IUNS News

International
Union of
Nutritional Sciences
(IUNS)

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For a list of events and adhering/ affiliated bodies, please go to
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IUNS Task Forces

During the IUNS Council Meeting in Amsterdam (The Netherlands) in February 2014, the Council reviewed the IUNS Committees and Task Forces to determine those that had completed their charge, and those that were still active and productive. The review resulted in continuing task forces that had active agendas yet to accomplish, and in establishing some new task forces to meet a specific need.
The IUNS Task Forces are formed to tackle global issues on nutrition of current relevance. Each task force has a chairperson or chair persons, and they are encouraged to include an early-career nutrition scientist in the team as a way to build capacity. Task forces are approved for a period of four years. Typical task force outputs are publications and workshops at international conferences. Task forces undergo review every four years to ensure they have met their mandate. Most activities are carried out using electronic media. Moreover, they may organize workshops or symposia on their assigned topics at a nutrition conference under the umbrella of IUNS. IUNS encourages the publication of meeting reports and task force outputs in professional journals, and reports will be published on the IUNS website.

The following task forces have been approved for the period of 2013 to 2017

– *Diet, Nutrition and Long-Term Health*
Chair: Hinke Haisma
– *Traditional, Indigenous, and Cultural Food and Nutrition*
Chair: Harriet Kuhnlein
– *INFOOD (Food Biodiversity)*
Chair: Ruth Charrondiere; Co-Chair: Suzanne Murphy
– *Prevention and Control of Malnutrition (IMTF)*
Chairs: Ann Ashworth-Hill and Allan Jackson
– *Redefining Diet Quality*
Chairs: Lindsay Allen and Suzanne Murphy
– *Capacity Development and Leadership in Nutrition*
Chairs: Anna Lartey and Catherine Geissler;
Co-Chair: Michael Krawinkel
– *Gene-Nutrient Interactions: Knowledge to Action*
Chairs: Alfredo Martinez and B. van Ommen
– *Nutrition and Climate Change*
Chairs: Christian Tirado and Anna Lartey
– *Risks and Benefits of Iron*
Chair: Sant-Rayan Pasricha

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Report from the IUNS Capacity – Building Task Force

The capacity – building activities will include:

– E-Nutrition Academy
– Professional development courses for young nutrition scientists
– Re-entry grant/re-integration grant
– Development of a core curriculum for nutritionists

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), supported by Cambridge University Press, to develop nutrition teaching modules for use in tertiary universities in Africa. To start with, the focus will be on Africa, but it will subsequently be extended to other developing regions of the world that can benefit from this initiative. E-Nutrition Academy has been registered as a separate entity jointly owned by all the participating societies listed above. Each society has contributed to support the start of the E-Nutrition Academy, which was launched at the Africa Nutrition Society's biennial conference in Ghana this July. Representatives of all the initiating societies were present at the launch; IUNS was represented by the President, Anna Lartey. There was a great deal of interest in the concept and several offers to provide materials.

Professional Development Courses for Young Nutrition Scientists
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 of scientists can be accepted. At IUNS regional conferences, professional development programs can reach more people at a lower cost. The participants of these development programs are young nutrition scientists who are already attending the conference. IUNS will pay for the expenses of a resource person to organize the training and the cost of renting a room for the training if the regional adhering body does not provide for it. Members of the task force have started to generate a list of topics that can be covered, including the following:

– Communication skills
– Networking skills
– Research grant application
– How to write a scientific paper

The task force welcomes ideas on other topics to be considered.

Re-Entry/Re-Integration Grant
This is a small grant (possibly USD 5,000) that will be made available to young research scientists who have completed their training in a developed country and wish to return to their home countries to start their careers. Funds can be used for the purchase of books, laptops, or to set up their office. The proposal is to give two such grants during the four-year term of the present Council. A key condition will be that grantees must come from countries with adhering bodies in good standing with IUNS.

Development of a Core Curriculum for Nutritionists
A further possible activity of the IUNS Task Force could be the preparation of a core curriculum on what a nutritionist should know. This will constitute the minimum of core concepts that all nutrition students should be familiar with. Regional specifications may be added to meet special requirements.

In future newsletters, information about other task forces will be presented.

Professor Catherine Geissler
Secretary-General IUNS

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