
WHO guideline development group meeting
Complementary feeding of infants and children

Geneva, Switzerland
2-4 December 2019

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¹ Guidelines for declarations of interest (WHO experts). Geneva: World Health Organization. (<https://www.who.int/about/ethics/declarations-of-interest>, accessed 8 October 2019)

GUIDELINE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Mona Alsumaie

Dr Alsumaie is the Director of the Community Nutrition Promotion Department, Kuwait. She is the Coordinator of the Kuwait Maternal Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) and Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Programmes, and the Country Coordinator of the International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners® (IBLCE). She was the coordinator of the Kuwait Nutrition Surveillance System from 2000 until 2017. She has received extensive training in WHO/UNICEF breastfeeding policy and management courses, has implemented numerous training of trainers courses nationally and regionally. Locally she is the Head of Kuwait Lactation Consultants Society and Member of the Board of Directors of the local non-profit BirthKuwait mother-to-mother support group; and internationally the President of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) Arab World, member of International Advisory Council of the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action, member of the Marketing Committee of IBLCE and member of the International BFHI Network. In her career, she worked as a pediatrician for 10 years in Kuwait public hospitals, has served as a lecturer at Kuwait Nursing College, has collaborated with research groups nationally and internationally and managed to publish several scientific papers. Her academic degrees include: MBBch/ Cairo University 1982, Diploma of Child Health/ Dublin University 1985, MSc in Human Nutrition/ London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 1995, IBCLC/ 2003-2023.

Dr Richmond Aryeetey

Dr Richmond Aryeetey is Associate Professor at the University of Ghana School of Public Health. He has worked in maternal and child health/nutrition research for the past 20 years. His research interests are multidisciplinary and cuts across maternal infant and young child nutrition (MIYCN), food systems, and health policy analysis. He has expertise in monitoring and evaluation, training, and facilitation. In the past five years, Dr Aryeetey has evaluated programmes for FAO, UNICEF, GAIN and others. He has strong competencies in evidence synthesis, implementation research, and evidence-informed decision-making in health and nutrition. His previous research has been supported with funding from the European Commission, Global Affairs Canada, New York Population Council, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Family, Larsson-Rosenquist Foundation, and the International Food Policy Research Institute. Dr Aryeetey has successfully worked with multidisciplinary teams on various projects focused on maternal and child nutrition including Nutrition Links, Becoming Breastfeeding Friendly initiative, #breastfeed4Ghana, and Transform Nutrition West Africa. Currently, Dr Aryeetey serves on various National Committees including the Salt Iodization Committee, and the SUN Movement Capacity working group. He has several research collaborations across multiple institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa, North America, and Europe. He has authored more than 70 peer reviewed journal articles and books/book chapters on various subjects spanning diverse research areas.

Dr Helen Crawley

Dr Crawley is a registered public health nutritionist and dietitian with over 35 years of experience in research, policy development and teaching. She is currently director of the public health nutrition charity First Steps Nutrition Trust which provides expert, evidence-based resources on nutrition from pre-conception to five years. First Steps works with UNICEF UK Baby Friendly and many other partners to ensure independent infant and young child feeding information is available to health professionals, and the charity works to support policy making around infant and young child nutrition. Dr Crawley has been involved in guideline development and setting of food and nutrition standards, and public health messaging, for vulnerable groups across the lifespan over the past 20 years. She sat on a WHO group looking at the marketing of foods for infants and children, works on welfare food, food quality and sustainable food and is a NICE clinical guidelines advisor. Dr Crawley sits on The London Food Board and chairs the London Boroughs Food Group and is currently working to implement strategies to make London a more Baby Friendly city.

Dr Kathryn Dewey

Kathryn Dewey, PhD, is Distinguished Professor Emerita in the Department of Nutrition at the University of California, Davis, and served as Director of the Program in International and Community Nutrition from 2007 to 2018. Her research area is global nutrition, with a focus on maternal and child nutrition. She has led numerous randomized trials and cohort studies in the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Ghana, Malawi, and Bangladesh. Her professional service includes extensive consultation for WHO, UNICEF, the US National Institutes of Health and other organizations; member of the Board of Directors for the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, the US Food and Nutrition Board, and the US 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee; scientific advisory committees for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the UK Medical Research Council; President of the Society for International Nutrition Research; and President of the International Society for Research on Human Milk and Lactation. Dr Dewey has produced more than 400 publications and is ranked in the top one percent by citations in her field. She has received several prestigious awards, including the Kellogg Prize for International Nutrition, the Macy-György Award from ISRHML, the E.V. McCollum International Lectureship, and Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition.

Professor Rafael Pérez-Escamilla

Professor Pérez-Escamilla is tenured professor of public health (social and behavioural sciences), director of the Office of Public Health Practice, and director of the Global Health Concentration at the Yale School of Public Health. His worldwide public health nutrition and food security research programme is globally recognized for having led to major improvements in: breastfeeding outcomes; iron deficiency anaemia among infants; household food security measurement, outcomes, and policies; and the effectiveness of community nutrition counselling programs for mothers, infants, and young children. He is also a leader in health disparities research focusing on the impact of community interventions on improving behavioural and metabolic outcomes among Latinos, and low-income individuals living in other countries, with type 2 diabetes. He has published 240 peer reviewed journal articles, recently served in WHO's Breastfeeding Counselling Guideline Development Group, and co-chaired the HER-RWJF Expert Panel on Responsive Feeding Guidelines for Infants and Young Toddlers. He is a member of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine (elected in 2019) and was awarded a *doctorate honoris causa* degree by the University of Guadalajara in 2016.

