

MINUTES

Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition Research (ICHNR)

Friday, June 17, 2022
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: ZoomGov Meeting

Co-Chairs' Welcome & Introduction: ADM Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service (USDA-ARS)

ADM Levine provided a summary of the last meetings discussion topics. Dr. Jacobs-Young marked the official start of her role as ICHNR Co-Chair and expressed her enthusiasm for ICHNR activities to bridge efforts across agencies and promote innovation.

FY2023 President's Budget for ONR & Proposed National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Initiatives: Christopher Lynch, Acting Director, NIH Office of Nutrition Research

Dr. Lynch described the role and mission of the NIH Office of Nutrition Research (ONR) and its key activities, including coordinating the implementation of the NIH-wide strategic plan for nutrition research. Several new NIH initiatives planned for 2023 were highlighted (see agenda) which aim to stimulate research on nutrition insecurity and the role of nutrition in health across the translational spectrum. Two upcoming workshops were announced, "Nutrition as Prevention for Improved Cancer Health Outcomes" in July 2022 and "Malnutrition in Clinical Settings: Research Gaps and Opportunities" in September 2022.

Comments and Q&A

- Praise for these initiatives was expressed, and participants noted there are opportunities for cross-agency collaboration and coordination as per the GAO report "Chronic Health Conditions – Federal Strategy Needed to Coordinate Diet-Related Efforts" (GAO-21-593).
- A comment was made that there may be a distinction between concepts of food security and nutrition security and how they are discussed at different agencies, and that it is important to consider that many factors come into play domestically and internationally.
- Support was expressed for promoting the advancement of bioinformatics and modeling in nutrition research.

Cancer Moonshot: Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist, U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Research Service

Dr. Jacobs-Young provided a status update on the reignited Cancer Moonshot initiative to end cancer as we currently know it. The first White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health in over 50 years...(also discussed further by Dr. Fisher, see below).

Comments and Q&A

- Enthusiasm was expressed for the opportunity to make significant advances through a concerted effort, and to find successful implementation strategies that leveraging scientific knowledge.
- Identifying successful dissemination strategies and promoting uptake was acknowledged as both a key and a challenge.

Closer to Zero: Action Plan for Baby Foods: Conrad Choiniere, Director, Office of Analytics and Outreach, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Food and Drug Administration

Dr. Choiniere described FDA's plan for reducing exposure to toxic elements for babies and young children. This has been a consistent priority for FDA, and was recently elevated. The plan is iterative, with a purpose to incrementally reduce toxic element levels in foods, and thus reduce exposure, over time. The goal is not to limit access or remove food products from the market, but rather to drive improvements in food quality.

Comments and Q&A

- It was asked if FDA is monitoring toxic element levels in foods or if they are working with outside laboratories. Dr. Choiniere responded that FDA tests internally and also works with state laboratories and other partners.
- It was noted that complementary work is performed through NIFA, and that there may be joint opportunities.

White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health: Rachel Fisher, Acting Executive Director, President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion and HHS lead for the White House Conference

Ms. Fisher described the development and goals for the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, which is planned for September 2022. The goal of the conference and subsequent activities is to "end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030, so that fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases..." The Conference's scope is defined by five pillars: 1) Improve food access and affordability, 2) Integrate nutrition and health, 3) Empower all consumers to make and have access to healthy choices, 4) Support physical activity for all, and 5) Enhance nutrition and food security research. Leading up the Conference, stakeholder engagement sessions have been conducted, and a tool kit resource for developing similar engagement and listening sessions is being developed.

Comments and Q&A

- It was asked whether "ending hunger" focused on domestic issues or if it expanded internationally, and Ms. Fisher responded that the focus was domestic.

Separate international efforts through USAID with Feed the Future and the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy were noted.

- It was asked whether transcripts or summaries of the stakeholder engagement listening sessions were or would be publicly available. Ms. Fisher responded that since there was an emphasis on stakeholders sharing personal stories there were not currently plans to publicly post comments, but that the suggestion would be communicated.

Subcommittee Updates

Dietary Guidelines for Americans Update and Evaluating the Process to Develop the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020–2025, A Midcourse Report: Janet de Jesus and Eve Stoody, *Dietary Guidelines* Subcommittee co-chairs

HHS and USDA requested public comments this April-May on proposed scientific questions to inform the development of the next edition of the Dietary Guidelines. ODPHP and CNPP are reviewing each comment, with consideration of the available research to finalize the questions. Current proposed scientific questions focus on dietary patterns and health outcomes across the lifespan, including the relationship between diet and risk of overweight and obesity, weight maintenance, ultra-processed foods, health equity principles, and food-based strategies that can be used by individuals and families to support implementation of the Dietary Guidelines.

HHS and USDA announced the call for nominations to the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee in June, the submission period will close July 15, 2022.

Comments and Q&A

- None

Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) Update: Karl Friedl and Cindy Davis, Dietary Reference Intakes Subcommittee Co-chairs

Dr. Davis provided an overview of DRIs' use in planning and assessing nutrient intakes, status on updates, and the call from academia, professional groups, and the public to revise DRIs on a more frequent schedule. An updated to DRIs for energy requirements was prioritized by a joint U.S. and Canada working group and contracted with NASEM. NASEM has requested a 3-month extension for the final report. Updated macronutrient DRIs will be considered next. The NASEM Standing Committee for the Review of DRIs will hold a July 14, 2022 meeting to outline next steps. A need for further progress on macronutrients before addressing protein and carbohydrates, as well as a need for additional staffing, were noted as current challenges. Dr. Friedl added that there is also a need to determine whether protein and carbohydrates should be considered jointly or individually.

Comments and Q&A

- None

Discussion/Announcements

Dr. Jacobs-Young thanked all presenters and members and expressed excitement for impactful outcomes from these efforts.

Dr. Reed shared his appreciation and enthusiasm for these efforts to advance nutrition research.

Dr. Starke-Reed asked members to share their ideas for new ICHNR subcommittees to focus on emerging areas.

Adjournment

ICHNR 08/26/2021 Meeting Attendance

Co-Chairs

- Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health (HHS)
- Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Under Secretary of Research, Education, and Economics and Chief Scientist (USDA-ARS)

Officers

- Pamela Starke-Reed, USDA, ARS (Co-Exec Sec)
- Christopher Lynch, HHS, NIH (Co-Exec Sec)

HHS

- Paul Reed, OASH / ODPHP
- Janet de Jesus, ODPHP
- Rachel Fisher, ODPHP
- Kellie Casavale, FDA, ONFL
- Conrad Choiniere, FDA, CFSAN
- Kinbo Lee
- Robin McKinnon, FDA, CFSAN
- Jenna Seymour, CDC, DNPAO
- Jill Reedy, NIH, NCI
- Kimberly Barch, NIH, ONR
- Adam Kuszak, NIH, ODS

DoD

- Karl Friedl, USARIEM
- Patricia Duester, USUHS

VA

- Anne Utech

USDA

- Donna Johnson-Bailey, FNS
- Sheila Fleischhacker, NIFA
- Cindy Davis, ARS
- Jackie Haven, CNPP
- Joanne Guthrie, ERS
- Jay Variyam, ERS
- Eve Stody, CNPP
- Suzanne Stluka, NIFA

USAID

- Ahmed Kablan

NASA

- Scott Smith

NIST

- Chuck Barber
- Melissa Phillips