

IUNS Capacity Building Task Force Report  
Date May 26, 2014

Notes from Conference call

Members present:

1. Anna Lartey (AL)
2. Helmut Hesecker (HH)
3. Michael Krawinkel (MK) (Member, International Pediatrics Association)
4. Catherine Geissler (absent with apology)

**Agenda:**

1. E-Nutrition Academy
2. Professional Development courses for young nutrition scientists
3. Re-entry grant/Re-integration grant
4. Development of core curriculum for nutrition

AL welcomed members and explained the purpose of the call. The draft agenda was amended with the addition of item 4 by MK.

At the last face to face council meeting in Amsterdam, it was decided that an IUNS Taskforce on Capacity Building be formed to function for the next four years. This Task force will have the IUNS President and the Secretary General as Chair and Co-Chairs respectively. This TF will oversee all the capacity building activities of IUNS. This call was to discuss the activities planned by the TF for the next four years.

**1. E-Nutrition Academy:**

IUNS has joined a consortium of Nutrition Societies (Nutrition Society of UK, American Society for Nutrition, Federation of African Nutrition Societies, and Africa Nutrition Society) to develop nutrition teaching modules for use in tertiary Universities in Africa. For a start, the focus will be on Africa but will be extended to other developing regions of the world that can benefit from this. E-Nutrition Academy has been registered as a separate entity but jointly owned by all the participating Societies listed above. Each Society is to contribute an amount to support the start of the E-Nutrition Academy. IUNS contributed \$15,000 USD (Fifteen thousand USD) from our fund. E-Nutrition Academy will be launched at the Africa Nutrition Society's biennial conference in Ghana this July 2014. Representatives of all the initiating Societies will be present at the launch. IUNS will be represented by the President (AL).

**2. Professional Development for Young Nutrition Scientists:**

It was explained that although there are regional Nutrition Leadership Programs (NLP) that are held yearly in the regions, participation in these programs is expensive and only a limited number can be accepted at a time. IUNS holding professional development programs at regional conferences can reach more people at a lower cost. The participants are conference attendees (young nutrition scientists) who are attending the conference so IUNS does not have to pay for their attendance. IUNS will only have to pay for the expenses of a resource person to organize the training and may be the cost of renting a room for the training if the regional Adhering Body does not provide for it. Members of the TF were in favour of this idea. It was suggested that we generate a list of topics that can be covered. Some suggestion from the group included the following:

- i) Communication skills

- ii) Networking skills
- iii) Research grant application
- iv) How to write a scientific paper

The TF welcomes ideas on other topics to be considered.

**3. Re-Entry / re-integration grant:**

This is a small grant (possibly \$5,000 USD) that will be made available to young research scientists who have completed their training in a developed country and want to go to their home countries to start their careers. This grant is to help the young scientists to settle in their jobs in their home country. Funds can be used for purchase of books, laptops, set up their office. The proposal is to give two such grants in the four year term of this Council. The modalities for implementing this would be discussed by the TF, A key condition will be that grantees must come from countries with ABs in good standing with IUNS.

**4. Development of core curriculum for Nutritionists:**

It was suggested that IUNS come up with core curriculum on what a nutritionist trained anywhere should know. This will be the minimum of core concepts that nutrition students should know. Regions can add any regional specifications, as this is likely to differ by region.

A member of the TF mentioned that there are so many e-learning courses on nutrition available. IUNS could get a graduate student to check these out, their objectives and content. Good courses can be brought to the attention of ABs.

(Does anybody know a graduate student who can assist with this for a small honorarium?)