Please note that the 21st IUNS-ICN will now be held from 15th - 20th October 2017. Remember to put it in your diary!
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IUNS has revised Statutes and Rules

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

The IUNS Council is pleased to announce that the revision of the IUNS Statutes and Rules is now complete. The process started in late 2013, when a committee consisting of Prof. Lindsay Allen, former IUNS Vice President (Chair); Dr. Emorn Wasantwisut, former IUNS Council Member; Dr. Suzanne Murphy, former IUNS Treasurer; Prof. Ricardo Uauy, former IUNS President and Dr. Paul Amuna, African Nutrition Society member, was appointed to review the IUNS Statutes and Rules. Their suggestions were followed up by the Council, with advice from Jennifer Norton, Business Development Director in the Secretariat.

There have been several major changes. Firstly, the Statutes have been separated from the Rules of Procedure so that there are now two documents for guidance. They have been re-organised and re-worded with simple and clear language to eliminate any ambiguity and provide clarity.

In the previous Statutes and Rules, a Council Member could serve on IUNS Council for a maximum of four terms (16 years). However, this was deemed too long by Council Members and some Adhering Bodies. It was considered to be more appropriate to reduce this to three terms (12 years) and therefore this has been altered in the Statutes.

IUNS Council also felt that IUNS should move with the times and allow for the possibility of conducting meetings by electronic means. IUNS Council and Officers meetings are already regularly carried out via electronic means to avoid the difficulties and expense of bringing International Council Members together for short meetings, although annual face to face meetings continue. IUNS have added the electronic possibility to the Statutes to allow for such meetings and also to consult with Adhering Bodies on specific issues that would otherwise have to wait for the in-person 4 yearly General Assembly.

The Statutes were approved electronically by Adhering Bodies earlier this year and will be ratified at the General Assembly in 2017. Copies of the new documents will be made available at the IUNS-ICN in 2017. If you would like to view the revised IUNS Statutes and Rules sooner than this the approved versions are available on the IUNS website (www.iuns.org) under the ‘Policy’ tab. The IUNS Council extend their sincere thanks to the Review Committee as well as the Nutrition Society for their support during this effort.
IUNS drives Reduction of Salt in Diet to Combat NCDs through its Adhering Body, the Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka (NSSL)

Professor V Prakash, IUNS Vice President

The summit entitled “Reducing Salt in Diet for Better Health and combating NCDs”, organised by the Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka in coordination with IUNS and Unilever, was a great success. Seven years ago several workshops took place globally under the IUNS-Unilever programme for Reduction of Salt of which the proceedings were published and later several booklets were printed for wide circulation. Based on these workshops, the above Salt Summit was organised at Colombo in Sri Lanka by NSSL, the adhering body of IUNS, on 25 April 2016.

The Conference had a very wide participation from the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, Faculties from several Academic and Research and Development Institutions and the private sector, including small and medium scale industries. The programme had three components: the launch of Salt Reduction with a message from the Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine of Sri Lanka; Dr. V. Prakash, Vice President of IUNS then delivered a brief talk on “Nutrition Problems around the Globe due to High Salt Consumption”; and finally three presentations on salt 1) by Prof. Sudheera Kalupahana of the University of Peradeniya on “Scientific Perspectives on Salt and Health” and 2) by Mrs. Vasanthi Senaratne from the Consumers Forum Sri Lanka on “Challenges faced by Consumers: a special focus on reducing salt from diet”; 3) Dr. Mary Kearney from the Global Nutrition and Health Programme of Unilever, Viaardingen on “Consumer Challenges around Salt Reduction; and also the Consumer Insights”.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion on “Reducing Salt in Food: Challenges and Possible Solutions”, chaired by the NSSL President, Dr. Jeanki Gooneratne, followed by a lively discussion from the audience.

The plenary session to propose an action plan was led by the NSSL President and the IUNS Vice President IUNS along with Industry and Consumer representatives. The ideas from the session were taken forward into an action plan.

