

Symposia 12: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST (COI) IN GLOBAL NUTRITION RESEARCH

14th December 2016 from 11.30 hrs to 13.00 hrs

Background

“Conflict of interest” is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgement or actions regarding a primary interest will be unduly influenced by a secondary interest¹. For almost a quarter of a century now, “evidence-based” has become the catchword for medical and nutritional interventions. At the same time, research in public sector is shrinking, while evidence is increasingly being gathered by the private sector. The quality-mark symbolised by “evidence” is being misappropriated and distorted by industry, starting by setting the research agenda to manipulating the interventions and thus the results, and selective publication of positive results as “unbiased” studies in leading peer reviewed journals. The paucity of genuinely “unbiased” studies do not have the promotion of any particular drug, product or intervention as a priority can lead to misinformed decisions in public health and nutrition². There is an urgent need for more investment in independent research and independent bodies must set research priorities.

Coordinators : Dr. JP Dadhich, BPNI/IBFAN Asia, India
Dr. Khurshid Talukder, Centre for Woman and Child Health, Bangladesh

Moderator : Patti Rundall, BMA, UK

Objectives:

To help health care professionals to increase their awareness of Conflicts of Interest in nutrition research and “evidence making” and to apprise them about impact of COI on nutritional policies and programmes.

Agenda:

Time	Topic	Speaker
11.30 – 11.35 AM	Opening remarks and introduction to the subject	Patti Rundall, BMA, UK
11.35 – 11.50 AM	Col in nutrition research, standard setting and policy advice	Dr. JP Dadhich, BPNI/IBFAN Asia, India
11.50 AM – 12.05 PM	The influence of conflicted nutrition research on national policies and programmes	Dr. Khurshid Talukder, Centre for Woman and Child Health, Bangladesh
12.05 – 12.20 PM	The NCD research arena and the UN	Patti Rundall, UK
12.20 – 12.40 PM	Sharing experience of national awareness generation on Col	Velvet Escario-Roxas, Arugaan, Philippines Dr. G. Soyolgerel, Head of Mongolian Pediatric Society, Mongolia (10 minutes each speaker)
12.40 – 01.00 PM	Discussion	All speakers

Results

WBC 2 participants attending this symposium will have a short introduction to conflicts of interest in nutrition research. Participants of this symposium will be more alert to the dangers of compromised nutrition research in public health policy.