

IUNS Newsletter

May 2018

'Promoting the advancement of nutritional science, research and development through international cooperation'



IUNS
INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF
NUTRITIONAL
SCIENCES

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Message from IUNS President

Professor Alfredo Martinez, IUNS President

The International Union of Nutrition Sciences (IUNS) was founded in 1946 in London, UK. The vision of IUNS is to promote healthy wellbeing at a global level and a life without malnutrition as a fundamental human right. The persistence of malnutrition (undernutrition and overfeeding), especially among children and mothers and elderly in a world of plenty is immoral. Nutrition improvement anywhere in the world is not a charity but a societal, household and individual right to enhance quality of life and longevity.

IUNS has two missions:

1.To promote advancement in nutrition science, research and development of international cooperation at the global level

2.To encourage communication and collaboration among nutrition scientists as well as to disseminate information in nutritional sciences through modern communication technologies.

The International Union of Nutrition Sciences also features contemporary global nutrition issues, such as:

·The Global Challenge of Malnutrition (undernutrition and obesity)

·Nutritional education for precision nutrition and also with a public health vision.

IUNS is associated to ICSU, WHO/OMS and FAO, and has 18 Affiliated International Societies including the regional bodies FANS, FANUS, FENS and SLAN and has 84 Adhering Bodies. IUNS sponsors several Task Forces. These are currently under review and will be announced online and in the next newsletter. The IUNS Statutes and Rules have recently been revised and were approved by the IUNS General Assembly in October 2017.

As the IUNS President for the Council period 2017-2021 I would like to highlight several areas of action including the intention to pay more attention to communicating with Adhering and Affiliated Bodies. Creating a portal where Adhering Body members can access a variety of online nutrition courses for free will be a priority, as will implementing new Task Forces. IUNS Council will seek unrestricted increased funds to extent its activities, and update the current Private Sector Engagement Policy and would like to promote IUNS with specific publications. In addition to these points, IUNS Council will be overseeing the preparation of the 22nd IUNS-ICN to be held in Tokyo, Japan in 2021.



Dates for
your diary



9th - 12th June

Nutrition 2018
(American Society for Nutrition)
Hynes Convention Center, Boston, USA

10th- 12th July 2017

Nutrition Society Summer Conference 2018:
Getting energy balance right
University of Leeds, UK

1st - 5th October

8th African Nutritional
Epidemiology Conference (ANEC)
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

11th - 15th November

SLAN Conference
Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

IUNS Council at 21st IUNS-ICN 2017

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

The 21st IUNS International Congress of Nutrition was held from 15th - 20th October in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with over 3000 delegates from all over the world (<http://icn2017.com>). During the Congress the General Assembly met over two evenings at which the previous 4 year term was reviewed and the elections took place for the new Council and for a future IUNS-ICN.

Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions

The opening and closing lectures of the Conference were both given by IUNS Council Members. Professor Andrew Prentice opened the Congress with a Plenary talk on 'Fit for future: Aligning Nutritional Sciences for the Service of Humanity' and the IUNS President, Professor Anna Lartey, closed the conference with her session entitled 'Our quest for healthy diets: the role of Nutrition Scientists'. After her closing presentation Anna Lartey closed the Congress by handing over to the new IUNS President Alfredo Martinez.

IUNS Awards

Throughout the congress several awards were presented at different ceremonies. These are:

Lifetime Award

The IUNS Lifetime Award is given for 'contributions to nutrition of regional or global significance'. This year the IUNS Lifetime Award winner was Professor Philip James, Emeritus Professor at London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Professor James was presented with this award after his Lifetime Award lecture entitled 'From Treating Childhood Malnutrition to Public Health Nutrition'. Professor James was influential in the founding of the International Obesity Task Force (now known as the World Obesity Federation) which originated as an IUNS Task Force.

