Introduction to the first issue of World Nutrition for 2022

For this issue of World Nutrition, Mialon and Pinsky have done remarkably elaborate detective work to detail the responses of the processed food industry in Brazil to the COVID pandemic. Not surprisingly, the industry did not miss the opportunity to ingratiate themselves to the government and key communities with relatively low-cost “charitable” donations and other public relations actions. Sanal et al. examine the complex interplay between female body images as portrayed in the media and how some professional female athletes in Turkey respond. Keith et al. explore infant feeding practices in one of the lowest income and highest immigrant-populated areas in the UK, focusing on the role of sugar in the diet, linking this to British public policies.

Malnutrition has greatly reduced in Southeast Asia. Indonesia is an inspiring example, literally one of the first countries in the world to take nutrition seriously and to build institutional and human resources on a large scale. In this issue, Soekirman, himself one of the leading government actors for decades, tells the fascinating history of what happened and why. This is especially poignant because much of it is gone. Recent nutrition programs there have not maintained the earlier momentum.

George Kent, in his ongoing Good Questions series, explains the difference between nutrition goals and nutrition rights and asks whether some of the former might best be changed into the latter, using examples from the treatment of severe acute malnutrition and school meals.

In a similar vein, Bell et al. review the 13th issue of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch, summarizing its chapters on how the current discourse on food systems is being hijacked by the private sector; the downsides of the recent explosive growth in aquaculture; food banks and charity as a false response to hunger in the wealthy but unequal countries; and innovative solutions for food insecurity in Latin America.

Finally, Ghazi and Raheb review a textbook, one of the most comprehensive resources available on a major cause of malnutrition, dysphagia, or difficulties in swallowing.

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