Funding Issues with the Dietary Reference Intakes

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DRI Values

• Studies on requirements of humans – CDRR added in 2017
• Essential nutrients – 29 vitamins & minerals, macronutrients
• Conditionally essential – choline, arginine, glutamine
• Non-essential – dietary fiber, carotenoids, polyphenols, flavonoids, lignans
• 10 Age groups, 2 Sexes, Pregnancy, Lactation
• Used by
  • Federal gov’t on food labels, WIC, School Meals
  • Health professionals
  • Food industry: fortification, enrichments, label claims
DRI History

- RDA book used to be redone every 10 years at a cost of <$500k
- Late 1990s, DRI paradigm introduced: EAR, RDA, AI, AMDR, UL
- 12 DRI books published 1998-2005
  - 6 with nutrient values,
  - 6 others on various uses
- Calcium/Vitamin D revised in 2011 - $1.7 Million from Health Canada and 9 US agencies
  - Plus multiple AHRQ reviews on vitamin D and health endpoints by NIH/ODS
- Most unexamined for 20 y but DGA redone every 5 years by statute
DRI Process

- Federal agencies sponsor AHRQ systematic reviews(s) & NASEM consensus committee
- Joint US-Canada Steering Committee
  - 18 US agencies
  - 4 Canadian agencies
- No dedicated funding – almost always end-of-year contributions
  - Multiple small amounts
  - No consistency in support
  - New NASEM rule requires all funding upfront
Modular DRI approach for macronutrient review

- Total protein
- Total carbohydrate
- Total energy
- Total fat
- Essential fatty acids and other fat components
- Essential amino acids
- Carbohydrate components
- Fiber
What’s Next?

• Review macronutrients
  • Protein, Fat, Carbohydrate, Total Energy
    • Amino acids; Fatty acids; Sugars, Starch, Dietary Fiber
  • Numerous systematic reviews possible for multiple chronic disease endpoints

• What resources are needed?
  • At least 10 systematic reviews - $6 million plus
  • Two NASEM consensus studies - $5 million or more
  • 5-year process

• $2 million/y indefinitely
  • Will allow all nutrients to be re-examined