The Panel; (L-R) Dr. V Prakash, IUNS Vice President; Dr. L. Gamalath, Director Environmental, Occupational Health and Food Safety, Ministry of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine; Ms Visaka Thilakaratne, President, Nutrition Society of Sri Lanka; Dr. Thilak Siriwardena, Director, Non-Communicable Disease Unit, Ministry of Health; Nutrition and Indigenous and Dr. Andre Pota, South Asia R&D Director - Foods, Unilever

Overall the focus of reducing salt intake in the diet was much below that recommended by WHO. It was emphasised that this focus was essential to combat NCDs. The salt intake in the Sri Lankan population is relatively high. The seminar provided a very important incentive to the Ministry with messages from IUNS, the NSSL, consumer organisations and scientists that the overuse of salt in the diet has to be prevented through consumer awareness and by the government regulations to reduce salt in processed foods.

This very successful summit provided an important impetus for salt reduction in Sri Lanka. It also emphasized the need for an active session on Salt Reduction in the next IUNS conference in Buenos Aires, Argentina in October 2017 (IUNS-ICN 2017) to expand them to other countries.
The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition

Professor Anna Larkey, IUNS President

On April 1, 2016 the United Nations General Assembly declared the period 2016 to 2025 as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. Additionally, the resolution endorsed the two outcome documents of the Second International Conference on Nutrition held in Rome in November 2014; these are the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. Together these documents provide the core elements and the guidance from which national policies and programs can be constituted.

How it all started

In November 2014, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization (WHO) co-hosted the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) to address the world’s nutrition problems by mobilizing political will, by encouraging greater political and policy coherence, alignment and coordination among food, agriculture, health and other related sectors.

Held at FAO Headquarters in Rome, this high-level forum the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action, through which world leaders renewed their commitment to implement policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

The Rome Declaration on Nutrition (comprising 10 specific commitments to action) sets out a common vision for global action to eradicate hunger and end all forms of malnutrition, including undernourishment, stunting, wasting, underweight, micronutrient deficiency, obesity and overweight.

At the conference, member states of FAO and WHO requested the United Nations General Assembly to consider declaring a Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Why do we need a Decade of Action on Nutrition?

Current global nutrition is characterized by high prevalence of undernutrition, including widespread micronutrient deficiencies. Nearly 800 million people are chronically undernourished and about two billion people suffer from one or more forms of micronutrient deficiencies. Approximately 159 million under 5 years old are stunted, and 50 million under 5 years old are wasted. About 1.9 billion people are overweight of whom 600 million are obese. Malnutrition has a high cost in negatively impacting individuals, households and national development.

There is the need for focussed, concerted, coordinated and accelerated action by all stakeholders to quickly bring an end to all forms of malnutrition. The Decade provides the umbrella under which we can all work to achieve this goal. The Decade is for all stakeholders. UN agencies, governments, civil society, academia, and private sector are called upon to join this collective effort to end malnutrition.

The Way forward

In 2015, the world adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Of the 17 goals, at least 10 are of direct relevance to nutrition outcomes. If we can address malnutrition in ten years, we can accelerate the achievement of the 2030 agenda. SDG 2, in particular, aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. The Resolution calls on FAO and WHO to lead the implementation of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Children’s Fund. National governments and other relevant stakeholders, including international and regional organizations, civil society, private sector and academia, are to actively support these efforts.

FAO and WHO are also requested by the Resolution to develop a work programme for the Decade of Action on Nutrition.

Process for the development of the work programme

The work programme will be a global programme but with action at country level. The input of all relevant sectors and stakeholders is called for. This will be an open and inclusive process. In support of this, the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition is organizing electronic consultations with relevant stakeholders as a means to collect inputs. A side event to launch the Decade is planned at the 71st session of UN General Assembly in September 2016. FAO and WHO are jointly organizing an international nutrition symposium in December 2016, as a follow up of the ICN2. These and other platforms would be used to collect the inputs for the work programme. It is important that International Unions such as International Union Nutritional Sciences and country nutrition associations get linked into these activities.

In conclusion, this is the first time the UN has declared a Decade of Action for Nutrition. We need to rally around the Decade and double our efforts to end all forms of malnutrition.
In May IUNS received the sad news that former IUNS Secretary General Professor Osman Galal had passed away, at the age of 85. Professor Galal was committed to research in childhood nutrition and carried out extensive research into malnutrition in children.

After working as a Medical Doctor at Children's Hospitals in Cairo and the UK Professor Galal completed his doctoral studies at the Institute of Child Health, University of Birmingham, UK. Subsequent to this Professor Galal held several posts at the National Research Centre in Cairo. In 1991 Professor Galal moved to UCLA to take up a post of Professor of Community Health Sciences.

