



Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Newsletter

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A newsletter offering for Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine members and colleagues from across the world.

Welcome to Inside ABM!

As we close out June, we're taking a moment to reflect on the conversations, updates, and shared learning that continue to shape breastfeeding and lactation medicine. Welcome to Inside ABM, a newsletter for ABM members, friends, and followers! Come on in!

Here's a preview of what ABM members are reading in this month's issue of Inside ABM. Each issue brings you expert insights, clinical resources, and exclusive content to keep you informed and ahead in the field of breastfeeding medicine. To access the full newsletter and all the benefits of membership, [join ABM today](#).

SUMMARY: Our growing field of Breastfeeding and Lactation Medicine is no different from any other: we are in a constant state of change and update. *Inside ABM* to the rescue. This month, we are featuring up-to-the-minute updates on breastfeeding contraindications and an infant condition—rare but seldom mentioned as a breastfeeding challenge. Come on in!



Spotlight on Contraindications

Let's shine our spotlight on CONTRAINDICATIONS to breastfeeding and the use of breastmilk. This list of rare conditions has changed significantly in the last 5 years. [ABM's Protocol #7 Model Maternal Hospital Policy Supportive of Breastfeeding](#) Table 2 lists the contraindications as of 2025. Below is an updated table of contraindications as of 2026, providing insights on Ebola recommendations and recommendations regarding our new global threat—Hantavirus. Further, we have added the infant condition, Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (SCID), to our analysis. SCID is a rare disease, but one that does require special management of breastfeeding and the use of breastmilk. Yet it is rarely included on lists of breastfeeding contraindications. [Join ABM to read more.](#)

Getting to Know the Expert: Additional Information on Hantavirus: (written by Melody Jackson, MBBS FRACGP IBCLC MPH, Hantavirus, Andes Virus, and Breastfeeding: What Clinicians Need to Know)

Recent international attention has focused on a cluster of Andes virus (ANDV) infections linked to cruise ship travel in South America, prompting renewed discussion about the implications of hantavirus infection for breastfeeding families. While hantaviruses are primarily zoonotic infections transmitted through exposure to infected rodent urine, feces, or saliva, the Andes virus is unique among hantaviruses because person-to-person transmission has been documented.¹

For breastfeeding medicine clinicians, the key question is whether hantavirus can be transmitted through human milk. [Join ABM to read more.](#)

References

1. Vial PA, Ferrés M, Vial C, Klingström J, Ahlm C, López R, Le Corre N, Mertz GJ. Hantavirus in humans: a review of clinical aspects and management. Lancet Infect Dis. 2023 Sep;23(9):e371-e382. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(23)00128-7. Epub 2023 Apr 24. PMID: 37105214.



Register Now for the 2026 ABM Annual Meeting

The [ABM 31st Annual International Meeting](#) is coming to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, October 13-15, 2026. This year's meeting brings together evidence-based science, practical clinical education, and global perspectives in breastfeeding and lactation medicine, with new opportunities for connection and learning throughout the program.

The [schedule at a glance](#) is now posted on the ABM website, making it easier to preview the meeting format, plan your travel, and see how the program will unfold. New this year, the Annual Meeting will also feature symposia included with registration, giving attendees additional opportunities to engage with timely topics and expert perspectives as part of the core meeting experience.

ABM is also pleased to offer tiered pricing for Affiliate members this year. Affiliate members may now select Category 1, 2, or 3 pricing based on country of residence, supporting more inclusive global participation while preserving access to the Annual Meeting for a wider range of professionals in breastfeeding and lactation medicine.

In-person attendees may also choose to add two optional events during registration:

- **Celebrating Our Global Community:** Join colleagues from around the world for an evening of connection, food, music, and celebration. This optional event will take place on Wednesday, October 14, from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Additional fee: \$85.
- **Lactational Mastitis Research Summit:** This half-day, action-oriented convening will bring together clinicians, researchers, and patient perspectives to identify critical gaps in mastitis diagnosis, treatment, and research; define priority research questions; and build the framework for future evidence-based care. The **summit** will take place Friday, October 16, from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Additional fee: \$50.

Whether you join us in Toronto or engage with the conference content on your own schedule through our on-demand option, the 2026 Annual Meeting is designed to foster meaningful connections, shared learning, and clinical advancement across the ABM community.

Planning to join us in Toronto? [Book your hotel now](#) to secure the discounted group rate before the block fills up.

Please contact our team at abm@bfmed.org if you are already registered for the Annual Meeting and would like to add the new events to your registration.



Applications for ABM's Leadership Academy are open!

If you're ready to advance your leadership skills in breastfeeding medicine, this 10-month program is for you!

This transformative program is designed to equip you with the leadership tools and experience needed to excel in your career. You'll receive personalized mentoring from leading breastfeeding experts and lead a project that drives innovation and equity in breastfeeding medicine.

Applications are open through July 31.

[Learn More and Apply](#)



Breastfeeding Swag from ABM

Looking for a simple way to show your support for breastfeeding medicine?

Check out the ABM Zazzle store! Featuring items you can use every day while representing a community dedicated to advancing care for families around the world.

It's a small way to stay connected and support the mission wherever you are.

[Browse the Store](#)



New Grand Rounds Webinar: What Ukraine Is Teaching Us About Breastfeeding in Emergencies

Conflict changes everything, including how families feed and care for their infants. “**Grand Rounds: Breastfeeding in Emergencies - A Review of ABM’s Position Statement and Lived Experiences from Ukraine**” explores how the war in Ukraine has shaped breastfeeding practices, maternal decision-making, and infant nutrition.

Join presenters as they share survey findings and lived experiences from Ukrainian mothers, highlighting the challenges families face in crisis conditions. The session also examines how these factors influence breastfeeding duration, confidence, and feeding choices, as well as the critical role of lactation support and evidence-based counseling in improving outcomes.

This on-demand webinar is available now in the ABM Education Center. After viewing, registrants can join a discussion board on MyABM to submit questions and engage with the presenters.

This activity offers on-demand CME through December 31, 2027.

[Register and Watch Now](#)



Have You Seen This?

Case Study written by **Sheila Kredit, MD IBCLC NABBLM-C FAAFP**

A 26-year-old G2P1011 underwent a planned Cesarean section at 37w4d for cholestasis of pregnancy and breech position. Her prenatal ultrasounds were notable for fetal femur length lag and a cardiac left axis deviation. Upon delivery, the baby had Apgars of 8 and 9 and was appropriate for gestational age.

The mother desired to breastfeed. The dyad had difficulty with latch despite lactation support; thus, the baby received a mix of formula and expressed breastmilk in-house and upon discharge. His weight and bilirubin remained within physiologic range at his newborn follow-up appointments.

On day 6 of life, the baby's outpatient clinic received a call from the Washington State Department of Health that his newborn screen was positive for Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID). [Join ABM to read more.](#)

Thank you for previewing this month's Inside ABM!

To access the full newsletter and enjoy all the benefits of ABM membership, consider [joining us today.](#)



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