

WHO guideline development group meeting: Fortification of wheat flour with vitamins and minerals in public health 16-17 September 2020

Participants Biographies

Guideline Development Group

1. Dr Luz Maria De-Regil, independent consultant, Ottawa, Canada.

Luz María De-Regil is an epidemiologist with expertise in global nutrition and health. With 20 years of experience in the public, private, non-for-profit and intergovernmental sectors, Luz Maria is a Senior Advisor to UN organizations and other global public health groups and is the founder of the consulting firm LMD int. Prior to these roles, Dr. De-Regil was the Vice President of Global Technical Services & Chief Technical Advisor at Nutrition International, Canada; an Epidemiologist at the World Health Organization, Switzerland; a Visiting Scientist at the Children's Hospital Research Institute in Oakland, USA; and a researcher in her native country Mexico.

Dr De-Regil has authored more than 120 peer-reviewed and policy publications, including WHO guidelines and global reports. She was also a member of the WHO Guidelines Review Committee and the WHO Research and Ethics Committee and has served in the boards of local and international not-for-profit entities.

2. Dr Rukhsana Haider, Chairperson of the Training and Assistance for Health and Nutrition (TAHN) Foundation, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Rukhsana Haider is a physician, a public health nutritionist, an international board-certified lactation consultant, with an MSc in Human Nutrition (1990) and a PhD in Public Health Nutrition (1998) from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. She is the Founder and Chairperson of the Training and Assistance for Health & Nutrition (TAHN) Foundation in Bangladesh and also the chair of the Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition in Bangladesh, and Co-Chair of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) Steering Committee which operates from Malaysia.

Having experience of working with the World Health Organization's (WHO) South-East Asia Regional Office in India, with UNICEF and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease, Bangladesh, she continues to be a resource person for these UN agencies, and for the national government and international non-government organizations.

Dr. Haider advocates and contributes to establishing policies, platforms and services that inform, encourage and support pregnant and lactating women with infants and young children, and adolescents, for improving their mental, emotional, physical well-being and nutrition.

3. Dr Maria Elena del Socorro Jefferds, Epidemiologist and Team Lead, International Micronutrient Malnutrition Prevention and Control Program (IMMPaCt), Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, United States of America.

Dr Maria Elena del Socorro Jefferds is a behaviour scientist at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with expertise in surveillance, monitoring and evaluation of micronutrient programs. She has led the design and implementation of national micronutrient surveys and nutrition surveillance systems in 10 countries. She and the IMMPaCt team are actively engaged with partners on effectiveness studies, national micronutrient surveys, and strengthening nutrition surveillance systems in multiple countries in Africa, Asia and Central America. Dr. Jefferds has published 60 peer reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and more than 25 national micronutrient survey, surveillance or impact evaluation reports and monitoring manuals. She has worked at CDC since 2001 and before that spent eight years conducting nutrition and health focused applied research in international and domestic settings.

Dr Jefferds also collaborates with WHO on the development of monitoring and evaluation indicators for micronutrient programs, including flour fortification, salt iodization, vitamin A supplementation and infant and young child nutrition.

4. Dr Lynette Neufeld, Director of Monitoring, Learning and Research, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr Lynette M. Neufeld is Director of Monitoring, Learning and Research at the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). Dr Neufeld's professional goal is to mobilize intellectual resources to improve the health and nutrition of populations, using strategic research to inform better program design and implementation. Before joining GAIN in October 2013, Dr Neufeld was Chief Technical Advisor and Director of the Technical Services Unit at Nutrition International (formerly the Micronutrient Initiative) where she led the organization's efforts to identify, develop and support strategic research related to diverse aspects of micronutrients in programs. From 1998 to 2009, Dr Neufeld was Director of the Division of Nutritional Epidemiology at the National Institute of Public Health in Mexico where her research focused on improving the effectiveness of interventions to promote the health, growth and development of children from disadvantaged populations. Dr Neufeld has over 120 publications in peer reviewed journals and book chapters. Dr Neufeld has a Doctoral and master's degrees in International Nutrition from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Applied Human Nutrition from Guelph University in Guelph, Canada.

5. Dr Orish Ebere Orisakwe, Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Toxicology Unit in the Department of Experimental Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacy, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

Dr Orish Ebere Orisakwe is Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Professor and Chair of the Toxicology Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria and a fellow of the Academy of Toxicological Sciences and European Registered Toxicologists. Dr Orish Ebere Orisakwe is the African Society for Toxicological Sciences coordinator for Nigeria, an advisor to the Cameroon Society for Toxicological Sciences,

president of the West African Society of Toxicology, and coordinator of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry, West Africa. He is also the Country Correspondent (Nigeria) for the World Library of Toxicology. Dr Orish Ebere Orisakwe is a WHO-appointed adviser, scientific expert, and study group coordinator for food additives, lead poisoning, and other toxicology-related issues. He has authored over 300 scientific publications

6. Professor Dalip Ragoobirsingh, Medical Biochemistry and Diabetology, Director of the UWI Diabetes Education Programme, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica.

