More than 1,300 dietitians, nutritionists, and guests representing 51 countries attended the XIIIth International Congress of Dietetics in Edinburgh July 23-27. The congress logo, set in stones over the Princes Street Gardens, welcomed delegates to Scotland’s capital.

The exciting four-day program, organized by the International Committee of Dietetic Associations and hosted by the British Dietetic Association, was held at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

At the opening ceremony—a colorful and musical affair—Congress Director Irene Mackay read a message of best wishes from Her Majesty the Queen, patron of the British Dietetic Association and of the congress.

In an impassioned keynote address, Dr. Cecilia Florencio, university professor of nutrition, Philippines, called for a global human rights-based approach to nutrition.

The importance of the congress was reflected in numerous presentations. Topics were organized around the themes of global health, changing perspectives, and challenges to the dietitian’s role.

Issues of ethics in genetics, functional foods, organic food production, changing global health demographics, complementary medicine, and new technologies generated insightful, cross-cultural debate.

In addition to the scientific program, delegates enjoyed social and cultural events in and around the city.

Plans are already under way for the 2004 International Congress of Dietetics in Chicago.

Watch upcoming issues of Dietetics Around the World for continuing reports from the Edinburgh meeting.
(Secretary’s report, from page 1)

✓ increased awareness of standards of dietetic education, training, and practice

    At a full-day workshop preceding the congress, delegates developed action plans from now until 2004.

    Three priorities emerged for building an integrated communications system:

    Develop a new Web site. The time has come to create a Web site domain for ICDA. Experienced national dietetic associations can assist in defining criteria for the site and in building content that is important to dietitians around the world. ICDA can help to create home pages for associations that do not have Web sites and can link those sites to other organizations.

    Information about opportunities for dietitians and tools such as chat lines that facilitate an exchange of ideas are priorities.

    Enhance the newsletter. Dietetics Around the World has been the main vehicle for communication among ICDA member groups since 1994. It is available to individual dietitians on a limited basis. Delegates see ways to improve access to the newsletter and to make it easier for dietitians to contribute information. Using the newsletter for public relations would enhance its value as a communications tool.

    Continue holding the International Congress of Dietetics every four years. The congress will be jointly hosted by the American Dietetic Association and Dietitians of Canada in 2004 and by the Japan Dietetic Association in 2008. Delegates see the congress as a key piece of its communications system, providing opportunities for dietitians around the world to network and share information.

    A symposium to review and promote standards of practice would be a key component of each congress.

    Two priorities emerged for enhancing the image of the profession globally:

    Seek out representation and collaboration with international organizations. Delegates advise keeping goals in mind when developing relationships with other organizations so that ICDA member groups can identify the best representatives for different opportunities. They would like ICDA to develop systems to help its representatives be effective.

    Develop an image that reflects common principles of dietetic practice. Development of international standards would be a bold step for ICDA. The process would begin with a description of the work of dietitians and commonly held principles of practice, which could ultimately lead to a code of ethics for ICDA member groups.

    This work would highlight the contributions of dietitians worldwide in many arenas of practice. ICDA can support member associations by promoting this image to a network of national and international organizations.

    Two priorities emerged for increasing awareness of the standards of dietetic education, training, and practice:

    Make information available. A first step in enhancing awareness of standards is to improve access to existing information. ICDA has an important role to play in collecting data and in creating accessible databases on dietetics education, competencies, and quality assurance systems.

    Promote standards to members and to other organizations and disciplines. ICDA needs to identify key organizations and meetings for papers and presentations about dietetic standards.

    The International Congress of Dietetics will be a means of building awareness of standards among ICDA member associations. Delegates suggest that ICDA identify gaps in papers on practice standards and that representatives meet at the congress in 2004 to develop strategies to close the gaps.

    The decisions made in Edinburgh have changed ICDA from an international committee to a full-fledged organization with a mission.

ICDA Board

A first board of directors was elected to oversee ICDA management until 2004. Representatives of the American Dietetic Association (to be confirmed), the British Dietetic Association (Irene Mackay), the Danish Dietetic Association (Irene Mackay), the Danish Dietetic Association of Dietitians of Canada (Marsha Sharp), the Japan Dietetic Association (Motoko Sakamoto), and the Swedish Association of Dietitians (Karin Hadell) were elected to serve as the board. They will work with member associations on actions that are in line with ICDA’s new mission.

