

June 2009

A Division of the Society for Nutrition Education

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Dr. Aliza Stark and Dr. Jigna Dharod serve as the 09-10 DINE Division Chairs.



Greetings from the Outgoing Chairs

Dear Friends,

We are thrilled that this year's DINE proposal was chosen for the Keynote Session of our annual meeting. We have three outstanding individuals from quite different backgrounds that will give a global report on food insecurity. They will present current projects being carried out on 4 different continents that are all aimed at preventing hunger and providing families with nutritious foods that will promote good health and prevent disease. We are very pleased that these international experts accepted our invitation to present at our annual meeting. In this issue of DineLine we have chosen to spotlight our conference speakers.

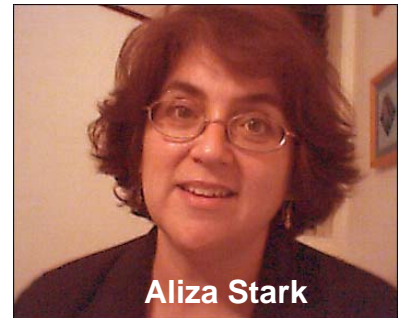
We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked with us this year to make DINE a success. Special thanks to Dr. Jinan Banna who prepared our newsletter and to Dr. Krishna Thiagarajah who helped out with membership recruitment. Big thanks to Dr. Suzanne Piscopo who is always willing to help out with anything we need.

DINE News

We are excited about the upcoming annual meeting in New Orleans where DINE is sponsoring an international session on world hunger. The session will include a discussion of the role of nutrition educators in promoting global food security. We have invited experts with extensive experience around the globe to share with us. The session promises to be fascinating.

DINE is looking for SNE members to help with several DINE positions in the 09-10 year. Interested individuals should contact

Dr. Aliza Stark at email: stark@agri.huji.ac.il or Dr. Jigna Dharod at email: jdharod@usm.maine.edu



Aliza Stark



Jigna Dharod

We wish our incoming Chair, Kathy Orchen a wonderful term and look forward to meeting old friends and new friends in July.

Aliza and Jigna

Teaching the World to Fish- Strategies to Create Global Food Security

Sunday July 12th 9.00-10.30 am Keynote Session

The job of assuring food security is complex. Action needs to be taken at the individual/household, community, national and global level to end hunger and improve health and nutrition. Gain insight on the challenges facing impoverished communities worldwide and on effective local food system strategies to combat food insecurity and hunger in different populations. In addition to improved food production and access, eliminating hunger requires multi-focused, yet targeted, health/nutrition education programs. The importance of health/nutrition education to support optimal utilization of local food systems and for community capacity building to prevent malnutrition will also be explored.

Speaker Spotlight: Professor Rafael Pérez-Escamilla



Rafael Pérez-Escamilla is a Professor of Nutrition and Public Health at the University of Connecticut. He is also the PI and Founding Director of the Connecticut NIH EXPORT Center for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos (www.cehdl.uconn.edu). He is currently leading or co-leading four maternal-child nutrition and food security multi-institutional capacity building projects in the USA, Ghana, and Brazil. He is also leading the formative evaluation of a vitamin A biofortification project in rural Haiti and a diabetes peer counseling randomized community trial targeting Latinos in Connecticut. His translational research has been instrumental for improving breastfeeding promotion practices worldwide, for improving infants' iron status by delaying the clamping of the umbilical cord after birth, for designing and implementing effective community based nutrition education programs, and for standardizing the measurement of household food security in Latin America and the Caribbean using valid experience-based scales. He is a former member of the executive committee of the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation (ISRHML). His seminal work has been essential for understanding and standardizing experience-based household food security measures in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result of this work, governments from countries such as Brazil and Mexico are now able to better target and monitor the impact of their food assistance programs.

Speaker Spotlight: Dr. Lidan Du

Lidan Du has degrees in preventive medicine and applied nutrition from China and the U.S with concentrations in nutrition epidemiology and policy analysis. Her graduate studies and professional practices focus on improving population nutrition and health in the developing world. She has been involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of large-scale nutrition interventions, program associated research projects, and policy advocacy activities in China, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, all countries faced with the big challenge of malnutrition. She has worked in research institutions, consulted for UNICEF and the World Bank, and has also adventured into the private sector. Lidan is currently a post-doctoral associate at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, where she studies issues concerning urban extension programming, develops education curricula and evaluation tools and conducts survey data analysis for community public health and nutrition projects. She also developed and taught the first graduate course on international nutrition at the university.



Upcoming Events

XVII Argentine Congress of Nutrition	<i>Argentina</i>	www.sanutricion.org.ar	24-27.9.09
World Congress On Oils and Fats & 28th ISF Congress	<i>Australia</i>	www.isfsydney2009.com	27-30.9.09
6th NIZO Dairy Conference	<i>The Netherlands</i>	www.nizodairyconf.elsevier.com	30.9-2.10.09
"Dairy ingredients: innovations in functionality"			
8th International Food Data Conference	<i>Thailand</i>	www.inmu.mahidol.ac.th/8-ifdc	1-3.10.09
"Quality Food Composition Data - Key for Health and Trade"			
The 19th International Congress of Nutrition (ICN)	<i>Thailand</i>	www.icn2009.com	4-9.10.09
"Nutrition Security For All"			
International Conference	<i>Morocco</i>	2009internationalconference.synthasite.com	12-14.11.09
"The Integration of Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development in the Context of Climate Change, the Energy Crisis and Food Insecurity"			



Speaker Spotlight: Dr. Bethann Witcher Cottrell



Bethann Witcher Cottrell is the Director of Child Health and Nutrition for CARE USA. She holds a BS in Dietetics from Western Michigan University and a MS and PhD in International Nutrition from Michigan State University. She has worked as an International Public Health Consultant, a Director of Programs for Global Health Action, and a Nutrition Specialist and Associate Professor for Texas A&M University Extension Service. She has served as a presenter at numerous academic meetings, such as the Health Ministry Association Annual Meeting, the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization, the Society for Nutrition Education, the American Public Health Association and the CORE Group Annual Meeting.

