



Dear ABM Members,

It is with deep sorrow that the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine announces the passing of Dr. Ruth Lawrence, one of our revered founders and guiding lights. Dr. Lawrence passed away peacefully on Sunday, October 13, at the age of 101, surrounded by her loving family. Her extraordinary contributions have not only shaped our organization but have also fundamentally transformed the practice of breastfeeding medicine worldwide.

Throughout her remarkable career as a clinician, educator, and author, Dr. Lawrence pioneered the integration of scientific research and compassionate care in support of breastfeeding families. Her seminal work, "Breastfeeding: A Guide for the Medical Profession," set the standard for evidence-based clinical guidance, becoming an invaluable resource for health professionals worldwide. Driven by a commitment to maternal and infant health, she championed the recognition of breastfeeding as a critical component of public health, advocating tirelessly for improved education, support, and research in the field.

Dr. Lawrence's leadership paved the way for breastfeeding medicine to become a recognized discipline, inspiring countless clinicians and researchers to uphold the highest standards of care. Her mentorship created a lasting legacy of collaboration and innovation, encouraging professionals to see the interconnectedness of science, advocacy, and empathy in their practice. Today, as we move forward in breastfeeding medicine, many have remarked that we are truly standing on Ruth's shoulders, a testament to the firm foundation she built and the inspiration she continues to provide. The Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine and the global community are indebted to her vision, wisdom, and unwavering devotion.

The Academy extends its deepest condolences and support to Dr. Lawrence's family during this time of remembrance. We are profoundly grateful for the path she forged; a path that continues to guide our mission, unify our membership, and elevate care for mothers and infants around the globe.

As we mourn the loss of Dr. Lawrence, we invite each of you to join us in honoring her extraordinary legacy in a collective and heartfelt way. The ABM Board is establishing a digital memorial tribute wall, where members can post reflective messages, memories, and tributes. This space will allow our community to celebrate Ruth's pioneering spirit, mourn her passing, and express our gratitude for her lifelong dedication to

breastfeeding medicine.

We encourage you to share your reflections, stories, and sentiments on the tribute wall, creating a tapestry of remembrance that embodies the profound impact Ruth Lawrence had on each of us and the field as a whole. Please use the following link to post your messages: <https://recocards.com/board/c-dr--ruth-128992968150>. All messages and tributes posted will be gathered and shared with Dr. Lawrence's family, ensuring that they receive the collective appreciation, affection, and support of our membership.

Additionally, in accordance with the wishes of Dr. Lawrence's family, members who wish to honor her memory are invited to contribute to funds that were especially meaningful to her. Donations in Dr. Lawrence's honor may be made to the [Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine's Growth Fund](#), [the Founders' Endowment](#), or to the [Dr. Ruth A. Lawrence Educational Fund](#) at the University of Rochester. Your support of these initiatives will help sustain Dr. Lawrence's legacy and further the mission she so passionately championed.

Let us come together, standing on the shoulders of a giant, to mourn, to celebrate, and to uphold Ruth's legacy as a community united in purpose and gratitude.

With heartfelt appreciation and respect,
The ABM Board of Directors

Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine

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