Irene Mackay is the chair of the board. Marsha Sharp continues as secretary until 2002, when the location of the ICD Secretariat will come up for review.

At the closing session of the congress, participants were urged to contribute to ICDA’s important work through their national dietetic associations.
Industry partnerships support association goals

Jan Finley, Executive Director, Dietitians Association of Australia

Industry partnerships support the Dietitians Association of Australia’s (DAA) mission—to advocate for better food, better health, and better living for all and to support its members. The partnership consists of different types of collaborations and sponsorships.

Partnerships formed in 1999

Abbott Australasia
Abbott’s partnership helps fund national and branch activities aimed at ensuring DAA members have access to continuing professional development activities that assist in meeting the requirements of the Accredited Practicing Dietitian program. Abbott sponsors seminars and workshops and subsidizes audiotapes of conferences.

Australian Dairy Corporation
This partnership advances DAA’s goal of communicating accurate nutrition messages to the community. The program includes support for media training for spokespeople and development of community service announcements and nutrition columns in regional press.

Coles Supermarkets
DAA and Coles formed a partnership to deliver the message that Australians need to eat at least seven servings of fruits and vegetables (two servings of fruits and five servings of vegetables) each day for better health. Coles 7-a-Day is a health-awareness program that includes advertising, public relations, an Internet site, point-of-sale information in Coles stores, and communication with DAA members and other parts of the health and nutrition sector. DAA advises on the scientific and nutrition communications aspects of the program and DAA members are spokespeople.

Kellogg (Australia) Pty Limited
Kellogg’s partnership supports the implementation and management of DAA’s media program and the work of the DAA public relations officer. This program allows DAA to inform consumers about nutrition, to respond quickly to nutrition misinformation in the media, and to raise the profile of the association and its members.

Mead Johnson
Mead Johnson Nutritional’s Gold Partnership subsidizes the DAA Dietitians Diary, allowing members easier access to a useful resource.

Novartis
The Novartis Gold Partnership has allowed for a redesign of the DAA member newsletter and an increase in the frequency of distribution from four issues a year to ten.

Sanitarium Health Food Company
Sanitarium has a commitment to providing nutritious products and health education to consumers and to advancing the knowledge of health professionals.

Revised RDAs reflect new health priorities

Teiji Nakamura, Ph.D., RD
Japan Dietetic Association

The sixth revision of the recommended dietary allowances (RDA) for Japan took effect in June 2000 and will remain in place for the next five years. The Ministry of Health and Welfare reports that the content has been drastically changed to reflect a shift in health priorities. The role of nutrition in preventing chronic lifestyle-related diseases such as hypertension and obesity has replaced nutrient intake as a national health concern.

The latest revision is based on the dietary reference intakes proposed by the United States and Canada. Estimated average requirements (EAR), recommended dietary allowances (RDA), and tolerable upper intake levels (UL) have been determined. The range between RDA and UL is the safe range of nutrient intake.

Both RDAs and upper intake levels have been determined for fat; vitamins A, D, E, and K; niacin; B6; folic acid; calcium; copper; iodine; iron; magnesium; phosphorus; selenium; sodium; zinc; chromium; and molybdenum.

Because of insufficient data, upper intake levels have not been set for energy; protein; dietary fiber; vitamins B1, B2, and B12; biotin; pantothenic acid; and potassium.

Dietitians can use these numerical values for nutrition assessment and nutrition education to reduce the risk factors that lead to nutritional deficiency and lifestyle-related diseases.
Beyond maize: Nutritionists work to expand Malawi diet

Stacia Nordin, RD
U.S. Peace Corps

Malawi is a small country in eastern Africa. It has a population of more than 10 million people who obtain most of their food through subsistence farming. Their diet centers on maize, with only a few other foods to complement it–primarily beans or greens.

In the past, Malawi’s environment and diet revolved around a wide variety of local fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, millets, sorghums, roots, and various animal foods.

