternatively (NCT) members will award stickers to venues where they experience a breastfeeding-friendly environment.

“The campaign is to help mums feel more confident that they won’t be asked to leave if they choose to breastfeed. It is also to make society more aware of the benefits of breastfeeding, which is the most natural thing for mums to do,” said Kathryn Holme, Leeds NCT chairman.

Source: Yorkshire Evening Post 21 March 2007

Breastfeeding law passed in Chile

Chile’s President Michelle Bachelet passed a new law this week giving working mothers the right to breastfeed their child at work.

“We are guaranteeing tools which both mothers and fathers can use to strengthen family ties and to solidify the bond between mother and child,” said Bachelet.

“I believe that it will prove to be a very important law. It represents what the government is seeking to do – defend the Chilean family unit,” added Bachelet.


SEEDGRANTS

WABA would like to invite groups to apply for the following seedgrants:

1. **World Breastfeeding Week** – especially for groups who are in need of funds to organize WBW 2007 and/or translate, adapt, produce and promote or conduct activities with WBW materials which cater to local audiences.
   - We have about 5-10 seedgrants to be given out, amounting from US$500.00 – US$1000.00 per seedgrant
   - Application Forms and Guidelines can be downloaded at [www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org](http://www.worldbreastfeedingweek.org)

2. **Community Support** - The seedgrant project aims to establish or strengthen community support worldwide for breastfeeding protection, promotion and support. It focuses on educating and sensitising communities towards the importance of breastfeeding and encouraging them to be more supportive of breastfeeding families or even directly involved in supporting mothers.

   The Community Support for Breastfeeding Seedgrant project should target and enhance existing support measures, groups or activities, or initiate new ones. This project seeks a broad concept of mother support where diverse types of community-based support initiatives can help to bring about an enabling environment for mothers to initiate and sustain exclusive breastfeeding and practice prolonged breastfeeding after 6 months, with adequate complementary feeding.
   - We have 5-10 seedgrants to be given out amounting to US$1,000 – US$2,000.00 per seedgrant
   - Application forms and Guidelines can be downloaded at [www.waba.org.my/csb_seedgrants.htm](http://www.waba.org.my/csb_seedgrants.htm)

All applications should be submitted to waba@streamyx.com by 31 May 2007.

Britain slaps ban on claims made by baby milk makers

Baby milk manufacturers have been ordered to drop nutrition claims that suggest they are a valid alternative to breastfeeding. Claims such as “closer than ever to breastmilk” and “helps growth and the immune system” are banned.

As a result, the packs and marketing material for leading brands such as SMA, Farley’s, Cow & Gate and Aptamil will have to change.

The crackdown has been ordered by the British government’s Food Standards Agency (FSA) as the government steps up efforts to promote breastfeeding as the best health option. The FSA has told manufacturers to change their packs and marketing or face prosecution, while supermarkets have been ordered not to promote infant formula milk with price cuts.

Typical phrases which will no longer be allowed include:
- “Supports your baby’s natural immune system”
- “Prebiotics support natural defences”
- “Beta carotene...to help maintain a healthy immune system”
- “Nucleotides help growth and the immune system”
- “Omega 3 LCOS - long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids for development”

The ban on nutrition claims is a major victory for the Baby Milk Action campaign. Campaign coordinator said “we have campaigned for a decade for companies to stop making these illegal health and nutrition claims and for authorities to take action. Baby Milk Action is calling for restrictions to be extended to cover “follow-on” formula for older babies.”

Source: The New Straits Times, Malaysia – 13 March 2007
Special Announcement from CIMS International

We proudly announce the birth of the International Mother Baby Childbirth Organization (IMBCO). Its purpose is to promote optimal mother baby maternity services in countries throughout the world. For information and support, one of the members of the IMBCO’s Leadership Council will have a permanent position on the Board of the IMBCO. We are pleased that Childbirth Connection has agreed to partner with the IMBCO and act as fiscal agent for our new organization.

News from the Secretariat
January 2007
- Sancheville Smith of RUMBA Argentina and Hanna Pop of RUMBA Guatemala leave for home after completing their internship at WABA.
- Sabrina Sunderaj joins WABA as Senior Project Officer.
- Internal Mock Assessment and start of the Strategic Planning Exercise. 
- WBEW 2007 Calendar announcement is produced and disseminated. WABA YOU! newsletter, written and designed by Hanna Pop is launched. WBEW 2007 Photo contest is launched.
February 2007
- Michelle Lambu leaves WABA after 18 years of service. Cheah Ling Ling and Siti Letchemi join WABA as Graphic Designer and Administration/Governance Coordinator respectively. WABA/IUCN Breatfeeding Advocacy and Practice Course, conducted by Felicity Savage and Sandra Long, is organized and held in Penang.
- Elizabeth Haddon represents WABA at SCN in Rome. ECA Anand attends the 2nd Meeting of South Asia Regional Network on Maternal and Neonatal Mortality/ Morbidity Reduction on behalf of WABA. Beth Stier represents WABA at the CSW. WABA 16th Anniversary celebrated on 14th February 2007. Penny Van Esterik represents WABA at the International Conference on Actions to Strengthen Linkages between SRH & HIV/AIDS in India. Chris Mulford attends to work on the SDAs report.
March 2007
- Brie Abbe from USA joins WABA on an internship programme. WBEW 2007 Action Folder is reviewed. Rebecca Magathara (LLU) arrives to plan for the WABA/LLU Mother Support Sundals to be held in Chicago, USA. Anwar & Mahmood Fazaeli, Harjeet Dhilion, Darshana Devi and Brie Abbe join the International Women's Day March organized by WCC. WABA Banner wins first prize at the March. WABA International Women's Day Press Release written by Sebrina Sunderaj issued and disseminated. Koch Koh Ling and Siti Letchemi attend the National Council for Women's Organisations (NCWO) meeting in Kuala Lumpur on recommendations for increase in budget from 2006 to 90 days. Anwar Fazaeli, WABA Chairperson/Emeithus, attends a meeting with Consumer International's Executive Board. Special tribute page for Patricia Jelline, one of WABA's beloved founders who passed away, set-up on the WABA website by the IEC team.