Topics have included bilingual weight management programming, cross-cultural health communication, child survival, health and nutrition education, the faith-health interaction and use of focus groups for program development. Dr. Cottrell currently leads and manages a team of 10 professionals implementing diverse child health and nutrition projects in Nepal, Indonesia, India, Bangladesh, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Kenya, Niger, Nicaragua and Peru. The largest project, the Window of Opportunity, focuses on infant and young child feeding and related maternal nutrition.

Country Profile: Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is an island country in South Asia, located about 31 kilometers off the southern coast of India. It is home to around twenty million people. The Sinhalese community forms the majority of the population; Tamils, who are concentrated in the north and east of the island, form the largest ethnic minority. Sinhalese and Tamil are the two official languages of Sri Lanka. English is spoken by approximately 10% of the population. Parts of the country were colonized by Portugal and the Netherlands beginning in the 16th century, before control of the entire country was ceded to the British Empire in 1815. Political independence was eventually granted by the British after peaceful negotiations in 1948. While Sri Lanka has been affected by the obesity epidemic, the country also has a high prevalence of underweight among children and of prevalence of anemia among women and children under 5.





Committee on World Food Security: Assessment of the World Food Security and Nutrition Situation

The 34th session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome, October, 2008 addressed the long-term progress in reducing hunger, the drivers of rising food prices and their impacts at global, country, household and individual levels, and policy responses put in place so far to reduce hunger. Further steps needed to reduce hunger were discussed.

FAO estimates that 848 million people suffered from chronic hunger worldwide in 2003-05, representing an increase of six million from the nearly 842 million in 1990-92, the World Food Summit baseline period, against which progress is measured. Most of the increase in undernourishment since the WFS benchmark period took place in sub-Saharan Africa, where the absolute number of hungry people increased by 43 million. In the Near East and North Africa region, the number of undernourished people in the region has also been increasing since 1990-92. Within the Latin America and Caribbean region, South America has been most successful in reducing hunger.

Driving forces behind soaring food prices are many and complex where both supply-side and demand-side factors play a part. On the supply side, world cereal stocks are at their lowest level in three decades. On the demand side, the emerging biofuels industry is a new and significant user of agricultural commodities such as sugar, maize, cassava, oilseeds and palm oil, leading to increased prices of these goods.

Policy measures taken have included easing import taxes and imposing export restrictions to maintain domestic food availability; applying price controls and subsidies to keep food affordable; and drawing down on stocks to stabilize supplies and prices.

FAO, IFAD and WFP have advocated for a twin track approach as an overall strategic framework for fighting hunger. One track aims at promoting the supply response of the agricultural sector, particularly amongst smallholders, and the development of rural areas through appropriate incentives and investments in public goods. The other track aims to ensure immediate access to food by the poor and vulnerable in both rural and urban areas by providing safety nets and social protection measures.

Source: <<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/meeting/014/k3175e.pdf>>

Composed by Dr. Jinan Banna, Communications Officer of DINE



DINE Session II: Silent Killer- The Unfinished Campaign Against Hunger

“Silent Killer- The Unfinished Campaign Against Hunger” is a documentary film that highlights promising attempts in Africa, and in South and Central America, to end world hunger. The film will be shown followed by an open discussion with SNE members that are either from developing countries or have worked in areas of the world outside the United States that suffer from food insecurity. There will be an opportunity for sharing of personal experiences and discussion led by Dr. Mary Murimi on the role of nutrition educators in promoting global food security.

The United Nations Secretary-General has proposed to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. However, the midpoint for achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals has passed, and success has only been achieved in certain areas. There are still a billion hungry people in the world, and fifteen thousand children die each day of hunger. Hunger and poverty continue to be a worldwide challenge. The connection between poverty and food insecurity is important. Food production is significant because, for the majority of the poor, agriculture is the main source of livelihood. Therefore, the long-term solution to food insecurity includes both the ability to improve food production and yields and addressing rural livelihoods in general. It is clear that countries with a surplus of food should not simply dispense food, but should, instead, teach people how they can feed their communities, establish systems to support their families and build confidence in their ability to provide for themselves.

Issues that affect poverty in developing countries include political interests, pervasiveness of infectious diseases, imbalanced distribution of resources, and environmental factors such as drought. Political stability is the first step in addressing the problem of hunger. Agricultural growth and suitable international and domestic policy are also critical factors for enhancing food security and reducing poverty. Utilizing science and technology for development also plays a significant role in reaching the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Rapid and large-scale progress is feasible if there is collaboration, and focus is placed on providing sustainable solutions. Improving local agriculture, microeconomic projects and interventions building and supporting local food chain infrastructure, are some of the effective strategies to address community food insecurity. It is possible to end hunger, if we make a commitment to doing so.

This newsletter was compiled by Dr. Jinan Banna, New York Presbyterian Hospital, on behalf of the Society for Nutrition Education (SNE) Division of International Nutrition Education (DINE). Please forward any questions or suggestions to Dr. Banna at jcbanna@ucdavis.edu. SNE and DINE prohibit discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status.