

IUNS Newsletter

October 2018

'Promoting the advancement of nutritional science, research and development through international cooperation'



IUNS
INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL
SCIENCES

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Message from IUNS President

Professor Alfredo Martinez, IUNS President

IUNS has two recognised missions:

- 1) To promote advancements in Nutrition Science, Research and Development through international cooperation at the global level
- 2) To encourage contacts and collaboration among nutrition scientists and professionals as well as to disseminate information in Nutritional Sciences through modern communication technologies. Both missions are holistically integrated within an IUNS vision about the essential need for continuous e-learning required by Nutrition and Food actors, Health agents and Policy makers, based on online tools for updating knowledge and for implementing their professional responsibilities. In that context, three important actions are envisaged for the IUNS Council 2017-2021 Period.

These are:

- Services to Adhering Bodies and Affiliated Societies
- Education and Skills development based on online instruments
- Capacity Building Task force implementation
- Promoting visibility of Global IUNS activities

ACTIONS

An expected outcome from these activities is to feature specific actions to provide teaching modules devised for the professional development of young Nutritionists and tertiary level programs for members of IUNS Adhering bodies preferentially in Africa, Latin-America and Asia Regions. Also it is envisaged that multilateral networking and cooperation will be facilitated with the institutions providing online courses.

AIM

The general aim is to display information and make public announcements of some academically relevant available courses (free or with inscription fees) to IUNS Adhering Bodies in order that individual members can benefit from this e-learning endeavor. To achieve this objectives, it is expected to:

- 1) Prepare a collection of valid nutritionally related existing Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) from all around the world produced by prestigious institutions and Universities
- 2) Identify and contact Organisers/Directors of nutritional sciences online courses that could be offered free or for reasonable fees to IUNS
- 3) Fund selected candidates proposed by their Adhering Body to take courses that involve fees. To this end a budget is already available.



These Actions will be based on the preparation of following deliverables:

- 1) Webpage announcement of this Capacity Building action on the IUNS Website, including a list of available NUTRITION related free MOOCs and payable COURSES
- 2) Leaflet design and distribution at regional and national meetings such as Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nutricion (SLAN), Federation of Asian Nutrition Societies (FANS), Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS), Federation of European Nutrition Societies (FENS), African Nutrition Epidemiology Conference (ANEC), with this information
- 3) Criteria definition document for IUNS grant assignment procedure and final candidate assessment
- 4) Preparation of the protocol for applications to IUNS after evaluation and prioritisation by the proposing Adhering Body

The current outline of contacts is the following:

- A course on Nutrition Management provided by the University of North Carolina
- Several modules about Nutrition and Food Science provided by University College Dublin within an existing Masters Course
- A couple of Courses in French and English about Food Composition Tables and Nutrition Education provided by Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
- Several options from an extensive list of modules in Spanish provided by NUTRINFO (online community of Spanish speaking nutrition specialists)
- A course about Personalized Nutritional Genomics in Spanish provided by Fundacion Iberoamericana de Nutricion (FINUT)
- A potential course about Dietary Assessment by professionals provided by eNutrition Academy (eNA) plus others in preparation
- Contacts and possibilities are expected for 2019 with Harvard, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Korea, Johns Hopkins, Association for Nutrition (AfN), World Obesity Federation, European Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (ESPEN), University College Cork and Wageningen University.
- Other suggestions of contacts for Courses/ modules in other institutions are being followed up

IUNS News

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

IUNS Council held a Conference Call in July. This article details some of the decisions made.

Funding for Early Career Scientists

IUNS Council agreed to provide funding to enable Early Career Nutrition Scientists to attend regional conferences. It was agreed that each regional conference would receive \$10,000 for the provision of grants over a four-year period. This includes the Africa Nutritional Epidemiology Conference held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in October of this year; SLAN conference taking place from 11th to 15th November 2018 in Guadalajara, Mexico; the Asian Congress of Nutrition being held in Bali, Indonesia on 4th – 7th August 2019; the Federation of African Nutrition Societies conference taking place from 12th to 15th August 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda and the Federation of European Nutrition Societies (FENS) conference being held in Dublin, Ireland. 15th – 18th October 2019.

