

Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center

A joint project of Children for Breastfeeding, Inc. and Nurturers of the Earth

Managed by International Board Certified Lactation Consultants

TESDA Women's Center. TESDA Complex, East Service Road, SLEX, Taguig City, Philippines

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Ma. Teresita G. Gabriel, MD, FPDS
President
Philippine Dermatological Society

Through:

Rowena F. Genuino, MD, FPDS
Chairperson, PDS Research Committee

Cc: Dr. Jaime C. Montoya
Executive Director, Philippine Council for Health Research and Development.

Re: Call for research proposals on the skin and breastfeeding

Dear Dr. Gabriel,

Greetings! The Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center (PLRTC) is a DOH and TESDA-accredited center for lactation and is a joint project of two NGOs, The Children for Breastfeeding, Inc. (an organization that I currently head) and Nurturers of the Earth.

On May 17, 2010, the PLRTC through Children for Breastfeeding, Inc., signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to initiate and screen research proposals focusing on breastfeeding and human lactation. The goal of this partnership is to encourage the linking of breastfeeding promotion, protection and support to different medical professions bringing the issue of breastfeeding out of its box.

Since the breast is an important part of the skin, I am offering this research grant opportunity to the PDS membership and training institutions. The PLRTC is inviting the PDS to avail of this research grant by conducting a PDS-wide **call for research proposals on the skin and breastfeeding**.

We can start with our specialty by investigating possible uses of breastmilk on dermatological problems and discover other ways on how dermatology can promote, protect and support breastfeeding. Since we deal mostly with women, it is but natural as well as important that dermatologists integrate the knowledge of human lactation into their practices thereby helping the country reach the Millennium Development Goals before 2015. (http://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/en/)

Attached are the details of the PLRTC Call for Proposals and the Memorandum of Understanding between DOST and Children for Breastfeeding.

May God bless you and the organization with more positive energies to contribute to the national effort in protecting maternal and child health.

Sincerely yours,

Elvira L. Henares-Esguerra, MD, FPDS, FABM, IBCLC, RPh
Co-Director, PLRTC
President, Children for Breastfeeding, Inc.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: RESEARCH ON THE SKIN AND BREASTFEEDING

Lead Agency: Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center
October 17, 2011

With the support of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the PLRTC announces its Call for Proposals for research on the skin and breastfeeding. The research grants seek to encourage physicians to conduct research on the importance of breastfeeding and to create new channels to integrate its promotion, protection and support into their specialization.

Background/Rationale

The World Health Organization estimates that 16,000 Filipino children die every year because they were not breastfed. The use of formula milk deprives these children of the important antibodies and other protective properties of breastfeeding causing malnutrition, illnesses and eventual death. Those who survive the formula menace are plagued with various diseases throughout their lives.

Sadly, many medical doctors either remain complacent amidst this social dilemma or are a part of the social pressure to use formula milk. According to the 2008 Food and Nutrition Research Institute's "National Nutrition Survey", only 8.2% of mothers who breastfeed do so upon the advice of a physician or other health professionals while 41.7% breastfeed because they cannot afford to buy formula.

Breastfeeding addresses not only health issues but also issues on food security, ecology, economy, empowerment, love, faith and family stability. This is the reason why physicians should be aware of their crucial role in addressing this urgent facet of maternal and child health.

There are many factors to ensure the success of breastfeeding. One of these factors is the protection of the integrity of the skin. Breastfeeding begins with skin-to-skin contact.

On the other hand, there are also many anecdotal stories on the efficacy of breastmilk in curing skin diseases and trauma (e.g. burns) due to its anti-infective, anti-inflammatory properties and epidermal growth factor.

We need to investigate the availability of international studies on the link between dermatological cases and breastfeeding and conduct local researches to strengthen the scientific evidence on these issues.

Amount of Research Grant: 500,000 PHP (to be apportioned to different investigator/s according to need and relevance of the proposal).

Eligibility: All bona-fide members and resident physicians of the Philippine Dermatological Society may apply for this grant.

Priority topics:

Dermatology Research proposals with either breastfeeding or breastmilk as the focus of study will be accepted for screening.

For your guidance, the following are priority topics :

- Breastfeeding or Breastmilk as a prevention of or treatment for dermatological problems
- Interventions for preventing or treating nipple trauma during breastfeeding
- Health social sciences studies on breastfeeding ex. knowledge-attitudes-practices
- Systematic reviews on breastmilk or breastfeeding and the skin
- Health promotion and advocacy strategies of dermatologists for breastfeeding

Application requirements and Screening process:

There will be two levels of screening of proposals: PDS level (Step 1) and PLRTC level (Step 2).

Step 1 PDS Level

1. Synopsis of Research proposals will be submitted to the PDS Research Committee for pre-screening.
2. After pre-screening, research proposals with complete requirements will be turned over to PLRTC for final screening.