Although many of these foods are still available, they are quickly vanishing from the landscape because land is being cleared for maize gardens and the bush is being burned to hunt for mice. Fats and animal foods are rarely eaten because they are expensive, although oilseeds and milk are highly underutilized.

Malawi could have a diet rich in all of the food groups if the environment were protected and less emphasis was placed on maize as the only “real food.”

I have been living in Malawi for three years, first as a Peace Corps volunteer, and now as a consultant. By researching books and chatting with people in the villages, I have categorized more than 500 foods into a nutritional guide and have established almost 200 of these foods in a half-acre plot around my home. My main goal has been to share this information with others and to show people how to care for their soil, water, plants, and animals.

Adult Malawians remember enjoying these foods of the past but often say, “Oh, we used to eat that, but I haven’t seen any in years.” The younger generation and the expatriates don’t even know that many of these foods exist.

I am putting this information into a field guide of foods (and possibly medicines) in Malawi, setting up seed banks and gardens so that others can have access to planting materials, and teaching people how to use them as part of a healthy diet. We have not secured funding yet for compiling, printing, and distributing the field guide, so we are working on the areas that do not require funding.

Another goal is to organize the nutritionists in Malawi into a network so that we can support each other to move ahead instead of continually reinventing the wheel.

Communication and transportation are very slow and unreliable here, but we feel that we can overcome these barriers to create a strong and unified voice for nutrition issues.

Get involved

Anyone who is able to help us with advice, food samples, medicine field guides, or pamphlets or other materials from your nutrition association can direct the information to:

Stacia Nordin, RD
P.O. Box 208,
Lilongwe, Malawi,
Africa
phone: 265 707 213
e-mail: nordin@eomw.net
AODA newsletter) she commented on how the organization has grown and changed since she joined in 1988, owing largely to new technologies. “Ten years ago, the annual conference in Paris was planned with the then-efficient tool called the electric typewriter,” Kellerhals said. “We had to wait an average of two weeks for correspondence turnaround. My conference committee resided in Germany, so every phone call was long-distance and prohibitively expensive if it wasn’t an emergency. Ten years later, I find myself again at the masthead of this association, but I find that the AODA of today is a never-ending challenge of communication and strategic management.”

Because she believes that computers and the Internet are so vital to AODA’s continued growth, Kellerhals’ priorities as president are to expand its fledgling Web site and its growing e-mail lists.

Representatives from AODA’s International Dietetic Network are using e-mail as a more timely way to keep members in their regions abreast of news and issues. In the future, the association plans to post its newsletter on the Web site along with expanded continuing education opportunities.

AODA’s 24th annual conference and product exhibition will be held March 22-24, 2001 in Alicante, Spain (see Conference Calendar).

For more information on the AODA, visit its Web site at www.dietetics.com/aoda or e-mail the president at bleckell@bluewin.ch

Agency will implement new policies for food biotechnology

In May 2000 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it will implement a new policy to assure the safety of foods produced using biotechnology.

FDA plans to convert the current voluntary consultative process to a mandatory premarket notification system. That means companies wishing to use foods or food ingredients derived from biotechnology would be required to notify the agency of the scientific basis establishing their safety at least four months before marketing the products.

FDA will respond to the notification with a letter to the firm and a posting on its Internet site stating its conclusions about the safety and regulatory status of the food or ingredient. FDA will also develop guidelines for the voluntary labeling of foods produced using biotechnology.

Yoon graduated from the Department of Food and Nutrition at Seoul National University and became a registered dietitian in Korea in 1993. After earning a second bachelor’s degree in business administration, she was one of 50 students selected by the Republic of Korea’s Ministry of Education to receive a scholarship to study abroad.

She came to the United States in 1995 to pursue graduate work in institutional foodservice management. She earned a master’s degree from Iowa State University and is completing a Ph.D. at Purdue University. She will use the $2,000 FIND Fellowship to complete a dietetic internship program at Southwest Texas State University, after which she will sit for the registration examination in the United States.

Yoon plans to return to Korea next year and devote her career to improving dietetics education in her country of origin.

Award recipient implements Permaculture program in Malawi

The 2000 Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Management Award was presented to Stacia Nordin, RD, for a resourceful consumer education program in a developing country. Nordin received $1,000 for her essay titled, “Improving Nutrition Through Permaculture in Malawi.” Her article on page 4 of this newsletter gives an overview of the project.