Living Legend Award

The criteria for the award are as follows: For individual members of Adhering Bodies in good standing who are 80 years old or above on the grounds of: contribution to the work of the national nutrition society or regional organisation; and/or contributions to advancing nutrition at national, regional or global levels through professional activities such as research, teaching, services and advocacy. Living Legends 2017 are: Prof Rafael Tojo-Sierra, Spain; Prof. Jean-Pierre Habicht, USA; Dr. Mahtab S. Bamji, India; Prof. Maria Barna, Hungary; Dr Wandee Varavithya, Thailand; Prof. Xuecun Chen, China; Prof. Mark Wahlqvist, Australia/Taiwan; and Dr Pila Ines Llanos, Argentina



L - R: Prof. Catherine Geissler (IUNS Secretary General), Prof. Philip James (IUNS Lifetime Award recipient), Prof. Anna Lartey (IUNS President 2013 - 2017)

IUNS Fellows

The criteria for becoming a Fellow are: outstanding nutrition research; the development of nutritional science; national recognition in terms of awards/prizes/honours; and contribution to IUNS and other international organisations in field of nutrition.

The 2017 IUNS Fellows are:

Prof. Alan Jackson, UK; Dr. Ann Prentice, UK; Prof. Gretel Pelto, USA; Prof. Ridwan Hardinsyah, Indonesia; Prof. Heiner Boeing, Germany; Prof. Helen Roche, Ireland; Prof. Kenneth Brown, USA; Prof. Ladda Mo Suwan, Thailand; Prof Makoto Shimizu, Japan; Prof. Marcela Gonzalez-Gross, Spain; Prof. Yuexin Yang, China; Prof. Salome Kruger, South Africa; Prof. R Hemalatha, India; Dr Johann Jerling, South Africa; Prof. Lindsay Allen, USA; Prof. Maria Puy Portillo, Spain; Prof. Miguel Angel Martinez, Spain; Prof. Juan River, Mexico; Prof. Mohammed Abdul Mannan, Bangladesh; Prof. Joyce Kinabo, Tanzania; Prof. Helene McNulty, Ireland; Prof. Carmen Vidal, Spain.

The President's Report of the Period 2013-17

In her report to the General Assembly the President outlined accomplishments of the Council during their four year tenure of office. These include:

1. Revision of IUNS Statutes

This was undertaken to bring them to a state befitting that of a modern International Organization. A Statute Review Committee was formed who made an initial review, followed by professional assistance of the Nutrition Society of UK, and further revisions by the Council. Significant changes included: splitting the document into separate Statutes and Rules; reducing the number of terms a Member can serve on the Council from four (4) to three (3) terms; introduction of electronic meetings when required; clearly streamlining processes for the conduct of IUNS business. The revised draft Statutes were circulated to all Adhering Bodies (ABs) and Affiliated Bodies (AfBs) in two rounds and their feedback was incorporated as much as feasible. Approval of the ABs was sought by electronic voting to enable the Council to start implementing the revised Statutes in the last year of the Council's term. Over 80% of our ABs responded and supported this request.

2. IUNS Task Forces

The Council formed nine Task Forces (TF) to support the work of IUNS within our 4-year mandate. These were: Risks and Benefits of Iron; Nutrition and Climate Change; Gene-Nutrient Interactions: Knowledge to Action; Capacity Development in Nutrition; Redefining Diet Quality; Prevention and Control of Malnutrition; INFOODS; Traditional, Indigenous and Cultural Food and Nutrition; and Towards Multidimensional Indicators of Child Growth and Development. These TFs organised Symposia during the IUNS-ICN to showcase their work.

3. IUNS Secretariat move

During the previous Council (2009-2013), the IUNS Secretariat was managed by an international commercial entity in Amsterdam. The yearly service costs were unsustainable. The Council explored other options and IUNS now has an agreement with the Nutrition Society, UK and Ireland, to host the IUNS Secretariat. This new arrangement has substantially reduced the costs. During the tenure of this Council, we made the decision to hold our yearly Council meetings at the IUNS Secretariat Office in London, UK. This has substantially reduced the cost of Council meetings by over 50%.

4. IUNS website revamp

Following the establishment of our Secretariat in the UK, it became necessary to revamp our website with the assistance of the Nutrition Society, and a website specialist was hired to redesign and update the information at the website.

5. Re-orientation grant for early career nutrition scientists:

Under the IUNS Capacity TF chaired by the President (Anna Lartey) and co-chaired by the Secretary-General (Catherine Geissler), the Council approved the creation of a re-orientation grant to support early career nutrition scientists from developing countries who have completed their PhDs and are starting their careers in their home countries. The objective is to help these early career scientists with seed money to support small projects. Three grants were awarded during the term of our Council to the following: Dr Susan Keino, Kenya; Dr Eliana Meza, Paraguay; and Dr Marie Claire Chamieh, Lebanon.

