

History is part of our remit also. We have to learn the lessons of the past, but not to burden those who have not been the cause of the problems with the solutions (at least primarily!). We have to identify realistic, fair, and equitable global solutions. This may involve those of us who have been lucky enough to be born in the rich North to pay more for food. We have to open access to our markets so that poorer producers living in the South can have a fair return for their work, and have more control over their own destiny. 'Trade not aid' is a good slogan for changing the North's relationship with the South.

The core content of this journal will always be original research papers. But we are not only about publishing evidence of public health problems and their causes. Like its subject, *Public Health Nutrition* is also committed to

engage in and contribute to solutions. Public health will always have these social and political dimensions. Next month we will pursue this theme.

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In this issue

Do national research priorities align with burden of disease?

Research has its greatest utility when it can be applied to address individual, societal, population and ecological problems. If you agree with this statement, then it is not unreasonable to assume that you would agree with Llanos *et al.*'s⁽¹⁾ proposition in this issue that the alignment of research priorities with the corresponding population burden of disease is desirable, to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of actions required to improve health. This paper contrasts the epidemiological profile of nine Latin American countries with the research priorities in academic institutions in each country and finds a misalignment between public health nutrition needs and research priorities. Their finding that studies on the efficacy and effectiveness of interventions were uncommon reinforces the ongoing challenge for public health nutrition researchers and practitioners to prioritise and provide this evidence through intervention research.

Haerens *et al.*⁽²⁾ have responded to this challenge in their paper explaining the effect of a 1-year intervention promoting physical activity in middle schools, using mediation analysis.

Food diversity and neophobia affects dietary quality

Diversity in food consumption is widely recognised as an important predictor of dietary quality, particularly among indigenous peoples. In this issue, Roche *et al.*⁽³⁾ assess the utility of a food diversity score for predicting nutrient

adequacy among the Awajún culture of the Peruvian Amazon. At the other end of the diversity spectrum, Schickenberg *et al.*⁽⁴⁾ explore the effect of food neophobia on acquaintance with and willingness to try healthful foods among Dutch consumers. It appears that lower educational attainment and opportunity is associated with greater neophobia in the context of healthful foods.

Yet another argument for breast-feeding promotion

Noor and Rousham⁽⁵⁾ present results from a cross-sectional household survey of infant feeding and maternal well-being among women in north-east England of Bangladeshi and Pakistani ethnicity. Their data suggest an important mediating role of breast-feeding in maternal mental health after childbirth, providing yet another good reason for promoting breastfeeding as the norm and proactively supporting this feeding choice among mothers.

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