Step 2 PLRTC Level

3. PLRTC will review and select proposals. Principal investigators of the selected proposals will be asked to submit the full proposal and budget using the PCHRD Detailed Research Proposal form. Research grant requirements of PCHRD will be followed .
4. Full proposals will have a written endorsement from PLRTC addressed to PCHRD Research Grants office.
5. Final approval will come from PCHRD.

Step 1. Submission requirements: (PIs follow format in PDS Guidelines for Research Grants)

3 hardcopies of:

1. one to two-page summary of research proposal (single space, Arial Font size 11, 8 x11.5" paper) using the prescribed format (structured abstract of proposal)
2. PDS Research Grant Application form
3. If resident trainee, cover letter with endorsement from department/section chair
4. If PDS member, certificate of good standing from PDS membership committee

Please submit hard copies by March 1, 2012 to:

Rowena F. Genuino, MD, FPDS

Chair, PDS Research Committee

1015 South Tower, Cathedral Heights Building, St. Luke's Medical Center,
E. Rodriguez St., Quezon City 1102

All documents in pdf files should also be emailed to pds_research_committee@yahoo.com by March 1, 2012

Applications which successfully pass the pre-screening (Step 1), will be turned over to PLRTC. PLRTC will then notify the investigators by email to proceed to Step 2. **Step 2. Submission of Full proposal to PLRTC (for applicants who are selected by PLRTC)**

1. Get a copy of PCHRD research grant application form at the [download](#) section of the DOST website <http://www.pchrd.dost.gov.ph/index.php/research-grants>

2. Submit the following documents within 3 months after notification to

Dr. Elvira L. Henares-Esguerra, MD, FPDS, FABM, IBCLC, RPh
c/o PDS Office

1015 South Tower, Cathedral Heights Building, St. Luke's Medical Center,
E. Rodriguez St., Quezon City 1102

a. two hard copies of the PCHRD research grant application form with full research proposal and all the requirements indicated in the PCHRD research grant application form

b. endorsement letter from the head of your institution.

c. endorsement letter from PDS Research Committee

d. certificate of clearance from your institutional ethics committee for studies involving human subjects, including a sample of informed consent for subjects, and a clearance from the institutional biosafety committee for projects dealing with pathogenic organisms.

3. Email all documents to Dr. Elvira L. Henares-Esguerra, MD, FPDS, FABM, IBCLC, RPh thebreastfeedingclinic@yahoo.com.ph (within 3 months after notification).

Criteria for acceptance of research proposal:

- Relevance
- Feasibility
- Methodological quality

Expected Output:

- Submission of interim and full scientific report including liquidation report to PLRTC and PDS during implementation and within one month after the scheduled completion of the

study

- Presentation of studies in scientific fora both nationally and internationally within one year from completion of the funded research
- Publication of completed studies in peer-reviewed journals within 2 years from completion
- Compilation of studies to be used for the national breastfeeding campaign (by PDS and PLRTC)
- Increased appreciation and knowledge of breastfeeding among dermatologists

Timetable:

November 2011 – February 2012

Call for proposals

Orientation for interested proponents

March – May 2012

Screening of proposals by the PDS Research Committee/PLRTC and submission to DOST through PLRTC

June 2012

Announcement of the approved proposals and commencement of researches

Submission of Research Reports – within 1 month from completion of study, not later than 1 year after release of grant to investigator

Note: Timetable may change depending on the date of the DOST approval

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

1. Experimental studies that include breastmilk substitutes or breastfeeding devices not recommended by the International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs) *will NOT be accepted*.
2. The conduct and distribution of the research output should not in any way violate the letter and spirit of the International Code on the Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and other Related Products and the Philippine laws that protect breastfeeding.
3. Researchers will agree to prepare mid-term and final reports and summary of the study for public presentation at the PLRTC (www.breastfeedingphilippines.com) and/or Department of Science and Technology (DOST) websites (following the conclusion of the study. All researchers supported in whole or in part by funds from this grant must be made aware of this obligation.

4. Researchers are required to publish and disseminate the findings as broadly and promptly as reasonably possible.
5. All publications must include the acknowledgement, "Funded by a grant from the Department of Science and Technology through the Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center".
6. Should the studies be accepted for presentations in national and international fora, the authors will be requested to present their studies. If they will not be available to do this, the authors will allow the Philippine Lactation Resource and Training Center to present it on their behalf.
7. Manufacturers of products covered by the National and International Code would be barred from using the research output including, but not limited to, manufacturers of feeding bottles, rubber teats/ nipples, pacifiers, breast pumps, milk and other dairy products (e.g. for infants, toddlers, mothers and the elderly).
8. Applicants should disclose any other sources of support or funding for their proposed study.

Conforme:

Rowena F. Genuino, MD, FPDS
PDS Research Committee Chair

Elvira L. Henares-Esguerra, MD, FPDS, FABM, IBCLC, RPh
Co-Director, PLRTC
President, Children for Breastfeeding, Inc.

Ma. Teresita G. Gabriel, MD, FPDS
President, PDS