6. E-Nutrition Academy

Under the IUNS Capacity TF, IUNS joined forces with several Nutrition Societies (American Society for Nutrition, Nutrition Society of the UK and Ireland, Federation of Africa Nutrition Society, and African Nutrition Society) to establish the E-Nutrition Academy. The objective is to support the development of teaching modules on nutrition topics for tertiary level nutrition programmes in Africa. There are plans to expand the programme to other regions in the near future.

7. IUNS collaborations

In collaboration with the Global Nutrition Council of ASN, IUNS organised a Symposium at Experimental Biology (EB 2017) on the theme 'Nutrition in a fast changing world', which was very well attended (over 200 persons), with positive feedback.

-In October 2015, IUNS organized a session at the Federation of European Nutrition Societies (FENS) on the theme 'Global view on food and nutrition situation', including world trends, climate change and food losses in sustainable food systems. We also supported the regional nutrition conferences of FANUS, ANEC, SLAN and the Oceanic Nutrition Leadership Program by offering travel grants for young scientists.

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-The Council extended an existing MoU on scientific collaboration with Unilever until 2017, covering three areas: 1) Scientific evidence around dietary fat 2) Advocacy on the reduction of salt intake 3) Nutrition Capacity-building [ended in January 2018]. These collaborations over the past four (4) years have been successful.

8. IUNS Executive Committee to support IUNS – ICN in Argentina

In planning for the 21st IUNS-ICN in Argentina, it became necessary for the Council to form an Executive Committee to work closely with Argentinean Nutrition Society in the planning process with Professor Angel Gil as Co-ordinator. The Council thanks the Executive Committee for their untiring effort in supporting the Argentina Nutrition Society and is particularly indebted to Professor Angel Gil who placed his experience and time at the disposal of IUNS to ensure that we had a successful Congress.

General Assembly Decisions

Confirmation of Venue and Dates of 22nd IUNS Congress in 2021

The next IUNS-ICN will be in 2021 in Tokyo, Japan. It will be held at the Tokyo International Forum, Japan from 14th – 19th September 2021.

Venue of 23rd IUNS Congress (2025)

The General Assembly also voted on the countries that submitted bids to hold the 23rd IUNS-ICN 2025. These were Australia (Melbourne), France (Paris) and the United States (Hawaii). France was elected.

Change of Time Frame for Bidding for IUNS-ICN (from 8 to 4 years)

The General Assembly was invited to endorse the Council proposal to change the time frame for the bidding process. The rationale for this change is that with advancement in technology, and the increased speed of organisation, 8 years from the selection of a hosting city to the event is excessively long. In some cases, the persons behind the bid had long retired when the IUNS-ICN is finally held. This proposal was to reduce the length of time between the selection of a host Adhering Body and the IUNS-ICN from eight (8) to four (4) years. The proposal was approved by the General Assembly and so at the IUNS-ICN Japan in 2021 there will be no vote to select a hosting city for 2029, this will take place in 2025.

Election of Council for the Period 2017 – 2021

Representatives of each of the ABs attending the Congress and proxies for those unable to attend voted on the candidate list prepared by the Nominating Committee from AB nominations. The results of the Council Election plus the transfer of the previous President Elect to President gives the new Council as follows:

President: Alfredo Martinez (Spain)

President-Elect: Lynnette Neufeld (Canada)

Secretary General: Catherine Geissler (UK)

Vice-President: V. Prakash (India)

Treasurer: Helmut Heseke (Germany)

Council Members:

Hyun-Sook Kim (Korea)

Francis Zotor (Ghana)

Andrew Prentice (UK)

Teruo Miyzawa (Japan)

Ali Dhansay (South Africa)

Benjamin Caballero (USA/Argentina)

The Council looks forward to its tenure of 2017-2021.

First face to face meeting of IUNS Council 2017 - 2021

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

In March 2018 IUNS Council held their 58th Face to Face Meeting. The President, Professor Alfredo Martinez, welcomed the new IUNS Council Members: Professor Hyun-Sook Kim; Professor Ali Dhansay; Professor Benjamin Caballero and Professor Francis Zotor. Continuing Council members are: Professor V Prakash, Vice-President; Dr Lynnette Neufeld, President-Elect; Professor Helmut Heseke, Treasurer; Professor Catherine Geissler, Secretary General; and members Professor Teruo Miyazawa and Professor Andrew Prentice.

