

foreign policies of the world's most materially rich countries. But we surely all agree that the impact of these policies, as practised on many of the world's most impoverished countries, is catastrophic.

This has been understood in the USA at the highest level. Dwight Eisenhower is the most recent US President who was a senior wartime officer. After he left the US army he reflected on the horrors of war. In his first public address after his election, on 16 April 1953, he spoke about the fundamental reasons for undernutrition. He said:

Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed... This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hopes of its children.

This journal and this profession does not have the answers to undernutrition. But at least we have the responsibility to see and acknowledge the scale of

the problems. This is a time to bear Elizabeth Gaskell's essential optimistic belief in mind.

Barrie Margetts
Deputy Editor

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In this issue

Monitoring and surveillance of population dietary trends, determinants of dietary intake and related nutritional status are central to public health nutrition as a discipline. In this issue, a number of papers have relevance to this aspect of public health nutrition practice and research.

Compliance with recommendations is a common theme running through this issue. Seck and Jackson⁽¹⁾ report on a study exploring the determinants of compliance with Fe supplementation among pregnant women in Senegal. Their findings reinforce the importance of clear guidance about supplement intake and education about the benefits of compliance with supplement prescriptions.

Still on the issue of micronutrient deficiencies, Ma *et al.*⁽²⁾ report on a study in China exploring the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of strategies to address the significant public health issue of Fe and Zn deficiencies. Using the standard WHO Ingredients approach, they have estimated the costs and cost-effectiveness of supplementation, food diversification and food fortification.

Dietary variety is a key determinant of micronutrient status in many populations. Pedro *et al.*⁽³⁾ present the results and analysis of a study of total food items recorded in a longitudinal group of urban black South African

children from the Birth-to-Twenty Study at five intercepts at ages 5, 7, 9, 10 and 13 years, respectively.

Romaguera *et al.*⁽⁴⁾ report on the nutritional status of two Andean populations in Argentina using a cross-sectional study using anthropometric measures. Their data suggest these populations are in the early stages of nutritional transition, with evidence of undernutrition and overnutrition coexisting at the population level.

Two papers in this issue specifically address the challenges associated with validity measurements, analysis and interpretation in public health nutrition research. Barclay *et al.*⁽⁵⁾ assess the ability of an FFQ to rank Australians according to their intake of total carbohydrate, sugar, starch, fibre, glycaemic index and glycaemic load, using a cross-sectional sample of 2868 older Australian adults. Huybregts *et al.*⁽⁶⁾ present a study providing evidence that food photographs can be a valuable tool for the quantification of food portion size on a group level.

The sometimes pernicious influence of food marketing targeting the young is of considerable interest to readers of this journal. Jones and Fabrianesi⁽⁷⁾ report on a study using intercept interviews to investigate parents' perceptions of branded snack foods targeted at children, and the extent to

which these perceptions are influenced by advertising messages. It will be of little surprise to observers of child-targeted food marketing that these authors demonstrate that the messages conveyed to adults tend to overemphasise the nutritional benefits compared with the child-targeted versions of these advertisements.

From micronutrient deficiencies in many developing regions of the world to the well-planned promotion of highly processed snack foods in developed countries such as Australia, the diversity of public health nutrition challenges we face are no more obvious.

Roger Hughes
Deputy Editor

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