

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

Annual Report 2001

Contents

	Page Number
Contents	i
Foreword	1
Work of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition in 2001	3
Working Groups/Sub-Groups	6
Sub-Group on Risk	
Background	
Terms of Reference	
Activity	
Sub-Group on Salt	
Background	
Terms of Reference	
Activity	
Working Group on Iron	7
Background	
Terms of Reference	
Method of Appointment	
Activity	
Annex 1 Administrative Matters	9
Constitution	
Terms of Reference	
Method of Appointments	

Code of Practice

Public Service Values

Standards in Public Life

Role of Members

Role of the Chair

Role of the Secretariat

Role of other Observers & Officials Present

Handling Conflicts of Interest

Personal Liability of Committee Members

Remuneration

Annex 2 Membership and Biographies of Committee, Sub-Groups and Working Groups	15
Annex 3 Declaration of Interests	24

Foreword

I am pleased to present the first Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition's (SACN) annual report, covering the year 2001.

SACN is a committee of independent experts, set up to advise the Government on matters relating to diet, nutrition and health. SACN succeeds the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (COMA).

This, the Committee's first year, has been one chiefly concerned with the foundations upon which the Committee will work. The report reflects this in containing the principles by which the Committee will function; its Code of Practice, Terms of Reference, and details on the openness of committee meetings. I am pleased to say that the Committee will be publishing its agendas, minutes and papers, subject to confidentiality, on its own website at www.SACN.gov.uk. Each year, at least one of the meetings of the Committee will be held in public.

The Committee has moved forward from these foundations to agree a work programme. I believe that the programme represents some of the foremost topics that require attention whilst still giving the Committee time to consider areas requiring more immediate attention.

The Committee agreed to the setting up of a number of working groups. The iron group will review the dietary intakes of iron in its various forms and the impact of various dietary patterns on the nutritional and health status of the population. National surveys suggest that a substantial proportion of the population have iron intakes that may not meet current recommendations, and consequently may be at increased risk from iron deficiency anaemia.

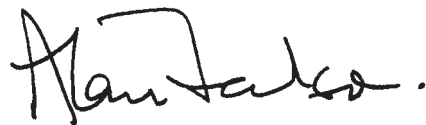
Another group of the main Committee will look at salt in the diet, concentrating on the evidence available since the COMA report, 'Nutritional Aspects of Cardiovascular Disease', published in 1994, as well as salt intake in infants, children and adolescents. Another group, which was formed to construct a framework for the evaluation of evidence that relates food and nutrients to health has, I'm pleased to say, completed its work at the time of writing and has offered an extremely useful document to the Committee.

A group on maternal and infant nutrition will review the influence of maternal, fetal and child nutrition, including growth and development *in utero* and early childhood on the development of disease later in life. It will also identify effective nutritional interventions that could influence the risk of disease later in life, and consider such scientific aspects of nutrition of women of reproductive age, infants and children as are referred to it by SACN, Health Departments or the Food Standards Agency.

The Committee has agreed a long-term programme to investigate obesity through a working group, and Dietary Reference Values will be examined when resources permit.

I am confident that the Committee will make an important contribution in providing sound and independent scientific advice.

I would like to thank the Secretariat at the Department of Health and the Food Standards Agency for their work throughout the year. Their efforts in ensuring the efficient and effective conduct of Committee business is greatly appreciated. My thanks also go to the members of the Committee and its working groups for their commitment and enthusiasm in this first year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial 'A'.

Professor Alan Jackson
Chair

Work of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition in 2001

The first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition was held on the 12th and 13th June 2001. The following items were discussed:

- **The Code of Practice:** The Committee agreed their Code of Practice, including terms of reference, public service values, personal liability and issues around handling conflicts of interest. Amendments to the declaration of non-pecuniary interest and the issue of indemnity were agreed at SACN's second meeting on the 27th September.
- **Openness of Committee Proceedings:** The Committee considered the openness of their proceedings and agreed the following: the agenda should be published prior to meetings; minutes of meetings should be placed on the SACN website after they have been approved; papers assessed by members should be made available to interested parties (when appropriate); an open meeting should be held once a year. It was also agreed that the workings of the Committee should only be made public through the minutes of SACN meetings.
- **SACN Programme:** The Committee agreed a rolling programme of long and short-term projects, which would be reviewed annually. Initially, members agreed to address the role of iron in human nutrition; child and maternal nutrition; and evidence relating to salt and health published since 1994. Chairs and Committee members for these groups were agreed subsequently. The Committee also agreed to address metabolic disturbances in obesity and the development of chronic disease. The focus of this topic was further discussed at a quick-think session following SACN's 2nd meeting on the 27th September 2001.