In 1993 Professor Galal was elected Council Member of IUNS and then served as IUNS Secretary General from 1997 – 2001 and 2003 – 2009. IUNS have collected some reflections of Professor Osman Galal's time as IUNS Secretary General from Past and Present Officers.

Professor Mark Wahlqvist
IUNS President 2001 - 2005

'Osman Galal, a paediatrician and public health nutritionist, crossed many of the disciplinary, professional, personal, national and cultural boundaries required for leadership and progress in the health and nutritional sciences through his academic and organisational roles. It was possible to learn and admire the values of a life like his as he, as IUNS Secretary-General from 1997-2009, not only championed the Union far and wide, but mentored and supported people like me over the many years of his tenure. In my case, this was first as a Councillor, then as IUNS President-Elect, as President and Past President. IUNS prospered in several ways during his service. It expanded its constituency in Africa and the Middle East, and it instigated leadership and capacity-building programs in these regions (Galal, 2003). One of especial significance was a joint IUNS-World Bank project in Iran, linking the food, nutrition, education and health sectors, particularly in Tehran and Rasht. It served as a model for ways in which IUNS could operationalise its science. IUNS strengthened its ICSU (International Science Council) relationships through this period, as did with the UN System SCN (Standing Committee on Nutrition) so that IUNS gained greater international recognition as the principal nutrition science reference agency.

The Sciences for Health and Wellbeing initiative (SWB) became current in the 2001-2005 period and now, with an urban focus, is a major program with its secretariat in China at the Institute for the Urban Environment in Xiamen. In similar vein, the New Nutrition Science Initiative was spawned in Gliessen in 2005. These and other developments had the unserving attention of the Secretary-General. Osman's passing within a year of his partner, Professor Gail Harrison, is a statement of how their synergistic commitment to the science and community that they cared about so passionately was realised. Some places in our lives are irreplaceable - theirs is one such.'

Professor Anna Larkey
Current IUNS President

'My first encounter with Professor Osman Galal was at the IUNS-ICON in Durban, South Africa in 2005. I had just been elected to join the IUNS Council. Osman gave me a warm welcome. He took the time to explain to me the workings of IUNS. In the following 4 years, we interacted regularly, he being the Secretary-General and I a Council member. Osman was really passionate about his work on IUNS. I recall the large volume of agenda items, nicely bound in a book that he distributed in preparation for Council meetings. Osman first broached the idea of considering the position of President-Elect to me at an UN SCN meeting in Vietnam in 2008. The way he put it was quite interesting: as President-elect, low work, as President, hard work, then a Past President, low work. I must say this did not convince me. Osman did not give up. With persistent emails and encouragement, I stood for the position. At the IUNS-ICON in Granada, despite ill-health, Osman made the special trip to Spain to see me take up the position as IUNS President at the closing ceremony. Osman will be remembered by the IUNS Council for his 12 years of service to the Council, but for me, for his support and encouragement, not to forget his Egyptian jokes and hearty laughs. May his soul rest in perfect peace.'

IUNS Council express their deepest condolences to the family and friends of Prof. Osman Galal.

Galal Osman Nutrition-related health patterns in the Middle East, Asia Pac J Clin Nutr, 2003; 12(3): 337-43 (available on the IUNS website)
IUFoST 2016 in Dublin, Ireland

Professor V Prakash, IUNS Vice President & Professor A Lartey, IUNS President

The 18th World Congress of Food Science and Technology had the theme of "Greening the Global Food Supply Chain through Innovation in Food Science and Technology." It began with a gala opening on August 21st 2016 at the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin, Ireland. This was followed by a series of scientific sessions and ended with an impressive closing ceremony during the afternoon of August 25th 2016. This annual congress of IUFoST was supported by the Institute of Food Science & Technology of Ireland (IFSTI) and the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI).

The Congress had 8 tracks, namely: Innovation in Food Quality and Processing; Food Supply Chain and Distribution System; Future Foods; Food Sustainability; Societal Challenges in Nutrition and Health; Local and Global Food Safety and Security; Hot Topics in Food Science and the Food Industry; and Special Session. The highlights of this 18th IUFoST World Congress of Food Science and Technology were 5 keynote addresses, 80 scientific sessions and more than 1500 accepted abstracts, with 250 Speakers in the scientific sessions and more than 50 exposition stalls.

