

## What do the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative National Co-ordinator and the BFHI Advisory committee do?

### **National Co-ordinator of BFHI in Ireland**

The co-ordinator of the BFHI drafts Irish adaptations of international BFHI materials, compiles reports, highlights BFHI related resources, facilitates networking between hospitals, increases awareness of BFHI in Ireland, trains assessors, acts as a link to BFHI internationally, represents BFHI at the National Committee for Breastfeeding and generally co-ordinates the BFHI in Ireland. The Irish Network of Health Promoting Hospitals (HPH) and the Department of Health and Children fund this part-time contract.



Genevieve Becker has specialised in the area of infant and young child feeding for the last 25 years. She runs *BEST Services*, a business providing breastfeeding education support and training, and her main contracts at present include developing training materials for the World Health Organisation and UNICEF, in addition to her BFHI work. Genevieve has also worked in Community Nutrition in the Western Health Board and for the Department of Health Promotion, NUI Galway. As well as her primary qualification in Dietetics, Genevieve has a Masters in Community Health, a Masters in Education, is an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and has recently commenced work on a PhD looking at aspects of health worker competency in assisting breastfeeding. Genevieve currently is a recipient of a Health Research

Board Fellowship to do a Cochrane Research Review on methods of milk expression, for which the protocol was published in August 2006. Genevieve lives in Galway city.

### **The BFHI National Advisory Committee,**

The BFHI National Advisory committee is a multi-disciplinary group including midwives, lactation consultants, paediatric nurses, public health nurses, dietitians, and mother to mother support group counsellors, from a variety of work settings including health promotion, hospitals, community, education and training. Members are nominated by the health boards and organisations that they represent. The committee's role is to facilitate implementation of the BFHI *process* including identifying hospitals that are ready for assessment, facilitating assessment and designating status, in addition to a general role in representing the views of the areas that they represent.

#### **Members March 2006:**

Mary Kelly, North Western Health Board  
Margaret O'Leary-Ryan, Mid Western Health Board  
Eileen Earley, Midland Health Board  
Maura Lavery, Northern Area Health Authority  
Eleanor Hardy, East Coast Area Health Authority  
Nicola Clarke, Ciudiu/Irish Childbirth Trust  
Liz Clancy, Association of Lactation Consultants in Ireland  
Mary Bird, La Leche League of Ireland & UNICEF National Committee for Ireland

Camilla Barrett, Western Health Board  
vacant, Southern Health Board  
Margo Duffy, North Eastern Health Board  
Mary Toole, South West Area Health Authority  
Ann Ellis, South Eastern Health Board  
Linda Ennis, Paediatric Nurses Association



Some Advisory Committee Members with Prof. Luke Clancy HPH Chair. May 2006