Dr Dalip Ragoobirsingh, native of Trinidad and Tobago, is the Professor of Medical Biochemistry and Diabetology and Director, Diabetes Education Programme in the Faculty of Medical Sciences University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Kingston, Jamaica. He is also a Consultant in the Diabetes Outpatient Clinic, University Hospital of the West Indies. Professor Ragoobirsingh is a graduate of the UWI. He was later a Rhodes Research Scholar at the Human Diabetes and Metabolism Research Centre, Department of Medicine, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK. He was also Visiting Fellow at the Mayo Medical School, Minnesota, USA; Visiting Professor to the University of Pittsburgh and Miami School of Medicine, USA; he was most recently a Fulbright Scholar to the Noncommunicable Diseases Unit of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Headquarters, Washington, DC, USA. Professor Ragoobirsingh holds membership in several distinguished professional societies including the Association of General Practitioners of Jamaica, the Caribbean Diabetes Association, Caribbean Public Health Association, American Diabetes Association, New York Academy of Science, and The International Diabetes Federation. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Public Health. He served as a technical advisor to PAHO, Washington, DC, USA, in Guiding and Supporting National Quality Improvement Initiatives for Diabetes Care in the Caribbean. Professor Ragoobirsingh has authored over 100 abstracts, refereed papers, books, book chapters and technical reports on diabetes and its complications which have also been presented at international conferences. He received the CARICOM Science Award in 2017.

7. Ms Rusidah Selamat, Deputy Director (Operations), Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia.

Ms Rusidah currently serves as a Deputy Director in charge of Nutrition Operations at the Nutrition Division, Ministry of Health, Malaysia where she leads multiple teams of programme planning, development and evaluation for nutrition promotion, surveillance and rehabilitation. Within her +20 years working experience in the field of nutrition, she was previously a senior nutritionist in several states as well as a researcher at Institute for Public Health, Kuala Lumpur. She also actively involves with the existing National Committees such as National Accreditation Committee for Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative and National

Vetting Committee for the Code of Ethics for Marketing of Infant Formula Products. She has also participated in a number of national research projects which include as a Principal Investigator for National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Survey 2008. At present, she is the country coordinator of the Malaysian Food Composition Database project and country coordinator for ASEANFOODS. She is currently a chairman for Technical Working Group for Nutrition Promotion and a former chairman for Technical Working Group for Nutrition Research under the National Coordinating Committee for Food and Nutrition. In 2014, she was awarded as a Fellow Member from the Nutrition Society of Malaysia.

External Experts

1. Dr Martha Field, Assistant Professor, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University, New York, United States of America.

Dr Field is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Cornell University working on gene-nutrient interactions at a molecular level, with the goal of designing interventions that prevent disease and improve human health. Her current areas of work are related to the roles of folate and vitamin B12 in combating age-related decreases mitochondrial function and cellular energy production, the role of the blood-brain barrier in supporting the unique nutritional needs of the brain and in understanding the use of elevated plasma erythritol.

Dr Field received a B.S. in chemistry from Butler University in 2000 and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular and Cell Biology from Cornell University in 2007. She is a member of American Society for Nutrition Committee on Advocacy and Science Policy and collaborates with this group in developing conflict of interest standards for the American Society for Nutrition.

2. Dr Julia Finkelstein, Assistant Professor, Division of Nutritional Sciences, Cornell University, New York, United States of America.

Dr Finkelstein is Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition in Cornell University. Her main areas of expertise are micronutrients, one-carbon metabolism, maternal and child health and epidemiology. Her current projects involve the design and conduction of randomized trials, cohort studies, and surveillance programs on the role of iron, vitamin B12, and folate in the aetiology of adverse perinatal outcomes and the development of interventions to improve the health of women and young children.

Dr Finkelstein received a Bachelor of Science Degree from McGill University in 2002, a Master of Public Health from Brown University in 2005, Master of Science from Harvard University in 2010 and a Doctor of Science, also from Harvard University, in 2011. She has

authored more than 60 publications and over 100 international conferences in scientific meetings. She has received the Follett Sesquicentennial Faculty Fellowship, 2014–2019; the International Life Sciences Institute Future Leader Award in 2017 and was appointed as Cornell University Global Ambassador for the period 2019–2021.

3. Dr Helena Pachón, Senior Nutrition Scientist, Food Fortification Initiative, Emory University, Atlanta, United States of America.

Dr Helena Pachón is a public health nutritionist with over 20 years of work experience in research and programs to address malnutrition particularly in developing countries. Her research interests are in two main areas: food-based approaches to address malnutrition, and infant and young child nutrition. In terms of food-based approaches, she worked for several years at the intersection of agriculture and nutrition with crop biofortification: naturally breeding staple crops to have higher nutrient levels. Currently, she supports industrial fortification: adding vitamins and minerals to staple foods as they are processed for human consumption. She does this in her capacity as Senior Nutrition Scientist for the Food Fortification Initiative.

Dr Pachón completed her nutrition doctoral training at Cornell University and her Master of Public Health at Harvard University. She has an appointment at Emory University as Research Associate Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health in the Rollins School of Public Health.

4. Dr Dheeraj Shah, Professor Department of Pediatrics, University College of Medical Sciences, University of Delhi, New Delhi, India.

Dr Dheeraj Shah MD, MNAMS, FIAP is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, University College of Medical Sciences (University of Delhi) & associated GTB Hospital, Delhi. He has been honored with a Visiting Fellowship by Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), London; and Fellowship of Indian Academy of Pediatrics (FIAP).

The main research areas of Dr Dheeraj Shah are: Child Health, Diarrhea, Malnutrition, Public Health, and Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition. He has written over 120 papers in Medline-indexed internationally reputed journals and over 40 chapters in several textbooks, including Nelson's Textbook of Pediatrics, besides authoring five books. He is in the reviewer board of highly reputed medical journals, including Lancet group of journals, BMJ group of journals, Pediatrics, and Journal of Pediatrics. He has conducted various workshops on thesis writing, research methodology and scientific paper writing all over India. He is member of Technical/Scientific Advisory Group of various committees of reputed organizations such as ICMR, National Institute of Nutrition, and Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India.