



Utah Breastfeeding Coalition

because breastfeeding touches us all

January 9, 2008

Corporate Partners:

Medela INC

Organizational Partners:

Bear River Health Department,
WIC Program
Pregnancy Risk Line
University Health Care –
Women's & Children
Services
Utah Department of Health
Utah Dietetic Association
Utah WIC Program
Wasatch County Health
Department, WIC Program
Midwives College of Utah
La Leche League of Utah

Brian Moench, MD
Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment
LDSH Anesthesia Department
8th Ave & C Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84143

Dear Dr. Moench,

We wanted to thank you again for speaking to the Utah Breastfeeding Coalition (UBC) in November 2007 about the environmental contaminants that can be found in breastmilk. We have received many compliments about your presentation and are grateful for the time you took to prepare and deliver it.

There were a few points that we wanted to invite you to make as you discuss breastfeeding and environmental contaminants:

- Clearly state that breastfeeding is always the preferred method of infant feeding (with rare medical exceptions) and is the biologic norm. Anything other than breastfeeding (e.g. formula use) is substandard.
- Emphasize the risks of not breastfeeding, including the increased risk for allergies, asthma, ear infections, viral infections, diabetes, overweight, childhood cancers, and SIDS; many of these health issues are also related to environmental contaminants.
- Clearly state that formula contains environmental contaminants.
- Clearly state that formula use contributes to environmental pollution and landfill deposits (formula production, formula cans and lids, plastic bottles and nipples, etc.).
- Provide evidence based research about mercury contamination of fish and the danger it might pose to women who consume it while pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Put emphasis on ways people can reduce personal exposure to environmental contaminants and thereby reduce the amount of contaminants in their breastmilk.

Again, we appreciate your willingness to share your knowledge with us. We applaud the work you and your organization are doing to clean up our environment and make Utah a healthy place for us to live and breathe. We invite Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment to join the Utah Breastfeeding Coalition as an organizational partner so that we can continue to work together to inform Utahns about the benefits of breastfeeding and potential environmental risks. Enclosed is a membership application form or you can join UBC at our website (www.utahbreastfeeding.org).

Please let us know how we can assist you, and feel free to contact us for more information. You are welcome to refer anyone who has questions or concerns about breastfeeding to us.

Sincerely,

Patrice Isabella, MS, RD
Utah Breastfeeding Coalition President

These organizations and corporate partners are fighting cancer, childhood obesity, diabetes, ear infections, food allergies and life-threatening gastrointestinal disease by helping mothers breastfeed for the first year... and beyond.

What is your organization doing to protect the health of Utah's families?