Upon her return to the United States, Nordin wants to continue working with sustainable agriculture for Americans, demonstrating that developed countries can learn from developing nations.
**FIND Fellowship applications due March 30, 2001**

Applications for the next First International Nutritonist/Dietitian (FIND) Fellowship for Study in the USA are due March 30, 2001. For details, contact The American Dietetic Association Foundation, 216 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60606, USA; phone 1 312 899 4756; fax 1 312 899 4739; e-mail rmurphy@eatright.org. or go to www.adaf.org/scholarshipinformation/internalscholarship.html.

**Canadian Inventory of Dietetic Activities in Research.** A database developed by the Canadian Foundation for Dietetic Research, part of Dietitians of Canada. The inventory contains more than 260 abstracts of applied research projects. Users can contribute their own research and learn about other research that is under way. Information can be retrieved by topic, geography, language, investigator, or administering agency. www.dietitians.ca/cfdrresearch

**“Doctor’s Reference Guide on Dietetics.”** A doctor’s guide to the role of dietary therapy in the treatment of more than 50 diseases and disorders and the role of dietitians in treatment. The 4th edition, published in 1997, includes standards set by the Dutch College of General Practitioners, reports from the National Organization for Quality Assurance in Hospitals, national treatment protocols, and recent scientific literature. In 1999, the authors of the guide, in cooperation with the Department of Dietetics at the Leiden University Hospital and the Nederlands Paramedisch Instituut, began what will be a continuous updating of the guide on the Internet. The latest version, in Dutch and English, is accessible at www.azl.nl/azl/home/homespages/dietetiek. The Dutch version of the 1997 edition is available as a booklet for DFL25 (US$9.75). The English version is available as a 3.5 floppy disk for DFL40. (2.57 DFL per U.S. dollar as of 11/12/00.)

**Nutrition Advisory Group for Elderly People.** A specialist group of the British Dietetic Association. The group offers resources for consumers and professionals, including a nutrition assessment checklist as well as posters, booklets, and videos on topics such as appetite stimulation, the role of fiber in the diet, and nutrition for people with diabetes. Prices and ordering information at www.bda.uk.com/groups/1nage/index.html

**Nutritionjobs.com.** An on-line employment board used by an estimated 80,000 people a month. The database contains hundreds of career opportunities worldwide in nutrition and dietetics. Employers post openings on-line, and job seekers post their resumes. The site also offers a career resource center with advice on writing resumes and cover letters, interviewing, and more. www.nutritionjobs.com

**Vegetarian Nutrition: An International Journal.** An interdisciplinary journal of refereed papers from worldwide sources, case studies, literature reviews, legislative updates, commentaries, and news items. Order by phone (44 1274 777700), fax (44 1274 785202), or e-mail www.mcb.co.uk.customer. Cost is US$219 in North America, South America, and Canada.

**Diabetes Resource Guide.** The National Eye Institute has developed free resources that health professionals and community leaders can use to plan and conduct diabetic eye disease awareness activities. The National Diabetes Month Resource Guide includes a resource directory, public service announcements, and reproducible materials. For a free guide, contact www.nei.nih.gov.

**Food Biotechnology Resource Kit.** The International Food Information Council has updated this timely consumer education tool. The kit contains backgrounder on food biotechnology topics, product benefits, consumer attitudes, federal safeguards, labeling, and environmental issues. The kit also includes positions of other leading health professional organizations and an extensive resource list. Cost is $US10. Order by e-mail at foodinfo@ificinfo.health.org or write to Food Biotech Kit, P.O. Box 65708, Washington, D.C. 20035 USA. IFIC Foundation materials are available on-line at www.ificinfo.health.org.

