

Nutrition and Cancer Task Force

Report Form 2018

International collaboration on nutrition in relation to cancer (ICONIC)



IUNS
INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL
SCIENCES

Task Force Chair/s

Professor Alan Jackson, University of Southampton and IUNS International Malnutrition Task Force Chair.

Task Force Members

- Dr Alexia Alford, IAEA-Nutrition Specialist
- Dr Kate Allen, WCRF-International-Executive Director of Science and Public Affairs
- Dr Giota Mitrou, WCRF-Acting Director of Research and Public Affairs
- Dr Julie Torode, UICC-Deputy CEO and Director of Advocacy and Networks
- Professor Martin Wiseman, WCRF International-Medical & Scientific Adviser
- Dr Shalini Jayasekar Zúrn, UICC-Senior Advocacy Manager

1. Ex-officio: Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS-Secretary General at International Union of Nutritional Sciences
2. Observers: Dr Marc Gunter, IARC-Head of the Nutrition and Metabolism Department

Summary of activities in 2018

The Task Force met twice in 2018. The primary focus of activities throughout the year was to gather information, promote the Task Force and prepare for its launch. Activities were undertaken to explore whether there was interest and readiness from potential stakeholders in bringing the cancer and nutrition societies together – this included a survey sent out by IUNS to its members, a meeting for interested parties at the World Cancer Congress, and a meeting with the Paediatric Oncology Collaboration. All feedback was very positive.

A Statement of Intent was also sent out to invite those with responsibilities in the relevant nutrition and/or cancer fields to express an interest in joining the collaboration. Again, feedback was positive.

The Task Force also drafted key objectives and a work plan for its first year. In addition, members of the Task Force were proactive in promoting the international collaboration at other conferences at which they had a presence.

A Project Manager was appointed in December 2018 to manage the secretariat function of the Task Force, and a Task Force email address was set up (nutritionandcancer@wcrf.org) through which people could express an interest in joining the collaboration.

Finally, funding from some of the member organisations was agreed to support the operational costs for the first year of the Task Force.

Report of activities and achievements in 2018

Aims and Objectives

The Task Force aims 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;
- build capability and capacity in the area of nutrition and cancer to foster excellence in research and practice and ensure continuity into the future;
- raise awareness of the opportunities to improve prevention and care in people living with and beyond cancer through nutrition; and
- provide a robust base for public policy to address the increasing burden of cancer.

Task Force Meetings

Two meetings were held in April and July 2018. Main discussions related to establishing the Task Force function, and making plans for various activities related to the promotion of the Task Force and gathering information.

Draft work plan for Year 1

In 2018, the Task Force drafted key objectives and a work plan for Year 1 (to begin October 2019). The draft work plan was structured into three domains: clinical, public health and capacity building. In each domain, it was identified which organisation might be best placed to help lead those activities. This work plan will be refined in 2019.

IUNS Survey

In 2018, IUNS conducted a scoping exercise to explore interest and readiness in bringing the nutrition and cancer societies together. The aim of the survey was to establish what research is being conducted and the services available for addressing considerations of nutrition and cancer at national level – in addition the survey offered a potential network of individuals to engage with. Responses and feedback were very positive, receiving 46 responses from 38 countries.

Statement of Intent

A Statement of Intent was released in 2018 inviting those with responsibilities in the relevant nutrition and/or cancer fields to express an interest in joining the collaboration. This was published on the WCRF International website. Responses were sent to the Nutrition and Cancer Task Force email address nutritionandcancer@wcrf.org.

Appointment of Project Manager

In December 2018, a Project Manager was appointed for one day a week to manage the secretariat function of the Task Force - to be a point person for all members of the Task Force, organise action plans, provide administrative and website support.

Funding

The Task Force agreed additional funding from WCRF, UICC and the IUNS International Malnutrition Task Force. An MoU is to be set up between the Task Force and each contributing member.

Conferences/Meetings:

Meeting with Paediatric Oncology Collaboration – May 2018

In May 2018, an informal meeting was held with the International Paediatric Oncology Collaboration where interest was expressed in establishing a group of paediatricians under the broad umbrella of the NIHR Cancer and Nutrition Collaboration. It was suggested that this group could be advisors to the Task Force on matters concerning paediatric oncology. The meeting concluded that new collaborations and connections of the right individuals and organisations are highly needed.

WCC side meeting - October 2018

A side meeting was held at the World Cancer Congress, Kuala Lumpur to engage with delegates and promote the Task Force on UICC and WCRF exhibition stands. The main objective of the meeting was to provide an overview of the Task Force, receive initial feedback and discuss opportunities for further engagement in the future. The meeting was well attended and ideas and suggestions were offered. There was an appreciation of the importance of the collaboration and interest was expressed in working with the Task Force.

ANEC meeting – October 2018

Alan Jackson presented at the Africa Nutritional Epidemiology Conference (ANEC) meeting in Ethiopia in October 2018, announcing the work of the Task Force and inviting interested parties to sign up. An enthusiastic response was received from the group and it was agreed there are important opportunities to explore going forward. Dr Reggie Annan agreed to be the point person as a contact for getting national/collaborative activities going across Africa.

IAEA International Symposium – December 2018

Alan Jackson presented at the IAEA International Symposium on Understanding the Double Burden of Malnutrition for Effective Interventions in Vienna.

Other conferences

Members were proactive in promoting the Task Force at other conferences and meetings at which they had a presence.

Plans for the current year (2019)

The focus of Task Force activity for 2019 will include the following:

- Continue to establish strong stakeholder groups and follow up expressions of interest from activity in 2018
- Refine the work plan for year 1 and consider how best to structure the Task Force in order to carry out the different work streams
- Identify and secure funding for Task Force activities going forward