The first ever symposium organised under the auspices of the Nutrition Foundation of India at India International Centre, New Delhi on December 5 and 6 drew enthusiastic response from the Nutrition Science community. Over 350 delegates from all parts of India participated, and the auditorium was packed from start to finish. In all seven sessions were held in the course of the two days, and 16 outstanding scientists (six from foreign countries) participated. The business-like and orderly way in which the symposium was conducted, the strict adherence to the time schedule, and the avoidance of "ceremonies" at the inauguration and closure ensured maximal use of the available time for presentation of papers and discussions. This was a truly "scientific" meet!

The two papers at the first session which started after the brief opening remarks of Dr. C. Gopalan, President of NFI were: one by Prof. John Waterlow on "Stunting" and the other by Prof. P.S. Shetty, on "Thermogenesis in undernutrition". The etiopathogenesis of 'stunting' and its practical significance and implications from the public health point of view, on the one hand, and the subject of 'costless adaptation', to undernutrition on the other, being themes of great interest and concern to nutrition scientists of all developing countries, these papers attracted considerable interest.

The second session was devoted to work performance in undernutrition. While Dr. Klein discussed the technique of estimation of energy expenditure using double-labeled water, Prof. Spurr presented his data on VO\textsubscript{2} max and work performance of undernourished school children, using established conventional methods which better lend themselves for such studies.

At the third session, Prof. Dutra d' Oliveira reviewed his studies on dietary protein, with special reference to soya protein while Dr. K.S. Nair presented his studies on regulation of protein turnover in humans using labelled leucine.

The important area of nutrition and infection was discussed in the two presentations in the fourth session at which Dr. Vinodini Reddy reviewed the data from the studies at NIN, Hyderabad on nutrition immunity infection interactions; and Dr. P. Bhaskaram presented fascinating evidence pointing to the effect of impaired immuno - competence induced by undernutrition on tuberculous infection.

The fifth session included three papers on disorders related to food contamination. Dr. Ganguli's paper dealt with the possible role of copper toxicity in Indian childhood cirrhosis; Dr. Kamala Krishnaswami's paper discussed the anti carcinogenic properties of traditional food items, including turmeric and spices, in Indian dietaries. Dr. Susheela's presentation on fluorosis included not only observations on the histochemistry of bone in the disease but also on its public health implications.

In session six, Dr. Ghafoorunissa considered - the practical approach towards augmenting n-3 fatty acid intake in Indian dietaries, based on scientific and practical
considerations. Dr. Bamji's presentation dealt with the impact of upper respiratory infections - a major factor in child mortality/morbidity in developing countries, on riboflavin metabolism.

Session seven was taken by two fascinating papers on nutrition endocrinology, one by Dr. Kochupillai on the aetiology of the disturbing problem of neonatal hypothyroidism in goitre endemic areas, and the other by Dr. Copeland on the usefulness of IGF-1 measurements in nutritional assessment.

At the final session Dr. Aggarwal reviewed his studies on learning disabilities in undernourished children.

All papers evoked lively discussion. The participants were happy to learn that the proceedings were to be published and would be available for wider distribution.

There were ample opportunities for scientific interactions and useful exchanges outside the conference hall. The symposium was a pleasant and memorable learning experience to all participants.

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