

Part 3 Agreement



The Giessen Declaration is the first section of Part 3 that follows. This was drafted at the workshop at the Schloss Rauschholzhausen, a facility of the University of Giessen, and is signed by all the workshop participants. The second section, prepared for and discussed in outline at the workshop, is a paper whose authors develop the ethical and ecological principles that guide the new nutrition science, and propose some of its domains within the three dimensions, together with further principles, definitions, and brief explanations of their relevance.

Then the authors of the papers published in this special issue of *Public Health Nutrition* give brief accounts of themselves, and of the writings that have most influenced their thinking.

Declaration

The Giessen Declaration is the culmination of the Giessen workshop and, at this stage of work in progress, *The New Nutrition Science project*. It specifies the three dimensions of the new nutrition, and the need for the science now to address personal, population and also planetary health. It summarises general and specific reasons why the science now needs a new conceptual framework; and specifies general principles for, and the definition and purpose of, the new nutrition science.

The participants at the Giessen workshop have also agreed that the overall principles to govern nutrition science now and in future are ethical in nature, and that the discipline should be guided by evolutionary and ecological philosophies. In the new definition agreed at Giessen: 'Nutrition science is... the study of food systems, foods and drinks, and their nutrients and other constituents; and of their interactions within and between all relevant biological, social and environmental systems'. And finally: 'This Declaration emphasises that the most relevant and urgent work to be done by professionals working in nutrition science and in food and nutrition policy is in its three biological, social and environmental dimensions all together'.

Selection

The University of Giessen, the place of work of *Claus Leitzmann*, one of the project's convenors, was the most auspicious place at which to inaugurate the new nutrition science at the beginning of the twenty-first century. For it was at Giessen, at the university that now bears his name,

that above all others Justus von Liebig developed nutrition as a biochemical science in the first half of the nineteenth century, when the political and economic priorities that shaped science were those of exploitation and expansion. It is fitting that now, when the priorities are above all those of preservation and conservation, that nutrition science be reformed and revived at Giessen.

For the workshop, the convenors and authors of the papers in Part 2 were matched by a roughly equal number of colleagues also chosen to be balanced between those working inside nutrition science as now conventionally framed, and those working in disciplines within the scope of the science as more broadly defined. These included hosts and colleagues from the nutrition institute at Justus-Liebig University, and from Germany and Austria, who confronted and challenged the initial presentations and made the occasion work as session chairs, discussants and rapporteurs; as did participants from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Policy Forum, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Process

A series of drafts of the Declaration were prepared by the rapporteurs throughout workshop sessions and overnight. On the first day the papers prepared in draft for the workshop were presented and discussed. On the second day participants divided into small working groups that identified the themes of the Declaration, and also developed and revised sections and passages needing special attention. The third day was chaired by *Christopher Beauman*, working in a personal capacity. He was invited to take on this responsibility because of his experience of international and national political and economic policy development, and because his own work outside nutrition science and food and nutrition policy enabled him to fulfil a judicial role. Most of this final full day was devoted to line-by-line final revision of and agreement on the Declaration, moderated by the rapporteurs: *Ingrid Hoffmann*, *Uwe Spiekermann*, *Peter Glasauer* and *Markus Keller*, who devoted themselves to the process of creating the Declaration.

On the final day of the workshop participants moved to the Justus Liebig Museum in Giessen, the original building including the laboratories, equipment, memorabilia and offices of Justus von Liebig. After a tour of the museum all participants entered von Liebig's lecture room and, at the

podium, one by one read out and then signed the final text of *The Giessen Declaration*.

The paper that develops the thinking of the new nutrition science, together with an account of some of the domains of its three dimensions, was originally drafted at the same time as the main paper in Part 1. It is the responsibility of its authors: it was presented at the Giessen workshop but not as a subject for formal discussion or agreement at that time; it is designed as the subject of further work in progress.

Participants

All participants in the Giessen workshop were present in a personal capacity. The co-convenors of the workshop were *Claus Leitzmann* of the Institute of Nutrition, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, Germany, also Treasurer of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences; and *Geoffrey Cannon* of the World Health Policy Forum.

The authors of the papers published in this issue of *Public Health Nutrition* (also see Part 1 and Part 2) were invited to the workshop to present their papers for discussion; to discuss all papers presented; to participate in general discussion and small group work; and to draft, develop and, if agreed, to sign *The Giessen Declaration*.

The authors who attended, as well as the above, were *Tim Lang* of the Department of Food Policy, City University, London, UK, also of Sustain (the Alliance for Better Food and Farming); *Anthony J McMichael* of the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, Canberra, Australia; *Barrie Margetts* of the Department of Nutrition, University of Southampton, UK, also Editor-in-Chief of *Public Health Nutrition*; *Klaus Meyer-Abich* of the Department of Philosophy, University of Essen, Germany; *Massimo Pettoello-Mantovani* of the Centre for Pediatric Nutrition, University of Foggia, Italy, also of the World Health Policy Forum; the author *Colin Tudge*, also of the Centre of Philosophy, London School of Economics, UK; *Esté Vorster* of the School of Physiology and Nutrition, North-West University (Potchefstroom Campus) South Africa, also president of the programme committee, 2005 International Congress of Nutrition, Durban, South Africa; and *Mark Wabqvist* of the Asia-Pacific Health and Nutrition Centre, Melbourne, Australia, also President of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences 2001–2005.

Authors of papers prepared for and presented and discussed at the workshop, which also shaped the agreements made at the workshop, who were unable to

attend, were *Micheline Beaudry* of the Department of Nutrition, Laval University, Montréal, Canada; *Hélène Delisle* of the Department of Nutrition, University of Montréal, Canada; *Barry Popkin* of the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA; and *Ricardo Uauy* of the Institute of Nutrition at the University of Chile, Santiago, and of the Department of Public Health Nutrition, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK, also President of the International Union of Nutritional Sciences 2005–2009.

The other participants in the Giessen workshop, also in a personal capacity, were *Christopher Beauman* of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, London, UK; *Ibrahim Elmadfa* of the Department of Nutrition, Vienna University, Austria; *Peter Glasauer* and *Prakash Shetty* of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome, Italy; *Ingrid Hoffman*, *Markus Keller* and *Michael Krawinkel* of the Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany; *Bernd Lötsch* of the Natural History Museum, Vienna, Austria; *Ulrich Oltersdorf* of the Federal Research Centre for Nutrition and Food, Karlsruhe, Germany; *Joan Sabaté* of the School of Public Health, Loma Linda University, California, USA; *Marco Sória* of the Magna Graecia University School of Medicine, Catanzaro, Italy; *Uwe Spiekermann* of the Institute of Economic and Social History, Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany; and *Mariuccia Zerilli-Marimò* of the World Health Policy Forum, New York, USA.

Thanks

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