IUNS Newsletter
March 2017
'Promoting the advancement of nutritional science, research and development through international cooperation'
Join us at the 21st IUNS-ICN, Buenos Aires, Argentina from 15th - 20th October 2017!

To register for the conference visit:
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Message from IUNS President

Professor Anna Laracey, IUNS President

How time flies!!! Already we are almost at the tail end of our 4-year term. The two objectives among others that we set when I took over as President were i) to revise our statutes to bring them in line with modern scientific association practice, taking advantage of the current electronic technology, ii) focus on capacity building of the next generation of nutrition scientists. For both we can tick the boxes as done!

With your support the revised Statutes are ready to go to print. Hard copies will be available for distribution in Argentina. On capacity-building, the collaboration with several nutrition societies to develop nutrition courses for professionals in Africa under the E-Nutrition Academy is on-going. Our Council also established the re-integration grant for early career nutrition scientists in developing countries. Three such grants have been awarded to recipients from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Argentina is here! My Council has been working very closely with the Organizing team under the leadership of Dr Mabel Carrera to present to you an exciting IUNS-International Congress of Nutrition. The scientific program is set. We have very exciting speakers and sessions for you. IUNS Task forces will hold symposia on their sessions. Let me take the opportunity to highlight the symposia on Global Nutrition Leadership. Early career scientists, you do not want to miss this. Our Council and the Congress Organizing Committee are making available a number of travel fellowships to enable early career scientists to attend.

Argentina also presents the opportunity for our Adhering Bodies to renew our Council. Come and vote for the next IUNS Council that will steer affairs of the Union for the next 4 years (2017-2021).

On behalf of the IUNS Council, I thank you for the support and collaboration we received from our Adhering Bodies.

See you soon in Argentina!!!

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Dates for your diary

8th-9th May 2017
World Health Summit: Regional Meeting
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

10th-12th July 2017
Nutrition Society Summer Conference 2017: Improving Nutrition in Metropolitan Areas
King’s College, London

29th June - 1st July 2017
3rd International Conference on Movement and Nutrition in Health and Disease
Regensburg, Germany

15th - 20th October 2017
21st IUNS-ICN: From Sciences to Nutrition Security
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Report of 56th Face to Face IUNS Council Meeting, 12th & 13th January 2017

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

This was the last face to face Council meeting before the IUNS-ICN meeting in Buenos Aires in October 2017 at which elections will take place for the next Council whose term will run from 2017-2021. The following are excerpts of items discussed:

Statutes and Rules

The design of the print version of the revised Statutes and Rules was discussed and approved. The revisions were approved through an electronic voting in 2016. Over 50% of all our ABs voted with their consent and none dissented, a few ABs did not respond. The front page will have the description ‘Updated and adopted on 12th January 2017. This will be available for distribution in Buenos Aires.

21st IUNS-ICN, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Professor Angel Gil, chairman of the Executive Committee reported on progress towards Buenos Aires. The Sheraton Convention Centre is well equipped for the congress, with space for all Plenary sessions, an exhibition hall and other meetings rooms for sessions. No sessions will be permitted during the lunch hour to allow time for congress attendees to network and visit posters and exhibits. Professor Teruo Miyawaza also reported that a working group has already been established to prepare the IUNS-ICN 2021 in Tokyo. Bids for IUNS-ICN 2025 have been shortlisted; Australia, France, and the United States are proposing holding the congress in Melbourne, Paris, and Hawaii respectively. The voting for the venue/host for the IUNS-ICN 2025 will take place at the IUNS General Assembly in October 2017 in Buenos Aires.

IUNS Task Forces

Most of the IUNS Task Forces will be organising symposia at the Congress.
IUNS will provide several travel grants for selected early career scientists whose abstracts have been accepted for either poster or oral presentation.
Application instructions are on the Congress website [www.icn2017.com].

IUNS Awards and Fellows

Requests have gone to all ABs to submit nominations by April 24th for IUNS awards in the following categories: IUNS Lifetime Award, Living Legend and IUNS Fellows. The criteria for these awards are available on the IUNS website [www.iuns.org]. Applications to become an Adhering Body of IUNS were approved for The Gambia, United Arab Emirates and previously for Paraguay. These await ratification at the General Assembly in October 2017.

IUNS Council 2013 - 2017. L-R: Prof. V. Prakash; Prof. R. Martorell; Prof. G. Ndossi; Prof. L. Neufeld; Prof. C. Geissler; Prof. A. Martinez; Prof. A. Larrey; Prof. T. Miyazawa; Prof. H. Heseker; Prof. S.K. Roy

Adhering Body applications

Applications to become an Adhering Body of IUNS were approved for The Gambia, United Arab Emirates and previously for Paraguay. These await ratification at the General Assembly in October 2017.
Update on 21st IUNS-ICN, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Professor Angel Gil, Director of IUNS-ICN Executive Committee

This year the 21st IUNS International Congress of Nutrition will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Buenos Aires is a vibrant and multicultural city which was made a UNESCO City of Design in 2005. The Congress will take place at the Sheraton Hotel, Buenos Aires; this is located in the heart of the city close to many of the city’s cultural attractions.

