



Berufsverband von de Laktationsberoderinnen zu Lëtzebuerg

9 July 2020

Dr. Luciana Rodrigues da Silva
President, Brazilian Pediatrics Society (SBP)
Brazil
presidente@sbp.com.br

SBP-Nestlé program to train pediatric residents

Dear Dr. Rodrigues Silva,

We here in Luxembourg have heard about the J.Pedia program. We are very concerned about the J.Pedia program launched by Nestlé together with your association SBP.

We the lactation consultants of Luxembourg need to work as a team with pediatricians to support breastfeeding mothers. There is clearly a conflict of interest when a manufacturer of breastmilk substitutes and infant foods provides training and education to pediatricians or any other healthcare providers.

As a co-author of the recent article: Protecting Breastfeeding From Conflicts of Interest, Journal of Human Lactation 2020, Vol. 36(1) 22–28 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0890334419885859> I am quoting from it: The 2016 WHA resolution contains the Guidance on Ending the Inappropriate Promotion of Foods for Infants and Young Children (WHO, 2016; 2017), which applies to all commercially produced foods that are marketed as suitable for infants and young children from the age of 6–36 months, clarifies what such inducement are. It recommends that health workers, health systems, health professional associations, and nongovernmental organizations avoid situations of conflicts of interest and be prohibited from engaging with manufacturers and distributors in a range of activities. Importantly, the Guidance also talks directly to the manufacturers. It calls on them not to create conflicts of interest in health facilities or throughout health systems—but it would be illusionary to believe the companies comply, wouldn't it?"

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNICEF, 1989/90) calls on all societal actors to always act "in the best interest of the child." It also enshrines the "right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health" and the obligation to "ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents. . .

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are informed. . . and supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, [and] the advantages of breastfeeding”

(UNICEF, 1989, Art. 24.1 and 24.2[e]). How can pediatricians be trained by Nestlé and have independent scientific knowledge when it comes to inform parents. This training does not respect the rights of the child. After receiving a free course in pediatric nutrition, these young professionals will be in favor of products from Nestlé and will recommend them even when they are not appropriate.

May we, therefore, urge you that the SBP reconsider its participation and endorsement of the J.Pedia program and withdraw its support. We recommend that your association develops a strict COI policy in order to avoid further ethical problems.

With best regards,

Maryse Arendt

Chairwoman of BLL (Lactation consultants of Luxemburg)

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