

From: Cameron, Elspeth [mailto:E.Cameron@ucc.ie]
Sent: Monday, 8 April 2002 17:55
To: waxmana
Subject: Diet Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases

Dear Ms Waxman,

I now have had an opportunity to read annex 6 of this document 'the scientific basis for diet, nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases' . Overall I feel that the document covers the subject compressively. However, I would have liked more time to study the document in detail, in particular since it is likely to be quoted in detail over the coming years. With that in mind I am wondering would it be possible for me to have an opportunity to review the document again after the meeting on 15th April ?

Unfortunately my colleague, Dr Whelton, can not attend the meeting on 15th April either. At this stage there are a number of general points I would like to make:

- Whilst there is a lengthy list of references quoted there are many instances in the document where statements are made but are not backed up by appropriate references. For instance in paragraph 1.2 the following 2 statements are made - "teeth also play an important role in speech, being essential for making certain sounds. Dental diseases may therefore impact on diet and nutrition, facial appearance and speech" these and the 3 sentences proceeding make very definitive statements with no evidence quoted to support them.
- The section on dental caries, in my view, understates the amount of coronal caries occurring in adults. Also the section on decay does not adequately highlight the phenomena whereby a high proportion of caries in Established Market Economies tends to occur in a small proportion of the population.
- The section on dental erosion (2.3) rightly highlights this growing problem. Perhaps the authors should state that the Public Health impact on deciduous teeth is probably small, except for the fact that it is known that dietary habits established in early childhood are likely to be retained into adulthood. The statement made at the end of 3.1.1 is rather dogmatic, taking account of the ecological nature of the studies on which it is based.

These are just general comments and having made them I am still conscious of the enormous amount of work which my colleague Dr Moynahan has made and also the contribution made by the peer-reviewers.

Regards,

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