Dr Arun Gupta

Dr Gupta, a pediatrician in public service, founded the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI) in 1991. Over nearly 30 years, BPNI has played a key role in strengthening national policies that to promote, protect and support breastfeeding, which as lead to almost negligible growth of breastmilk substitutes. Dr Gupta has worked on policy analysis related to breastfeeding and complementary feeding. Part of this work involved conceptualizing and creating the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative ([WBTi](#)), a break-through tool to bring together key government, academic, and NGO stakeholders to identify gaps and generate action, and created a unique web repository of policy and programmes. He has also written extensively on child nutrition and conflicts of interest and, in 2015, convened “Nutrition Advocacy in Public Interest” ([NAPI](#)). His strong belief in the legal frameworks to protect public health has made significant impact in countries. Dr Gupta coordinates BPNI and the South Asia part of IBFAN, which is a 1998 Right Livelihood Award recipient. In 2001, the Dr Gupta was named a Fellow of Indian Academy of Pediatrics.

Dr Lora Iannotti

Dr Iannotti has expertise in maternal and young child nutrition and nutrient deficiencies (zinc, iron, vitamin A, vitamin B12, choline, and fatty acids) related to poverty and infectious diseases. She applies epidemiological methods to investigate interventions aimed at reducing stunted growth and development. She leads projects in Haiti, Ecuador, and East Africa where she collaborates with local partners to test innovative, transdisciplinary approaches using animal source foods and small livestock and fisheries development. Dr Iannotti is founder and director of the E3 Nutrition Lab, working to identify economically affordable, environmentally sustainable, and evolutionarily appropriate nutrition solutions globally. She serves as Associate Dean for Public Health, leading the MPH program at the Brown School. Dr Iannotti received her doctorate degree from the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, and a Master of Arts degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. Prior to pursuing her PhD, she worked for over ten years with UN agencies and non-governmental organizations on nutrition and food security programming and policy. She serves on public health advisory and journal editorial boards and consults with WHO, International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), among other international organizations.

Dr Inês Rugani Ribeiro de Castro

Dr Ruganai is a nutritionist with a PhD in public health. She is Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition and Public Health, Institute of Nutrition, Rio de Janeiro State University and Professor of the Graduate Program on Food, Nutrition and Health. She also coordinates the Center for Food and Nutrition in Public Policies, which develops teaching, research and university extension initiatives to improve food and nutrition actions in public policies and includes cooperation projects with other universities and government agencies (national, state and municipal levels). She serves as associate editor of Reports in Public Health and the Journal of Nutrition. She was a public health specialist at the Rio de Janeiro Municipal Health Secretariat from 1992 to 2012 and director of the Annes Dias Nutrition Institute, the body responsible for the nutrition programmes of the city of Rio de Janeiro, from 1999 to 2005. She recently coordinated the technical group to develop the second edition of the Dietary Guidelines for Brazilian Children Under Two Years, released in November 2019. Her main research areas are: 1) design, evaluation and analysis of food and nutrition interventions, programs and policies; 2) cross-sectional studies on food and nutrition; 3) development, validation and application of instruments and indicators for monitoring events of interest to nutrition; 4) development and application of methods for studies on food environment; and 5) conflicts of interest in the public-private relationship in food and nutrition.

Dr Frank Wieringa

Dr Wieringa was trained as a biochemist and M.D. in the Netherlands (University of Amsterdam), and obtained a PhD in nutritional sciences (Wageningen University). After a post-doctoral position on tuberculosis and malnutrition in Indonesia, he was employed by the French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD) in 2007. Broadly, his research focusses on interventions that can contribute to improve the health and development of children, with projects mainly in South-East Asia and Africa. Recent projects have focused on developing new, innovative products, to improve nutritional status of infants and young children, either using vitamin-mineral fortified products (e.g. complementary foods), or by using under-utilized local ingredients like fish or spiders. For example, with UNICEF Cambodia, we have recently developed a locally produced ready-to-use therapeutic food based on fish as a protein source. His research interests also include existing health strategies, and aims to find ways to improve these strategies, such as screening methods for acute malnutrition or WASH interventions to improve nutritional status and health. After having lived in South-East Asia for almost 20 years, Dr Wieringa is currently based at IRD-Montpellier, France.

Dr Zhenyu Yang

Dr Yang is a Research Professor at the National Institute for Nutrition and Health, Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr Yang's primary research areas include breastfeeding and complementary feeding, nutritional status assessment and nutrition interventions for pregnant and lactating women, infants and young children, human milk composition and international nutrition, especially nutrition improvement for these populations in the developing countries. Dr Yang worked as nutrition specialist at Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) and UNICEF-China before joining China CDC. Dr Yang has authored more than 30 papers. He co-authored a few book chapters, including the vitamin D chapter of the *Chinese Dietary Reference Intakes* and the chapter on pregnant and lactating women in the *Report on national nutrition and chronic disease status in China (2015)*. Dr Yang is an editor of *Maternal and Child Nutrition*, a reputed international journal in nutrition field. Dr Yang has also been a peer reviewer for *Food and Nutrition Bulletin*, *Journal of the American College of Nutrition*, *Nutrition Reviews*, *Childhood obesity*, etc.