Organisation has been progressing well since the establishment of an Executive Committee in February 2016. The Preliminary satellite, scientific and sponsored programmes have now been published and promise to showcase the latest research from around the globe. There will be eight tracks including topics such as ‘Advances in Nutrition Research’, ‘Public Health Nutrition and Environment’ and ‘Agriculture, Food Science and Safety’. In addition, regional [Latin American] meetings with simultaneous translation will be held, and symposia will be presented by International Organisations, several Adhering Bodies of IUNS, as well as IUNS Task Forces on a wide range of topics.

Dr. Carissa F. Etiennee, Director of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) will present the Opening lecture and Dr. Anna Larrey, President of the IUNS and Director of Nutrition of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will give the closing lecture. In addition, more than 500 speakers have been confirmed for more than 110 scientific symposia.

Early Career Scientists submitting an abstract are encouraged to apply for the ‘IUNS Early Career Travel Grant’. Applicants must be within 10 years of graduation and must provide a brief CV and supporting letter from their Adhering Body, University or Research Centre.

In addition to the cutting edge scientific content of the Congress, the IUNS General Assembly will be taking place. This is where the next IUNS Council will be elected. Adhering Bodies should ensure that your IUNS annual dues are up to date and remember to register your voting delegates with the IUNS Secretariat before the ICN, otherwise you will not be allowed to participate in the General Assembly!

Buenos Aires at dusk
The Dubai International Food Safety Conference in co-

ordination with the Dubai Municipality had organised the
First Dubai Nutrition Conference in Dubai from Nov. 4-5,
2016. This was attended by a large number of
academics, researchers, industries, R&D leaders and
catering establishments in the area of nutrition. The two-
day programme included a total of six sessions with the
titles: International and Regional Initiatives to Prevent
Obesity among Children; International and Regional
Approaches to Nutritional Labelling and Health claims
on Foods; Global Challenges in Nutrition; Global
Challenges in Nutrition – International Strategies for
Salt Reduction; Food Security, Safety and Nutrition –
Striking the Balance; and Initiatives to Promote Healthy
Food Options in Food Businesses in Dubai.

The focus of childhood obesity, economic determinants
and policy, as well as eating and lifestyle changes took
the first part of the opening day with many of the
speakers reinforcing the need to adhere to long term
healthy eating behaviours. The consumption pattern
needs to be focused on changed behaviour and on
nutrition labelling of the composition of food products to
provide consumers with information for purchasing
decisions. This would cover the wide area of food
allergy, obesity and CVDs and if such labelling practices
were followed this would be of immense benefit. Session
3 addressed the Global Challenges in Nutrition with
successful examples of food and ingredient based
interventions and policy changes that need to be adopted
in several countries to reduce the burden of non-
communicable diseases linked to food habits and life
style. Session 4 focussed on salt reduction, which was
one of the issues that IUNS is also addressing, using
global data. Reducing salt intake to less than 5g per day
to reduce the risk of stroke and cardiovascular diseases
by 23% and 17% respectively was highlighted as global
statistics. The 25 indicators listed by WHO was stressed
to strategise the policy and political commitment by
respective national and international organizers for
action on the salt reduction in foods. Session 5 focused
on food safety, security and nutrition, discussing how the
situation of approximately two billion suffering from
micronutrient deficiencies needs to be addressed. The
session addressed the relationship between appropriate
agriculture and food security and how they are
intertwined to solve nutritional problems along with the
food safety in tropical countries, as well as many
incidences of contaminated foods globally. Dr. V.
Prakash, Vice President of IUNS addressed the issue of
sustainable development, inadequate food and nutrition
security and the enormous role of good food in a healthy
society and in a healthy economy. He raised the very
broad question as to why we are struck in the
undernourishment and malnutrition agenda generation after
generation in spite of modern science and technology
and infrastructure being available globally. Why cannot
we end malnutrition through a global sustainable policy
within this one generation? What is holding us up on
this? If we can address climate change together we can
address this agenda also and solve it too, was his
emphatic point.