The 2nd meeting of SACN was held on the 27th September 2001. The following items were discussed:

- **Approach to Risk Assessment in Nutrition:** The Committee was asked to consider various approaches to risk assessment and the evaluation of evidence in nutrition and public health. Members agreed that a sub-group on risk assessment should be convened to discuss the most appropriate format for risk assessment for use by the Committee, and report back to SACN. Professor John Cummings agreed to chair the sub-group.

- **Optimal Duration of Breastfeeding:** The Committee was asked to comment on the recommendations made by the *Ad hoc* Expert Group on Child and Maternal Nutrition on the optimal duration of breastfeeding. The *Ad hoc* Group was convened in December 2000 to inform the UK position in light of the World Health Organisation (WHO) activity on this issue. The Expert Group agreed:

“That there is sufficient scientific evidence that exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months is nutritionally adequate.” “However, the group noted that early introduction of complementary foods is normal practice in the UK and that mothers do this for many valid personal, social and economic reasons. They therefore recommended that there should be some flexibility in the advice, but that any complementary feeding should not be introduced before the end of 4 months (17 weeks).”

SACN members endorsed the recommendations of the *Ad hoc* Group, and noted the recent WHO resolution on the optimal duration of breastfeeding:

“to strengthen activities and develop new approaches to protect, promote and support exclusive breastfeeding for six months as a global public health recommendation, taking into account the findings of the WHO expert consultation on optimal duration of exclusive breastfeeding, and to provide safe and appropriate complementary foods, with continued breastfeeding for up to two years of age or beyond, emphasising channels of social dissemination of these concepts in order to lead communities to adhere to these practices.”

- **Infant formula – Omneo Comfort 1:** The Committee considered an application by Cow and Gate/ Nutricia to include the infant formula *Omneo Comfort 1* in the Welfare Food Scheme. Members agreed that there was insufficient scientific evidence at present to justify the product’s inclusion in the Welfare Food Scheme.
- **Reviewing the evidence on Salt:** SACN agreed to convene a sub-group, chaired by Professor Alan Jackson, to review the evidence on salt and health published since 1994.
- **The Working Group on Iron:** The Committee appointed Professor Peter Aggett as chair of the working group and agreed that the Secretariat, in consultation with the chair of the working group, would draw up a list of nominations and report back to SACN.

The 3rd meeting of SACN was held on 10 December 2001. The following items were discussed:

- **Approach to Risk Assessment in Nutrition:** The Committee considered a general framework for risk assessment and the evaluation of evidence on nutrition and public health developed by the sub-group on Risk Assessment. The sub-group agreed to revise the tabled paper in light of the Committee's discussion.
- **The Working Group on Child and Maternal Nutrition:** The Committee was asked to consider establishing a Working Group on Child and Maternal Nutrition to review the influence of early nutrition on development of later disease as well as to deal with ongoing issues in child and maternal nutrition. Members supported the establishment of a working group, and agreed its terms of reference and the type and range of expertise required. The Committee appointed Dr Anthony Williams as the chair.
- **Committee on Toxicology reports:** Committee members were asked to comment on and endorse the Committee on Toxicology (COT) reports *'The Reproductive Effects of Caffeine'* and *'Dioxins in Foods'*, with particular reference to the implications for breastfeeding and the COMA recommendation on the consumption of oily fish (respectively). Members endorsed the COT recommendations.
- **The Working Group on Iron:** The Committee considered and agreed the proposed membership of the Working Group on Iron.

Working Groups and Sub-Groups of SACN

Risk Sub-Group

Background

SACN proposed a sub-group to discuss the most appropriate framework for risk assessment for use by the Committee. Members suggested that a sub-group should compile a 'checklist' to ensure that evidence from a range of different sources was considered in a systematic manner for each issue. They also noted that the assessment should be documented in such a way that it is open to scrutiny and such that different assessors of the same topic would be expected to reach the same conclusion.

Activity

The sub-group met once in 2001, with the majority of the group's work carried out by correspondence. The resulting assessment framework entitled 'A Systematic Approach to the Evaluation of Evidence that Relates Food and Nutrients to Health' has been circulated to the main Committee.