Of particular interest to IUNS and its adhering bodies was Session 4 entitled IUNS and IUFoST partnership: Addressing Global Food Insecurity Together. The lead speaker was Professor Anna Lartey, President of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences (IUNS) who spoke on nutritional insecurity as a key component in food security. She brought a global perspective, including several nations and population groups and the role that nutrition needs to play by adopting relevant policies. This was followed by four talks on the following topics: Nutritional security, a key note component of food security; The IUFoST Cape Town and Budapest Declarations; The Double burden of malnutrition; Health and Food security. The final talk was delivered by Dr. Prakash, Vice President of International Union of Nutritional Sciences, focusing on the relationship between food, nutrition and health in respect of sustainable nutrition, affordable nutrition and a food based approach. This session was chaired by Dr. Mary Schmidl of University of Minnesota, USA and Dr. Delia Rodriguez Arneja of University of Campinas, Brazil.

Other sessions in the programme which touched on nutrition were: Session No. 50 entitled Food Convergent Innovation: Reinventing value addition for health of people, planet and economy; Session 63 Food fortification to improve nutrition; and Session 68 on From Infant to Golden Oldies - how can we optimize muscle, digestive and immune health?

IUFoST World Food Congresses traditionally include an address by a distinguished individual who carries a message consistent with the theme of the Congress. The Distinguished Lecturer recognizes individuals who address IUFoST's commitment to fight hunger and work for the improvement of food safety and food security worldwide. This year's distinguished lecturer was Professor Mike Gibney. Professor Gibney has been a member of the academic staff at the University of Southampton, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin. He is a former President of the Nutrition Society and a fellow of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences. He has served on many high-level international advisory committees both in the EU, the FAO and WHO. His research area is in public health and personalised nutrition with over 300 peer-reviewed papers in the area and Principal Investigator on several very large EU funded projects, most recently in the area of personalised nutrition.

The congress was well attended with over 1600 delegates. It was announced that the next World Congress of IUFoST will be held at Mumbai in 2018 from August 27th to 31st 2018 with Dr. V. Prakash, FRSC as Congress Chairman for IUFoST 2018.

Professor Anna Lartey, IUNS President, also had discussions with some of the IUFoST leadership on how we could work together better in addressing the global food and nutrition situation, as two sister organizations of the International Council of Scientific Unions.
IUNS President receives a warm welcome from Bangladesh Nutrition Society

In April 2016, the IUNS President made a business trip to Dhaka, Bangladesh. On hearing of her arrival in the country, the Bangladesh Nutrition Society organized a reception and dinner in her honour. The reception was attended by the Executive Officers of the Society, including Professor SK Roy, current member of the IUNS Council (2013-2017).

IUNS President (Anna Larrey) with some members of the Bangladesh Nutrition Society; on her immediate right is Professor SK Roy.

2016 John A. Milner Fellowship Program

Applications will soon be due for the John A. Milner Fellowship. This fellowship is a 2-year post-doctoral position jointly offered by the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center and the Office of Dietary Supplements, located in the DC Metropolitan area.

The purpose of the John A. Milner Fellowship Program is to create opportunities for early-career nutrition scientists (within 5 years of completing a PhD, DSc, MD, or other doctoral degrees) to strengthen their skills through two years of post-doctoral research, supplemented by training programs, peer-networking, and field learning experiences. The Fellows will work in world-class laboratories at the BHNRC, in close collaboration with scientists at ODS, to improve and expand their research skills and learn about the translation of nutrition science into nutrition policy. Mentorship will be provided by both BHNRC and ODS scientists. For more information please visit https://www.ars.usda.gov/ARSUserFiles/80400500/pdf/MilnerFellowship_2016_Sept-Rev.pdf.

Deadline for Applications is 1st October 2016.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – PREMIO DANIEL CARASSO 2017 DEADLINE OCTOBER 23RD 2016

The Premio Daniel Carasso is an individual research prize intended to reward an outstanding scientific researcher on sustainable food systems and diets for long-term health. The Premio is worth €100,000 and the Laureate becomes an ambassador of the Fondation Daniel et Nina Carasso for sustainable food and diets.

The Prize is intended to give more visibility to a mid-career researcher and to help her/him inspire junior researchers to develop transdisciplinary approaches to study food systems and their sustainability. The call for applications for the Premio Daniel Carasso 2017 is now open and entrants must register and apply online before October 23, 2016.

For more information please visit: http://www.fondationcarasso.org/en/premio-daniel-carasso-0
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