

Knowledge translation can be understood as a dynamic and interactive process that transforms the results of scientific research into practical and innovative actions that produce real improvements for society.
(João Aprigio Guerra de Almeida, 2026)

For four decades, Brazil, through the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), has been developing innovative solutions for Human Milk Banks (BLH). This initiative has made it possible to build the largest and most complex Network of Human Milk Banks (rBLH) in the world, recognized by countries and by United Nations agencies within the scope of international cooperation. It is a strategic action of the Brazilian State, structured on an interinstitutional and intersectoral basis, involving the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC); and, within Brazilian territory, the state and municipal health departments, which are responsible for implementing the actions.

The Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks (rBLH-BR) is a social technology resulting from a strategic, cross-unit initiative of Fiocruz, aimed at strengthening the scientific, productive, technological, and managerial capacities, as well as the quality assurance, of Human Milk Banks, in order to respond to the demands of Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS) and of partner countries in the field of food and nutrition security for at-risk newborns and infants, with the purpose of contributing to the achievement of Targets 3.2 and 3.4 of Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3).

The Fiocruz Human Milk Bank Qualification and Certification Program (PCFioBLH) falls within this context as a strategic management initiative that operates the components of quality – planning (guidelines), assurance (compliance with standards), control (detection of defects), and continuous improvement – in Human Milk Banks, as pillars of the framework for pursuing excellence in promoting safe access to human milk as a therapeutic resource.

The Agricultural Research Company of Minas Gerais (EPAMIG), through the Cândido Tostes Dairy Institute (ILCT), with more than 90 years of history, stands out as the first dairy school in Latin America and has a solid track record in food science and technology, especially in the field of milk and dairy products. Throughout its work, it has built expertise in processing, preservation, analysis, quality control, and technology development, combining research, innovation, and knowledge transfer. Its infrastructure includes modern research and teaching laboratories and a teaching factory, which, together with the experience of its researchers and professors, support the development and evaluation of technological solutions applied to the food sector.

The joint efforts of Fiocruz, through the Fernandes Figueira National Institute of Women's,

Children's and Adolescents' Health, and EPAMIG ILCT, begun in 2019, culminated in the establishment of the rBLH-Fiocruz Collaborating Center for the development of innovations in the use of human milk as a therapeutic resource for newborns and infants, in line with the Human Milk Bank model practiced by Brazil's Unified Health System (SUS).

In summary, food and nutrition security is central to the concerns of the rBLH. In this context, the purpose of this event is to expand the sharing of knowledge and practices among researchers and professionals working in the Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks, using as a guiding thread the results achieved in the research and technological development projects currently under way, as well as to mark the beginning of the process of implementing the Fiocruz Human Milk Bank Qualification and Certification Program in Minas Gerais.

Preliminary Program

Nov 3 (Tuesday) Opening Session

6:00 pm Registration and welcome of participants

6:45 pm Welcome Remarks

7:00 pm Inaugural Ceremony

- General Coordination of Health Care for Children, Adolescents, and Youth, Ministry of Health
- Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz)
- Agricultural Research Company of Minas Gerais (EPAMIG)
- Agricultural Research Company of Minas Gerais – Cândido Tostes Dairy Institute (EPAMIG ILCT)
- Minas Gerais State Department of Health
- Juiz de Fora Municipal Department of Health
- National Reference Center for Human Milk Banks
- Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks
- PAHO/WHO Collaborating Center (BRA-87) for the Strengthening of Human Milk Banks

Nov 4 (Wednesday) Session II: Building Bridges between Food Science and Human Milk Banks

8:00 am Opening of the day's activities and general guidelines

8:30 am Mini-lecture: Origins, Scope, and Limits of Applying the Fundamentals of Food Technology in the Brazilian Network of Human Milk Banks.

9:00 am Panel: Innovative Solutions for Processing and Quality Control in Human Milk Banks

10:30 am Break

11:00 am Guided tours and discussions with researchers at the research, innovation, and technological development stations

Thematic stations:

1. Adaptation of the homogenization process for human milk

2. Development of a benchtop homogenizer for small volumes

3. Development of a methodology for rapid and simultaneous determination of titratable acidity and protein content in human milk

4. Development of a methodology for the concentration of low-calorie human milk

5. Getting to know the processes of a pilot plant / school factory

6. New opportunities for knowledge translation in the rBLH

7. Research lines and projects developed by EPAMIG ILCT

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Guided tours and discussions with researchers at the research, innovation, and technological development stations (continued)

5:00 pm Forum: Dialogue between Researchers and Health Professionals – Sharing Knowledge and Practices

6:00 pm Close of the day's activities

Nov 5 (Thursday) Session III: Fiocruz Human Milk Bank Qualification and Certification Program – What Is It and How Does It Work?

8:00 am Opening of the day's activities

8:15 am: Panel: PCFioBLH – Structure and Operating Model

10:30 am Break

11:00 am Hands-on activity: Implementing and Operating the PCFioBLH in Routine Service Practice

1:00 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Hands-on activity: Implementing and Operating the PCFioBLH in Routine Service Practice (continued)

6:00 pm Close of the day's activities

Nov 6 (Friday) Fiocruz Human Milk Bank Qualification and Certification Program – What Is It and How Does It Work? (continued)

8:00 am Opening of the day's activities

8:15 am Hands-on activity: Implementing and Operating the PCFioBLH in Routine Service Practice (continued)

10:30 am Break

11:00 am Forum: PCFioBLH – Experiences and Perspectives of the Human Milk Bank Networks of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais

12:30 pm Close of the event