



**Comments on NIH National Institute of Child Health and  
Human Development (NICHD) Visioning Process**  
June 10, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Although there is a body of research on breastfeeding, significant knowledge gaps are evident. These gaps must be filled to ensure that accurate, evidence-based information is available to parents, health care providers, public health programs, and policy makers.

The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding calls for increased funding of research on breastfeeding (Action 17) and strengthened capacity for conducting research on breastfeeding (Action 18).

Specifically the Surgeon General calls for the development of a national consortium on breastfeeding research. The Call to Action states : "Such a consortium would help overcome the limitations that researchers now face in designing studies, increase the generalizability of research on breastfeeding, help prioritize key research areas, enable expanded and advanced research to be performed, and foster the timely translation of research into practice."

We encourage NICHD to take the lead on this action by developing a platform for a national consortium of researchers interested in breastfeeding research.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin Stanton', written in a cursive style.

Robin W. Stanton, MA, RD, LD  
Chair