**ADA Position Statements**
The American Dietetic Association posts all of its position statements on-line at www.eatright.org/positions.html. The association’s new position on total diet approach to communicating food and nutrition information to the public is scheduled for potential publication next spring. A position on nutrition and athletic performance, developed in collaboration with Dietitians of Canada and the American College of Sports Medicine, will be
Announcements

New ICDA members

Caribbean Association of Nutritionists and Dietitians
Sheila Forde, ICDA Representative
P.O. Box 544C
Bridgetown
Barbados, West Indies
Phone and fax: 246 420 9761

Founded in 1972, CANDI represents 83 dietitians in the Caribbean. The group is committed to excellence in practice and encourages continuing education for its members. It participates in meetings and discussions with the Caribbean Association of Home Economists, Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute, and Barbados Association of Medical Practitioners. Members work in various settings in the health care, pharmaceutical, food, and hospitality industries.

Chilean Nutritionists Association
Isabel Zacarias
ICDA Representative
Instituto de Nutricion y Tecnologia de los Alimentos
Avenida Macul 5540 - Casilla 138
Santiago 11, Chile
Phone: 56 2 6781429
Fax:56 2214030
E-mail: izacaria@uec.inta.uchile.cl

Founded in 1939, the Chilean Nutritionists Association has 500 dietitian members, most of whom work in hospitals and clinical practice. The association is involved in research, public education and legislative action. It offers its members job placement, scholarships, professional development courses, and conferences.

German researchers seek guidelines for children’s nutrition

The Research Institute for Child Nutrition, affiliated with the University of Witten Herdecke in Germany, has developed a framework for child and adolescent nutrition. The researchers would like to know if there are similar guidelines for nutrient intake for this population in other European countries and in North America. Contact Christa Chada, Forschungsinstitut für Kinderernährung, Heinstuck 11, 44225 Dortmund, Germany; phone 0231 79 22 10 0; fax 0231 71 15 81; e-mail: fke@fke.uni-dortmund.de.

Call for articles: next deadline is Jan. 5, 2001

The next issue of Dietetics Around the World will be published in Spring 2001. Member organizations are invited to send information to editor Pat Stahl, c/o American Dietetic Association; 216 W. Jackson Blvd.; Chicago, IL 60606-6995, USA; fax 1 312 899 4790; e-mail alliances@eatright.org.
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*Dietetics Around the World* and other ICDA information can be found on the Web at www.dietitians.ca/icda.

Encourage organizations in other countries to join ICDA. To apply for membership, contact: Marsha Sharp, ICDA Secretariat, Dietitians of Canada, 480 University Ave, Suite 604, Toronto, Ontario, M5G1V2, Canada; phone 1 416 596 0857; fax 1 416 596 0603; Web site www.dietitians.ca/icda.

Editor: Pat Stahl
patstahl@sprintmail.com

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**Conference Calendar**

**March 22-24, 2001**
24th Annual Conference
Nutrition Interchange: Opening Minds, Opening Borders
Alicante, Spain
Sponsored by: American Overseas Dietetic Association
Contact: Judy Joubert
C/Concha Espina No. 27-5º Izda.
03016 Alicante, Spain
Phone and fax: 34 96 515 4432
E-mail: judylh@teleline.es

**Aug. 27-31, 2001**
17th International Congress of Nutrition
Modern Aspects of Nutrition: Present Knowledge and Future Perspectives
Vienna, Austria
Sponsored by: International Union of Nutritional Sciences
Contact: Austropa-Interconvention
Währinger Strasse 6-8
1090 Vienna, Austria
Phone: 43 1 588 00 517
Fax: 43 1 315 56 50
E-mail: iuns2001@verkehrsbuero.at

**Oct. 22-25, 2001**
Food and Nutrition Conference and Exhibition
St. Louis, Missouri, USA
Sponsored by: The American Dietetic Association
Contact: Meeting Services
216 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60606-6995, USA
Phone: 1 312 899 4855
Fax: 1 312 899 0008
E-mail: mtgsinfo@eatright.org

**Aug. 18-21, 2002**
3rd Asian Congress of Dietetics
Harmonization of Asian Dietetics
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Sponsored by: Malaysian Dietitians’ Association and Nutrition Society of Malaysia
Contact: First Secretariat 3rd Asian Congress of Dietetics, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics
Faculty of Allied Health Sciences
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
Jalan Raja Muda Abdul Aziz
50300 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Phone: 603 27192015
Fax: 603 27192016
E-mail: fatimah@medic.ukm.my