

# Top 10 Research Priorities for Human Milk Banking and Use of Donor Human Milk: A Partnership Between Parents and Clinicians

Matthews et al. (2020)  
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## For which topic were research priorities identified?

human milk banking and use of pasteurized donor human milk

## In which location was the research priority setting conducted?

Australia - Australia

## Why was it conducted at all?

Human milk banking and the use of pasteurised donor human milk (PDHM) is enjoying a resurgence in Australian neonatal units, presenting opportunities for research in this area. Decisions as to what research to undertake does not always align with the research priorities of end users, that is clinicians and consumers. There are considerable benefits in collaborating nationally on establishing research priorities as this can enhance communication, promote sharing of recent innovations and technology and avoid duplication of effort.

## What was the objective?

to establish research priorities in human milk banking and use of pasteurized donor human milk

## What was the outcome?

a ranking list of 10 research questions

## How long did the research prioritization take?

No information provided.

## Which methods were used to identify research priorities?

JLA method

## How were the priorities for research identified exactly?

Step 1: setting up PSP: steering group established, stakeholders and partner organizations identified. Step 2: gathering uncertainties: survey asking: What question(s) about any aspect of milk banking in preterm babies (any time over their first year of life) would you like to see answered by research?, additionally literature reviewed, total of 406 evidence uncertainties gathered. Step 3: data processing and verification of uncertainties: questions reviewed, out-of-scope removed and duplicate or similar questions combined, questions formatted into PICO and indicative questions formulated, check against evidence, resulting in list of 39 indicative questions. Step 4: interim ranking: via survey, participants were asked to select and rank the top 10 questions of importance, results ranked according to stakeholder type, single shortlist formed through combining the top 20 choices from each stakeholder group, 16 questions common to both groups, resulting in shortlist of 24 questions. Step 5: final prioritization: workshop: small group discussions and rankings, plenary ranking and discussion

## Which stakeholders took part?

Parents of preterm infants, healthcare professionals. Survey: 202 participants: 100 parents and 103 health professionals. Interim ranking: 170 participants: 60 parents and 110 health professionals. Workshop: 13 participants: neonatologists (n=3), obstetrician (n=1), neonatal nurses/midwives (n=3), dietician (n=2), parent of preterm infants (n=2) and milk donors (n=2).

## How were stakeholders recruited?

Each key organization was approached to distribute the link to the survey to their members through their standard communication channels and included Facebook, e-newsletters and email.

## Were stakeholders actively involved or did they just participate?

Stakeholders not only participated but were also actively involved in the research prioritization process: They were part of a steering group. The steering group consisted of key stakeholders including a mother of a preterm infant/milk donor, a neonatal nurse practitioner, a neonatologist, two clinical scientists and a nutrition student. The members designed the survey, were involved in data processing and participated in the workshop.