The last Session addressed the many initiatives to
promote healthy foods adopted in the Dubai consumer
markets and what action the Dubai Municipality is
currently taking in terms of healthier food with better and
sustainable nutrition. The Conference ended with a large
gathering in the valedictory session and also wide ranging
discussions. The organisers look forward to the
second nutrition conference this year [2017] to take some
of the nutrition agenda forward and IUNS can play a very
major role in this part of the world as the global nutrition
body of the International Council for Science (ICSU).
The following day the second symposium was entitled Life Cycle and Health, Sustainable Development, co-chaired by Xiaoguang Yang, and Catherine Geissler who was the first speaker, on the topic of Science to Public Health Nutrition Action. She was followed by Xiaoguang Yang of the National Institute for Nutrition and Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, China who discussed ‘Health China – the nutrition challenges and opportunities’; Sally Poppitt from the University of Auckland, New Zealand who described the NZ National Science Challenge High Value Nutrition Program: Peak Nutrition for Metabolic Health (PANMAH); Yumei Zhang of the School of Public Health, Peking University, China on Nutrition in early life stage and health – enlightenment from nutrition survey on urban maternal and infants and children; Ying Li of Harbin Medical University, China was unable to attend but her colleague presented her talk on ‘Prenatal exposure to fumone and blood lipid profile in adulthood: a population-based study of families in consecutive generations in Suihua, China; Simin Liu from Brown University, USA discussed ‘Incorporating 6P analytics to improve global health: Prediction, Precision, Prevention, Personalized, Population and Policy. These talks were followed by brief presentations by three young scientists: Wei Yang of the School of Public Health, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China spoke on ‘Dietary Phytochemicals decelerate aging and prolong longevity: current sights and future challenges’; Quizhen Wang of the Nutrition Institute, Qingdao University, China on the ‘Double burden of tuberculosis and diabetes – the role of nutrition; and Jiajie Zang of Shanghai Municipal Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, China on iodine of Shanghai residents and Universal Salt Iodization (USI) evaluation indicators. Catherine Geissler summarised the symposium at the end.

Professor Geissler first collaborated with Chinese scientists about 1985 and was impressed by the extraordinary progress China has made in science over the last 30 years. The modern architecture of the Conference Centre and the new road networks and ring roads are also striking. This development has of course had many costs including the displacement of population, and the pervasive air pollution.
Joint General Assembly of ICSU and ISSC members
Oslo, Norway, 24 October 2016.

Professor Catherine Geissler, IUNS Secretary General

The meeting constituted an extraordinary General Assembly of the International Council for Science (ICSU) and a General Assembly of the International Social Science Council (ISSC) to discuss the merger of the two organizations. The members voted overwhelmingly that the two organizations should merge to become one by October 2018. For the plans to go ahead, the majority of both councils’ voting members needed to vote in favour. 76% of the ICSU members and 87% of the ISSC members voted in favour of a merger of the two organizations, thereby setting the merger process in motion.

Alberto Martinelli, President of ISSC, said: “This is a historic moment for science. The decision for ISSC and ICSU to merge is the logical conclusion of an increasing collaboration between the two councils, and is in line with the course of developments in science over the past decades. By creating a unified international science council, we are removing many institutional obstacles and blazing a trail for unprecedented levels of cooperation among scientists and stakeholders everywhere, to better respond to global challenges.”

Gordon McBean, President of ICSU, said: “ICSU has long been a champion for excellence in both disciplinary and transdisciplinary science, and seeks to bring that excellence together to address global challenges. Today’s vote confirms support for this approach and I want to thank our Unions and National Members for their support. As a unified body, we will be in a stronger position to confront the challenges of the twenty-first century. With a broadened membership base the new organization will be the inclusive global voice of science that we want it to be.”

The proposal for a Transition Task Force to develop detailed transition plans, including legal requirements, new statutes and governance structures for the merged organisation will be put to a vote during a joint meeting of ICSU and ISSC Members in October 2017 at the 32nd ICSU General Assembly in Taipei. If the two organizations’ members endorse these plans in 2017, the transition will be implemented and overseen by the ISSC and ICSU executives, with a founding General Assembly of the new organisation tentatively planned for October 2018.

The merger follows the recommendation of a joint working group on the relationship between the two Councils which worked between December 2015 and June 2016, subsequently unanimously endorsed by

At the Oslo meeting, the ICSU Members also voted to extend the mandates of their ICSU Executive Board, which would usually have expired in October 2017, until October 2018. In June, ISSC Members had already agreed to extend the term of office of the organisation’s current Executive Committee until completion of the merger process.

The meeting was generously hosted by the Research Council of Norway, a member of the ISSC.

IUFoST 19th World Congress of Food Science and Technology

Professor V. Prakash, IUNS Vice-President

The next International Union of Food Science and Technology (IUFoST) World Congress will be held from October 23rd – 27th 2018 in India. The Congress hosts will be India’s IUNS Adhering Body, the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), and IUFoST, and the Congress managers will be MM ACTIV SCI-TECH Communications who will co-ordinate the event under the chairmanship of Dr. Vish Prakash, Vice-President of IUNS. It is expected that there will be about 3000 delegates from over 70 countries with more than 250 speakers in 60 multi-track sessions with highlights of ten distinguished plenary talks, and nearly 800 posters. In addition there will be panel discussions and workshops. A large number of younger delegates will be star attractions for IUFoST 2018. More than 200 leading food industries including Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMES) will be in the Expo. For more details visit www.IUFoST2018.com.
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