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Editorial

Introduction to the third issue of World Nutrition for 2024

Ted Greiner[1]

[1] Editor, World Nutrition

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Correspondence: tedgreiner@yahoo.com

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Our parent organization of, the World Public Health Nutrition Association, was established in 2006, one might say out of impatience that the field of nutrition was giving so little attention to its corporate capture, with organizations, journals, and leaders in the field deeply conflicted by funding from the very industries causing many of the major nutrition problems. Most salient is the activities of the global (heavily US-based) ultra-processed food (UPF) industry. But even in solving problems of undernutrition, most of the external and far too much of the local resources available go to "magic bullet" approaches dependent on nutrients and other goods imported from northern countries.

These and other industry-dominated approaches to human nutrition (such as industrial agriculture) rely on society neglecting healthy, sustainable, ecological, low-cost, locally available foods. I invite you to go through the tables of contents of the "high-impact" nutrition (and agriculture) journals and count how many articles relate to such foods – apart from ways of disparaging them, such as showing how some of them limit absorption of iron, carotene, or iodine; can be dangerous if stored improperly; or bring in too little foreign exchange compared to cash crops.

You will find even fewer articles clearly attacking the companies causing health, nutritional, toxicological and other harm to humans. In other words, the benefactors of these journals and/or the associations/companies that publish them.

I will now turn to this editorial's primary purpose, but afterwards I append a list, by topic, of some of the progressive articles WN has published over the years, many of which other journals would never touch. They illuminate issues that we each should be aware of if we really want to make a difference in public health nutrition.

Instead of taking them in the order in which they are herein published, I will begin with the ones that relate directly to the issues I just raised. First, Rana et al. conducted a food frequency study of the so-called "scheduled caste" population in the Himalayan Uttarakhand in India, detailing their use of the increasingly ignored dry-land subsistence staple crops grown there. Uro-Chukwu looks at the popular traditional crop yam in the culture and lifestye in part of Nigeria.

Next, two papers deal with the RUTF (ready to use therapeutic food) issue. Jayatissa et al. take the first step in trying to develop a local version for the purpose of dealing with SAM (severe acute malnutrition), a surprisingly serious issue in such a progressive country. Then Jain and I congratulate WHO for finally issuing a guideline for dealing with SAM that is not so heavily focused on the magic bullet approach.

Third, Garde et al. comment on the food industry's attacks on front-of-pack labelling, an important policy/legislative approach to reducing UPF consumption. And Ndubuisi and Fellows take a communication approaches to reducing the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption in the crucial young adult demographic.

Among the other important articles in this issue of the journal, Lyimo et al. provide an academic examination of the nutrition content of medical and nursing curricula in Tanzania. Dada et al. examine nutrition knowledge, dietary diversity and the prevalence of overweight among university males vs. females at a Nigerian university. Domingo et al. examine infant feeding practices and knowledge among Muslim women in the Philippines. Sarwar et al. present a careful analysis showing that a portable device can provide an inexpensive approach to identifying which areas of Bangladesh (or any country) have such high levels of iron in their groundwater that iron supplementation probably ought not to be untargeted there. Finally, Ali provides an examination of how young child malnutrition has improved in Bangladesh, relating how government policy has both been involved but also limited in its impact, recommending improved ways to address the substantial remaining problems.

A SELECTION OF ARTICLES IN WORLD NUTRITION

FOOD-BASED APPROACHES TO SOLVING NUTRITION PROBLEMS/NEGLECTED FOODS

Annan R: West African diversity, Me and Dr Nkrumah

Cannon G: Wonderful Brazilian cuisine

Monteiro, C: Ultra-processing. In praise of the family meal

Mialon M and Naik A: A discussion of stronger public policies to protect and promote healthy diets: what can the U.S. learn from other countries?

Greiner T: Combatting Vitamin A deficiency: overcoming obstacles to optimize the food-based approach
Angastinioti E et al.: An Exploratory Study Examining Mediterranean Diet Perceptions, Eating Practices, and Food Choice of Emerging Adults from Cyprus and the United States
Sulley H et al.: Awareness among Black British adults in London of the importance of diet and physical activity on the occurrence of non-communicable diseases
Owen E et al.: Impact of a diet diversification and health and nutrition counseling program in Madagascar
Saaka M et al.: Effect of nutrition education on nutrition-related knowledge, attitudes, and consumption of diversified diets among families owning a home garden in northern Ghana
Kent G: Review--Fruit and Vegetables: Opportunities and Challenges for Small-scale Sustainable Farming; How Could We Strengthen Social Support for Food Gardening?

THE ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD INDUSTRY AND ITS BEHAVIOR
Monteiro, Carlos: Ultra-processing, the riddle of the Great Food Pyramid; Ultra-processing labelling, the fictions; Ultra-processing. There is no such thing as a healthy ultra-processed product; The hydrogenation bomb; Ultra-processing. The good, the bad, and the toxic; (with Cannon and Moubarac) Ultra-processing. The big issue; (with Cannon) What are ultra-processed products; Ultra-processing. Why bread, hot dogs – and margarine – are ultra-processed; The Food System, Product reformulation will not improve public health; (with Cannon) The role of the transnational ultra-processed food industry in the pandemic of obesity and its associated diseases: problems and solutions; (with Jaime) Brazilian Food Guide attacked. Now, overwhelming support for the Guide in Brazil and worldwide
Mialon, Melissa: (with Julia and Hercberg) The policy dystopia model adapted to the food industry: the example of the Nutri-Score saga in France; (with Sêrodio and Scagliusi) Criticism of the NOVA classification: who are the protagonists?; (review of book by George Kent) Governments Push Infant Formula; (with Pinsky) Food industry responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Brazil: public health or public relations?
Kent George: How does the U.S. Government violate the infant formula marketing code?; Conflicts of Interest in the WIC Program; Who benefits from persistent hunger?; How can a food product be both old and new?; Why make fake breastmilk? (see also follow up debate in next issue)
IA Granheim et al.: Interference in public health policy: examples of how the baby food industry uses tobacco industry tactics
Harris J, et al.: Conflict of interest in nutrition conference financing: Moving towards solutions after IUNS 2022
Schuftan C and Greiner T: WHO's work in relation to health and nutrition should counter the privatization agenda, but does it?
R Holla and A Gupta: Healthy for Whom – Consumers or the Food and Beverage Industry?
VW McClain: Patents on Life: A Brief View of Human Milk Component Patenting

COMBATTING THE MAGIC BULLET APPROACH TOWARD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE IN NUTRITION
Latham M: The great vitamin A fiasco (see also the many letters to the editor in following issues of the journal).
Mason J and Margetts B: Magic bullets vs community action: the trade-offs are real
Fisker A and Greiner T: High dose vitamin A capsules – Rusty bullets?
Kapil U and Sareen N: Adverse Side Effects of Mega Dose of Vitamin A Administration- A need for Introspection
Gupta A et al.: Is "small quantity lipid nutrition supplement" (SQ-LNS) a sustainable and pragmatic strategy to prevent malnutrition? (See also follow up debate in next issue)

CONFLICT OF INTEREST
None

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