The following topics were discussed at this first IUNS Council Meeting of 2017 – 2021 period:

Professor Alfredo Martinez outlined his aim to expand the Capacity Building activities of IUNS. It was agreed that he would become the new Chair of the Capacity Development Task Force, with Hyun-Sook Kim, Francis Zotor and Benjamin Caballero as members. The Council discussed the possibility of creating a portal for International Nutrition e-learning courses including eNA.

IUNS Council invited Professor Angel Gil, Chair of the Executive Committee of 21st IUNS-ICN held last year in Buenos Aires, Argentina to present a review of the Congress. IUNS Council expressed their sincere gratitude to Professor Gil for his hard work, along with the Executive Committee, presenting him with a commemorative plaque and the offer to fund his participation in the next IUNS-ICN being held in Tokyo, Japan in 2021.

Several new Adhering Body applications were discussed and approved at the meeting. Notably the Dominican Republic applied to become an Adhering Body in 2017, this application was approved pending ratification by the General Assembly.

IUNS Council will be organising symposia at several regional conferences in the next two years. There will be an informative symposium at SLAN outlining the capacity development activities of IUNS and one of the IUNS Task Forces. IUNS will also organise symposia at FENS (Dublin, 2019) and FANS (Bali, 2019). IUNS will additionally provide funding to the Oceanic Nutrition Leadership Programme (ONLP) in 2018 to support participants from the Pacific Islands, as requested by the organisation.

Much of the work of IUNS between ICNs is carried out by Task Forces on topics of special interest. IUNS has received proposals for a considerable number of Task Forces, some of which were agreed, others are pending further information. These will be announced in a later IUNS News. The criteria for Task Forces were revised as follows: IUNS Task Forces are intended to address specific issues in any area relevant for nutrition that requires collaborative work from individuals and/or organizations across multiple

regions of the world. Each Task Force should identify an existing or emerging issue that is currently underserved within the nutrition community, or that is confronted with a specific challenge that requires such collaborative work. They should also aim to include early career nutritionists. Task forces are selected at the beginning of each Council term and activities may be proposed for up to 4 years. Continuation of the Task Forces is not automatic, but can be considered for subsequent period(s) based on Task Force reports and further justification.

TASK FORCE PROPOSALS:

Proposals for Task Forces should be submitted to the IUNS Council, within the first 12 months of each council's term (first 12 months after each ICN meeting). Proposals should use the format provided and should include the following:

- Justification and rationale that provides a clear case for why the issue requires an IUNS Task Force
- Specific and achievable (measurable) objectives
- Action-oriented tasks and approximate timeline
- Outline of the specific deliverables that will be produced, will normally include presentations at ICN and/or other conferences, peer-reviewed publications, among others
- A Task Force Chair(s), responsible for the progress of the Task Force including biosketch that highlights why this individual is qualified to lead the Task force
- Membership with geographic diversity, including their affiliation
- A statement of how the Task Force may wish to engage with IUNS and its Adhering and/or Affiliated bodies. Each Task Force will include at least one IUNS Council member, to be assigned by the Council

The IUNS Private Sector Engagement Policy was discussed and it was agreed that this needs updating. Two Council Members volunteered to revise the existing policy and provide a draft new Private Sector Engagement Policy for consideration by Council.

An important topic of the meeting was collaboration with external bodies. IUNS Council agreed that there should be more collaboration with WHO, ISC (the amalgamation of ICSU and ISSC), FAO and other bodies such as WPHNA. The Council will take appropriate steps to arrange this.

IUNS Council have conference calls throughout the year and the next IUNS face to face Council Meeting will be held in March/April 2019 with more frequent Officers conference calls.

