



## Editorial

### Reviews in *EJCN*

Since 1992 the *European Journal of Clinical Nutrition* has had a *review*, in most issues. There has been a gap lately due to changeover of review editors. Original research articles are of most interest to readers with a special interest in the particular topic, particularly those also doing research on it. But research papers appear in many different journals, and other publications. Some are amplified by high status journals or commercial interests while other good papers remain obscure. Nutritional practice should be based as far as is practical on all the evidence. This is where reviews are valuable. Conscientious and experienced reviewers should be able to collect (almost) all the important contributions on a topic and should be able to weigh the discrepant results and guide the general reader to provisional conclusions. Reviews like this are tools of trade for nutrition practice because it is hard for most of us to know the balance of all the research results.

Many of the *EJCN*'s reviews are commissioned; some are submitted. Lead authors of published reviews in the journal receive a year's free subscription to the *EJCN* and have the satisfaction that they have solved a problem by clarifying a confusing but interesting corner of human nutrition for the non-specialist who can apply the summarised evidence. Authors of reviews are also more likely to be cited than authors of research reports.

In recent years, reviews have ranged in length from 4–14.5 pages of the journal. The number of words depends on how many tables and figures are included. Professor Seidell and I invite readers to suggest topics that need to be reviewed (preferably with possible authors attached to the suggestion). If you would like to tackle a review yourself it is advisable to send the proposal to one of us before you do all the work in case a review on the topic has already been commissioned. As well as traditional scientific reviews, we see a place for mini-reviews that deal with a fairly narrow but important topic and also reviews that trace the history of a corner of nutrition.

A list follows of the reviews that have appeared in the *EJCN* in the last 5 years. Some of them have already been widely cited.

1997

- Paleolithic diets (SB Eaton *et al*).
- Chocolate: divine or junk or nutritious? (S Rössner).
- Iron deficiency in developed countries (JJM Marks).
- Body composition methods (M Fogelholm & van M Lichtenbelt).
- Food sensitivity: heretical thoughts (G Bassotti *et al*).
- Macronutrients and breast cancer (BA Stoll).
- Folate intake in Europe (A de Bree *et al*).

1998

- Diet and blood coagulation factor VII (P Marckman *et al*).
- Micronutrients and HIV (H Friis & KF Michaelson).
- Crohn's disease and sugar (AM Riordon *et al*).
- Monounsaturated oils don't all have the same effect on plasma cholesterol (AS Truswell).
- Swedish obese subjects (L Lissner *et al*).
- Nutritional management of diabetes: recommendations (TKK Ha & MEJ Lean).
- Effect of under- and over-nutrition on EFA in childhood (I Decsi *et al*).
- Nutrition for children with bone marrow transplant (A Papadopoulou).

1999

- Western nutrition, insulin resistance and breast cancer (BA Stoll).
- Lactic acid bacteria (H Hove *et al*).
- Preference for foods by gender (K O'Doherty).
- Guidelines for sugar consumption in Europe (CHS Ruxton *et al*).
- Fish and CHD: systematic review of cohort studies (P Markmann).
- Intense sweeteners and energy density of foods (A Drenowski).
- Coenzyme Q<sub>10</sub> in health and disease (K Overvad *et al*).
- Supplements of dehydroepiandrosterone and breast cancer (BA Stoll).
- Coffee, caffeine and blood pressure (NL Nurminen *et al*).

2000

- Nutritional aspects of Meals on Wheels—Australian perspective (J Krassie *et al*).
- Environmental and nutritional factors (especially dietary lipids) and salivary gland tumorigenesis (AB Actis & AR Eynard).
- A definition for dietary fibre (MA Ha, MC Jarvis & JI Mann).

2001

- Systematic review age of introduction of complementary foods to the healthy full-term infant (JA Lanigan *et al*).
- Cereal grains and coronary heart disease (AS Truswell).

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