IUNS symposia at regional conferences

IUNS will be hosting symposia at several regional conferences over the next two years. Firstly, President-Elect Professor Lynnette Neufeld will be organising an IUNS symposium at the SLAN conference in Mexico this November and IUNS President Professor Alfredo Martinez will be organising a symposium at the FENS conference in October 2019.

22nd IUNS-ICN Tokyo, Japan in 2021

IUNS Council discussed the contract for the 22nd IUNS-ICN being held in Tokyo Japan from 14th to 19th September 2019, this was then finalised and sent to the organising committee of the 22nd IUNS-ICN.

Awards

Professor Anna Lartey - Honorary Doctorate

On the 6th of June, 2018, Anna Lartey, Immediate Past President of IUNS (2013-2017) was awarded with the highest recognition within the power of McGill University - an Honorary Doctorate in Science (Honoris causa). The award ceremony is available for viewing on the following site:<https://youtu.be/NpENMO3r0i4>

Dr Lynnette Neufeld – ASN Mid-career award in Global Nutrition

At Nutrition2018 in Boston in June Dr Lynnette Neufeld, President Elect of IUNS, was awarded the Inaugural Mid-career award in Global Nutrition, supported by the Sight and Life Foundation.

Professor Catherine Geissler – ASN Kellogg Prize for Lifetime Achievement in International Nutrition

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) and its Foundation selected Professor Geissler, Secretary General of IUNS, to receive the 2018 Kellogg Prize for Lifetime Achievement in International Nutrition. This award is given to 'a member of the ASN Global Nutrition Council, actively engaged in research to benefit populations in non-industrialized countries, as demonstrated through publications in the scientific literature and actively engaged in training new scientists for international nutrition research'. It was presented on June 11th at the ASN meeting in Boston and as part of the award Professor Geissler was invited to present a lecture on her work.



Professor Anna Lartey giving acceptance speech at McGill University, Montreal, Canada

IUNS Task Forces

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

At the beginning of 2018 IUNS Council reviewed the IUNS Task Forces. This article documents the Task Forces continuing into the 2017 – 2021 Council period and some newly approved Task Forces.

Continuing Task Forces

Benefit-risk and cost effectiveness of micronutrient interventions (previously named 'Risk and Benefits of Iron')

Chair: Dr Sant-Rayn Pasricha.

IUNS representative: Lynnette Neufeld

This Task Force was previously named 'Risk and Benefits of Iron', and is now changed to 'Benefit-risk and cost effectiveness of micronutrient interventions' to expand upon the work already done in the Task Force. They developed a model to quantify potential outcomes associated with an iron supplementation programme which along with economic analysis can potentially guide programme managers and policy makers when selecting between various health priorities and public health interventions. It is planned that the Task Force will extend their current model to other nutritional interventions.

Precision Nutrition.

Chairs: Professor Alfredo Martinez & Dr Ben van Ommen

The Task Force was formerly named 'Gene-nutrient interactions: Knowledge to Action' and reflects the growing interest in relating the risk or protection provided by dietary intake to the genetic predisposition of individuals, now made possible by the growth of modern genomic technologies. IUNS Council requested that the name be changed to 'Precision Nutrition' for the current period to better reflect the aims of the Task Force. This Task Force will continue the preparation of symposia and academic papers, work to develop an online course about Precision Nutrition, and prepare a document concerning Precision Nutrition based upon OMICS approaches.

Capacity Building.

Chair: Professor Alfredo Martinez.

IUNS representatives: Hyun Sook Kim, Francis Zotor

The Capacity Building Task Force was chaired over the last four years by the then IUNS President, Professor Anna Lartey. During that period the Task Force awarded three Re-Integrations grants to members of Adhering Bodies who completed their doctoral studies in a developed country to assist them to start their career in their home low or middle income country and through this Task Force IUNS supported the e-Nutrition Academy (eNA). As current President, Professor Alfredo Martinez agreed to take over the Task Force Chair. During this Council period the Task Force is exploring the possibilities of extending the work of eNA by offering further online nutrition courses to selected IUNS Adhering Body members across the globe.

Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition.

Chair: Dr Gina Kennedy

IUNS representative: V Prakash

This Task Force was previously named Traditional, Indigenous and Cultural Food and Nutrition and was chaired by Professor Harriet Kuhnlein and Dr T Longvah. The Task Force recently published a special issue of the journal Maternal and Child Health entitled 'Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems: Gender Roles, Biodiversity and Food Security'. The issue consists of eleven chapters and an introduction from Professor Anna Lartey (IUNS Past President) and Professor Catherine Geissler (IUNS Secretary General). This issue is available free online through Wiley. In the current Council period Harriet Kuhnlein and T. Longvah continue their involvement as a steering committee and there is an expanded membership. The Task Force has shifted the emphasis to documenting diverse local food systems and promoting elements within them for improving nutrition and health in various ways including livelihood development of knowledge holders. They plan to conduct a meta-analysis of the benefits of these food systems drawing on international publications, prepare policy briefs for national governments, UN agencies and professional societies to better enable governments to meet SDG commitments, and prepare symposia for national and regional conferences.

Towards Multidimensional Indicators of Child Growth and Development.

Chair: Dr Hinke Haisma.

IUNS representative: Ali Dhansay.

The Task Force over the last period continued to develop the conceptual approach and prepared several publications such as 'Towards a capability approach to child growth: A theoretical framework' in Maternal and Child Nutrition; prepared a systematic review on child growth based on papers from 1960, and conducted several workshops. In the current period they plan to organise a special issue of a nutrition journal on the capability approach in child nutrition, submit a proposal for a panel discussion at the Human Development and Capability Association conference in Buenos Aires in 2018, and to organise a master class on the capability approach in health research at the Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania.

International Malnutrition.

Chairs: Professor Ann

Ashworth Hill and Professor Alan Jackson

IUNS representative: Andrew Prentice

The International Malnutrition Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Malnutrition has had extensive activities in capacity building, technical meetings, international workshops and symposia, research strengthening, and engagement with young professionals. They will continue as a Task Force for another term while they seek to become an independent legal entity, and become an Affiliate Body of IUNS. The International Malnutrition Task Force will focus on the major challenge in the next four-year period: capacity building to prevent and treat malnutrition.

Nutrition and Climate Change.

Chair: Professor Benjamin Caballero

IUNS Council thanked Cristina Tirado for her hard work on the Task Force during 2013-7 including the organisation of symposia and special lectures to raise awareness of climate change issues and to promote integration of nutrition into international and national policies on climate change. Benjamin Caballero has been appointed to take the lead for the next Council period and to review the context. He concluded, along with the Council, that Climate Change is one of the major factors in Sustainable Diets and for this reason it has been merged into the new Task Force (see below)

New Task Forces

Sustainable Diets

Chairs: Professor Barbara Burlingame,

Professor Stineke Oenema

IUNS representative: Benjamin Caballero

The Task Force has incorporated the previous Climate Change and Nutrition Task Force. It plans to contribute to the development and standardisation of nutrition indicators and methodologies for characterising and promoting sustainable diets; to provide a communication forum for multisectoral and multidisciplinary activities, including interactions with other relevant IUNS Task Forces; and to provide a stable framework for the on-going organisation of the International Scientific Symposia on sustainable diets, and inclusion of sustainable diets sessions in other scientific conferences/symposia, including IUNS ICN and its regional conferences.

Dietary Fat Quality.

Chair: Professor Berthold Koletzko

IUNS representative: Helmut Hesecker

Considerable controversy and confusion persists on what advice on dietary fat intake should be provided. This topic can have an important public health impact. The aims of this Task Force are: to systematically compile and review the existing evidence of health effects of dietary fat and fat quality, starting with a compilation and review of existing systematic reviews and guidelines, and extending where deemed necessary in a systematic review of recently published original data; to draft a position paper that summarizes the evidence and provides conclusions and recommendations, which should be published in the journal of IUNS (Ann Nutr Metab); and to communicate and disseminate findings to researchers, nutrition and health professionals, policy makers, and the public.

Nutrition and Cancer

Chair: Professor Alan Jackson.

