



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Osman Galal

FROM: Barry M. Popkin, Chair
Carlos Monteiro, Vice Chair

DATE: September 9, 2009

RE: Report on Activities of the Task Force on the Nutrition in Transition

Overall, the Committee has become rather inactive. The individual members have continued to do a great deal to promote issues related to the speeding up of the shift to a stage of nutrition-related noncommunicable diseases. This has included both research and programmatic/policy work. We have not seen a younger person who could take over and steer this task force forward. We recommend ending the work of this task force.

While there is a growing need for us to identify new young scholars working in this area, we are not able to give the time needed to do this and we have not seen leadership emerge globally that is up to the challenge and also has the ability to raise funds to initiate some of the large activities this committee undertook in the past.

To summarize, this Task Force has had a number of noteworthy accomplishments. These included a highly successful Bellagio Conference on the Nutrition Transition and related publication, holding of regional symposia at all regional nutrition conferences (SLAN, Africa, Asia), creation of symposia at a number of national nutrition society meetings, creating funded symposia at several international nutrition congresses, and a large amount of funding and a global meeting in Sao Paulo as we attempted to fund a 12-country WHO-IUNS huge survey. We raised over a \$500,000 as we obtained NIH, UNC and WHO funding. We held three international meetings to plan this initiative (these included most IUNS task force committee members and many others from the 12 countries), met with the Wellcome Trust, Directors of three NIH institutes, present to the NIH nutrition staff from all institutes, and almost got the full funding for a direct cost \$72 million 12-country effort. The Iraq war ended that effort. We also involved the

Task Force in country level programmatic and policy initiatives and did a great job in a few countries but not globally.

If our job was to raise the level of understanding and the overall visibility of this topic in the international nutrition community we succeeded. If it was to create as we had hoped long-term research and a coordinated effort aimed at policy changes across all continents, we did not succeed.

Attachment A: Members of the International Union for Nutritional Sciences

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