Visitors to the Secretariat
January 2007
- Martha Giroett, Upsala University, Sweden
- Anai Omer-Salim, Women & Work Taskforce Co-coordinator, Sweden
February 2007
- Richard Lee & Trudi Ten, United Nations Development Fund (UNDF), Nepal
- Felicity Savage, IUCN, United Kingdom
- Chris Mulford, Co-coordinator, Women & Work Taskforce, USA
March 2007
- Weedy Wang, Department of Health, Hong Kong
- Patricia Ip, United Christian Hospital, Hong Kong
- Umut Roseli, Indonesian Counselling Centre, Indonesia
- Jendrudy Kung, Indonesian Breastfeeding Centre, Indonesia
- Anna Winata, UNICEF, Indonesia
- Yee-Ju Chang, ABK, Korea
- Balasubramaniam Natarajan, Srivil Health, Malaysia
- Noor Shamsy, Malaysia
- Khoo Yoon Lin, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia
- Vasanthan, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia
- Zurahah Matutal, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia
- Rinaldi Abu Hassan, Hospital Selayang, Malaysia
- Noradnida Che Abdullah, Ministry of Health, Malaysia
- Rasidah Ibrahim, Ministry of Health, Malaysia
- Alimah Aina Abu Hassen, Ministry of Health, Malaysia
- Marie Evelyn Rosique, Municipality of Tual, Philippines
- Victorica E. Borja, Department of Health, Philippines
- Sonia Almeida, Ministry of Health, Philippines
- Mario F. Comendador, National Office, MMDPH, Philippines
- Pompon Pat Pluwanta, Siriraj Hospital, Thailand
- Nanphorn Vichronthakul, Regional Health Promotion Center 1, Thailand
- Yapayong Thongcharoen, Chiang Mai Provincial Hospital, Thailand
- Istria Jardaray, Ministry of Public Health, Thailand
- Watcharee Tantipruek, Chiang Mai University, Thailand
- Prachit Numnumt, Kamcham Hospital, Thailand
- Jeong Eun Kim, CHJ, Perinatal Hospital, USA
- Mekhwi, Khon Kaen University, Thailand
- Fauziya, UNFPA, USA
- Olga, UNFPA, USA

Calendar of Events 2007

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<td>37th Session of CEDAW</td>
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<td>Jan 15-28</td>
<td>The 3-in-1 Training Course on IYCF</td>
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<td>Feb 4-8</td>
<td>International Conference on Actions to Strengthen Linkages between SRH &amp; HIV/AIDS, Mumbai, India</td>
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<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>WABA's 16th Anniversary</td>
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<td>Feb 25-May 10</td>
<td>Breastfeeding: Advocacy &amp; Practice, A Regional Outreach Course, Penang, Malaysia</td>
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<td>Feb 26-Mar 2</td>
<td>34th SCN Annual Session, Rome, Italy</td>
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<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Wellstart's 22nd Anniversary</td>
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<td>Feb 26-Mar 9</td>
<td>51st Session of CSW, The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, New York, USA</td>
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<td>Mar 7-11</td>
<td>CIMS Forum, Atlanta, USA</td>
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<td>April 24-May 3</td>
<td>4th African Conference on Social Aspects of HIV/AIDS Research, Kisumu, Kenya</td>
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<td>May 1</td>
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<td>World Forum on Early Care &amp; Education, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
<td>World Environment Day</td>
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<td>June 7-8</td>
<td>2nd Annual African HIV/AIDS Clinical Update and Leadership Development Conference, Nairobi, Kenya</td>
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<td>June 10-12</td>
<td>4th International Conference on Children's Health &amp; the Environment, Vienna, Austria</td>
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<td>June 17</td>
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<td>June 18-July 13</td>
<td>Breastfeeding: Practice and Policy</td>
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<td>June 25-27</td>
<td>Nutrition &amp; Nurture in Infancy and Childbirth: Bio-Cultural Perspectives, United Kingdom</td>
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([*) see www.daysafaction.net for links]