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Editorial

Introduction to World Nutrition's first issue for 2025: Advancing Public Health Nutrition Through Research, Policy, and Advocacy

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It is with great pleasure that we present Volume 16, Issue 1 of World Nutrition, the official journal of the World Public Health Nutrition Association. I want to begin this time with a welcome to the expanded staff of volunteers now assisting us with the journal's work. In addition to our Deputy Editor George Kent, we have the following Associate Editors: Stanley I.R. Okoduwa, PhD, Director of ICT, NSBMB, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria; Yeji Baek, PhD, Research Fellow in Global Health and Health Economics, Monash University, Australia; Swati Jain, PhD, Scientist, Department of Health Research, Delhi, India; and Marcello Boati, MSc in Public Health Nutrition, Italy. Kamryn Bailey has begun assisting Stanley with our social media work, so please follow World Nutrition on **LinkedIn** and **Facebook.** We also acknowledge the Typesetting Team at **SIRONigeria Global Limited** for their meticulous work in bringing this issue to publication.

Our dedicated peer reviewers continue to deliver outstanding service to the journal. No journals could work without colleagues willing to sacrifice their time and expertise to keep their profession and its journals maintain a high scientific standard. The scholarship featured in this issue reflects our reviewers' and volunteer editorial staff's continued commitment to rigorous, interdisciplinary, and policy-relevant research and debate that seek to improve public health nutrition worldwide. If you would be interested in joining our team of peer reviewers, simply register for doing so in the upper right corner of our website (**World Nutrition**) and indicate your areas of expertise.

At the heart of this issue are six original research papers that provide critical insights into malnutrition, diet quality, and the broader determinants of health and nutritional status. Dembele's meta-analysis on child stunting in sub-Saharan Africa highlights gender disparities in nutritional status, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions to find ways to reduce stunting among boys. Akinbule et al. explore the association between diet, health-related quality of life, and poor anthropometric status in children living with HIV in an area in Nigeria, underscoring the importance of nutrition in managing chronic diseases. Edafioghor et al. contribute to the ongoing discourse on local foods for treating malnutrition by formulating and evaluating recipes for ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF) using indigenous Nigerian ingredients, finding that they present a viable alternative to imported formulations.

The role of lifestyle and environment in shaping nutritional outcomes is further explored by Gupta and Jain, who compare chrononutrition misalignment and its impact on obesity between urban and rural adults in India. Sadi et al. investigate nutritional knowledge and practices among residents of Kano Metropolis, Nigeria, highlighting gendered differences in awareness and dietary behaviors that could inform targeted education campaigns. Kaur et al. assess the physical and nutritional environments of rural communities in Illinois, using standardized research tools to investigate how the local environment and facilities enhance and challenge the achievement of healthy eating and exercise in that part of the rural USA.

Anuoluwa et al. present a literature review of the current state of the new field focusing on bioremediation strategies for heavy metal-contaminated soils, emphasizing their implications for food safety and public health in sub-Saharan Africa.

In our Commentary section, Gillespie delivers a thought-provoking call to action, urging those working in nutrition and public health to resist rising political and economic forces that threaten equity, justice, and human rights. His essay serves as both a critique and a source of inspiration, reminding us that advocacy and collective action remain vital tools in the fight against food insecurity and malnutrition.

Beyond individual and community-level factors, two articles in our Policy Discussion and Perspectives section delve into the broader structural determinants of nutrition. Thow et al. provide a timely assessment of the coherence challenges in trade, investment, and nutrition policy within the framework of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition. Their analysis offers valuable insights into how international trade agreements need to better align with nutrition and public health goals. Finally, Harris and Johnson provide an updated overview that all public health nutritionists need to be aware of regarding the right to adequate food within UN human rights mechanisms. As the world marks the 20th anniversary of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food, their work serves as an essential guide for academics, policymakers, and advocates seeking to leverage international human rights frameworks to advance nutrition equity.

As the global landscape of public health nutrition continues to evolve, World Nutrition remains committed to fostering evidence-based solutions, advocating for policy change, and amplifying the voices of researchers and practitioners worldwide. We hope this issue of the journal serves as a valuable resource for advancing knowledge and action in the field of public health nutrition.

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