IUNS representative: Catherine Geissler

Current knowledge on cancer and nutrition has benefited countries at all levels of economic development. However, those working in the field of cancer are often unfamiliar with the role of nutrition in the care of cancer patients and for those living with and beyond cancer. Equally, those working in nutrition are often not involved in the prevention and management of cancer. This lack of synergy across nutrition and cancer applies across multiple domains of research, education and practice, from both clinical and public health perspectives. The Task Force plans to foster a community of clinicians, oncologists, scientists, researchers, patients and the public to share knowledge, understanding and best practice, to jointly deliver high quality research; to build capability and capacity in the area of nutrition and cancer to foster excellence in research and practice and ensure continuity into the future; to raise awareness of the opportunities to improve prevention and care in people living with and beyond cancer through nutrition; and to provide a robust base for public policy to address the increasing burden of cancer.

More information on all the Task Forces is available on the IUNS website (www.iuns.org).

Report of ANEC VIII, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

The Africa Nutrition Epidemiology Conference (ANEC) VIII took place earlier this month in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. More than 300 nutrition scientists from Africa and many other countries around the world participated in the conference.

IUNS will also be granting \$10,000 to fund Early Career Scientists to attend the Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS) Conference being held in Kigali, Rwanda in August 2019.

IUNS granted \$10,000 to ANEC to fund the participation of Early Career Scientists. 20 Early Career Scientists were funded to attend the Conference and grants were awarded based on the geographical location of awardees.

The Conference featured 10 plenary sessions including talks from IUNS Council Members Prof. Andrew Prentice, Prof. Ali Dhansay and Prof. Francis Zotor, who is also on the board of the African Nutrition Society (ANS). The Traditional and Indigenous Food Systems and Nutrition Task Force chaired by Dr Gina Kennedy also held a symposium at ANEC VIII on Mainstreaming agrobiodiversity in African food systems. The Symposium highlighted that low consumption of fruits, vegetables, nuts, pulses and animal source foods can contribute to risk factors in the global burden of disease.



IUNS Travel Grant recipients with IUNS Council Members Prof. Andrew Prentice, Prof. Ali Dhansay and Prof. Francis Zotor.

eNutrition Academy: New Courses announced

The eNutrition Academy (eNA) is an independent charity supported by IUNS and a number of nutrition societies across the world.

The eNA recognises the need to support the next generation of nutrition scientists on the African continent and around the world. The eNA is delighted announce that it launched three new courses as part of the African Nutrition Epidemiological Conference (ANEC) being held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1-5 October 2018). These courses have been created by leading nutritionists on the continent and explore diverse nutrition fields from biochemical assessment; to fatty acids; to obesity. Students will explore nutrition from the micro-level to the impact of food consumption on the general public.

In Understanding Lab Data Dr Patricia K. Brown (Kwame Nkrumah University of Sciences and Technology, Ghana) challenges learners to explore nutritional assessment in more detail. This course looks specifically at the biochemical part of nutritional assessment and focuses on some laboratory tests relating to diabetes, renal function and cardiovascular function.

In Lipids and Cardiovascular Health, Dr Jacob Setorgio (University of the Cape Coast, Ghana) explores fatty acids and their structure.

In Obesity and Nutritional Interventions, Dr Setorgio goes on to explore obesity and nutritional inventions on the African continent. He challenges students to learn the differences between being overweight and being obese, the methods in determining obesity, behaviour and dietary changes.

On behalf to the trustees of the eNA, we would like to thank the course developers, reviewers and volunteers to the eNA. Without their drive and termination to support capacity development on the continent the eNA would not be possible. The eNA welcomes feedback from learners, it is only through continuous feedback can we provide appropriate content. In addition, if you would like to invest and support the eNA we would love to hear from you.

Most importantly, are you working in the nutrition field in Africa or globally? Would you like to support capacity development, whether as a course developer or as a reviewer? We want to hear from you. Your expertise and knowledge are critical to aid the development of the eNA and the future of nutrition science in Africa and across the globe. We would appreciate it if all Adhering Bodies could disseminate these course details to their membership.

For more information about the eNA please go to www.enutritionacademy.org

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