Report of 21st IUNS-ICN Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr Mabel Carrera, President of the Organising Committee,
Prof. Angel Gil, Director of the Executive Committee,
Prof. J. Alfredo Martinez, President of the International Scientific
Committee & Prof. Nora Slobodianik, Member of the Argentinian
Scientific Committee

In 2017 the 21st International Union of Nutritional Sciences International Congress of Nutrition (IUNS-ICN) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The IUNS-ICN is a four-yearly meeting that has been held since 1946. The 21st IUNS-ICN was jointly organised by the Sociedad Argentina de Nutrición (SAN) and IUNS Council and the congress theme was "From Sciences to Nutrition Security". The aim of each IUNS-ICN is to promote the exchange of knowledge in Nutritional Sciences. The scientific programme comprised of 6 plenary lectures, 40 keynote lectures, 116 parallel symposia, 31 sponsored symposia, and 24 satellite symposia.

The congress focused on every aspect of nutrition, with a wide variety of topics. Annals of Nutrition and Metabolism have published 2062 abstracts from 97 countries, and 297 abstracts selected for oral communications, presented at the IUNS-ICN. This special edition also includes the summaries of more than 350 selected guest speakers participating in the scientific symposia.

The main goal of the conference was to offer a high-level scientific meeting focused on addressing the key aspects of nutrition in a multicultural environment, from state-of-the-art reviews to cutting edge nutritional science information. The sessions delivered the latest investigations and outcomes concerning the impact of nutrition on homeostasis and body metabolism, on dietary intake and nutritional status of the population and the individual for precision nutrition as well on the role of dietary prescriptions in disease management and prevention. The programme also featured translational research orientated to design and implement strategies and approaches to change dietary behaviours and to develop policies, as well as aspects related to public health issues, Nutrition education and climate change, and Food and Agriculture for health maintenance. The programme was led by six plenary sessions from eminent speakers covering all health aspects in the life cycle with integrative views on food security.

In the current climate of economic burden and financial crisis, it has been a challenge to build a solid Nutrition Congress. Notwithstanding, in parallel, it opens the exceptional occasion to link the multidisciplinary disciplines of nutritional sciences, predominantly basic and applied research activities relating Nutrition and Food with Health. Also, food safety, food production, and environmental sustainability are approached in the programme.



Audience at Professor James' Plenary talk at the 21st IUNS-ICN

The 21st IUNS-ICN organisers wish to recognise and thank young investigators and nutrition professionals from low and middle income countries. Travel grants, registration fee discounts, and accommodation reductions for selected young investigators and other awardees were made possible by the contribution from international agencies and the private sector. IUNS granted 73 scholarships to its Adhering Bodies' early career scientists from universities and research institutes from all over the world.

We wish to express our genuine appreciation to all attendants, also to invited speakers and international experts and delegates whose participation and interest produced a successful IUNS 21st ICN for sharing and exchanging knowledge in nutritional sciences for the benefit of the human being.

Early Career Travel Grants for 2017 IUNS-ICN

Professor Helmut Heseke, IUNS Treasurer

In 2017 IUNS has sponsored 73 travel grants for early career scientists participating in the recent 21st International Congress of Nutrition (IUNS-ICN) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. To be eligible for a travel grant, the applicants had to be within 10 years of graduation, had to submit an abstract and had to receive the approval from the ICN-IUNS Executive Board for oral or poster presentation as well as a supporting letter from the applicant's IUNS adhering body, university or research centre.

The 261 applications and abstracts from 51 countries were reviewed by the IUNS Council and placed on a ranking list. A total of 72 applications were submitted from young scientists from Africa, 71 from Asia/Australia/New Zealand, 75 from America and 43 from Europe. Depending on the number of applications, up to 3 grants were given to applicants from the same country. The maximum of 3 grants were only given to IUNS member countries in a good standing and regularly paying their annual dues.

Due to large differences in flight costs to Argentina, grants varied between 2000 and 3000 USD. Overall, 22 grants were given to applicants from Asia/Australia/New Zealand, 18 grants to applicants from Africa, 18 grants to applicants from Europe and 15 grants to applicants from America.

During the ICN, a welcome reception was organized for the participants to start and support networking among these early career scientists.

The young scientists were very grateful to IUNS and made it clear that they would not have been able to attend the ICN without the support of a travel grant.

The next call for IUNS early career travel grants will be issued in early 2021 before the next ICN in Tokyo – so keep a note of the date already!

Additionally, 7 grants for early career scientists were offered by FINUT (Fundación Iberoamericana de Nutrición).

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