Salt Sub-Group

Background

The Food Standards Agency and the Chief Medical Officer for Wales requested that the subject of salt in the diets of both adults and children be considered by SACN at an early opportunity. The issue of particular concern was whether the evidence base, which currently underpins the Government's initiatives in relation to salt, has shifted since the publication of the Report of the Cardiovascular Review Group of COMA (1994).

The main Committee agreed that a sub-group should consider any new evidence put forward by interested parties, with a view to updating existing advice.

Terms of Reference for the Salt Sub-Group

- To review and update the previous recommendations made by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (COMA), taking into account submissions from interested parties.
- To consider whether or not the evidence for children should be reviewed by the sub-group in order to quantify a recommended amount for the general population of children.

Activity

The Salt Sub-Group did not meet in 2001, but initial work began with a call for submissions from interested parties. This resulted in 10 responses to be put to the group in 2002; these are posted on the website.

Working Group on Iron

Background

National Surveys have consistently identified that a substantial proportion of some groups in the population, particularly young women and children, have low iron status as defined by ferritin levels, and consequently they may be at risk of iron deficiency anaemia.

In 1998, the COMA Working Group on Diet and Cancer considered possible links between red meat consumption and large bowel cancer, and recommended that higher consumers should consider a reduction in red meat intake.

The COMA Working Group recommended for adults that “higher consumers should consider a reduction” (in red meat consumption). But the Group were “aware of the possible associated adverse implications of a reduction in meat consumption on other aspects of health, particularly iron status, and recommended that this should be the subject of review” (DH 1998). At the first meeting of SACN it was therefore agreed that the Committee should review the subject of iron status in the population.

Terms of Reference

To review the dietary intakes of iron in its various forms and the impact of various dietary patterns on the nutritional and health status of the population and to make proposals.

Members agreed that both beneficial and adverse effects of increasing iron intakes need to be considered including:

- the effect of low-grade infections/inflammation on iron status;
- the effect of iron status on mental and physical development;
- the effect of nutritional status of other micronutrients on iron absorption and utilisation;
- the potential adverse effects of excess iron, in particular, the promotion of free radical damage and the risk of cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Committee members agreed that the chair of the working group will be a member of SACN and membership should include scientists/experts with an awareness of the following areas:

- the interaction of iron with other nutrients;
- molecular aspects regarding cellular and metabolic regulation;
- pathological considerations;
- broader social and ethical dimensions and,
- epidemiological considerations.

Method of Appointment

A call for nominations to the working group was made by contacting academic and research institutions in the UK and advertising for nominations on the website. Membership was agreed by the main Committee.

Activity

The Iron Working Group commenced meetings in 2002.

Annex 1

Administrative Matters

Constitution

SACN is a committee of independent experts which advises Government via the Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on matters relating to nutrition, diet and health. It provides scientific advice and considers the implications of its advice on a range of policy options to be fed into the broader policy process undertaken by Ministers. The Committee Secretariat is run jointly between the FSA and the Department of Health. It is an advisory Non Departmental Public Body and is therefore subject to guidance issued by the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

SACN succeeds the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food and Nutrition Policy (COMA). SACN's establishment coincides with the setting up of the FSA and the consequent need to review previous arrangements.

Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference of SACN are – to advise the CMOs and/or the FSA, and thus, through the CMOs or FSA, the Government on scientific aspects of nutrition and health with specific reference to:

- nutrient content of individual foods, and advice on diet as a whole, including the definition of a balanced diet and the nutritional status of people;
- monitoring and surveillance of the above;
- nutritional issues which affect wider public health policy issues, including conditions where nutritional status is one of a number of risk factors (e.g. cardiovascular disease, cancer, osteoporosis and/or obesity);
- vulnerable groups (e.g. infants and the elderly) and inequality issues and,
- research requirements for the above.

Method of Appointments

Appointments have been made in accordance with guidance issued by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments (OCPA). Members of SACN are appointed by Ministers taking advice from the CMOs/Chair of the FSA and consulting the Chair (of SACN) for a term of up to four years which may be renewed any number of times until a

maximum of ten years has been served. Re-appointments are subject to satisfactory performance and the needs of the Committee. Performance criteria include attendance rates, membership of working groups/panels and contributions (both oral and written). Total number of years served may not exceed 10 without full re-application for membership of the Committee.

Code of Practice

The function of a scientific advisory committee is to help Government collect scientific information and make judgements about it. Therefore scientific advisory committees may be required to provide either scientific advice, advice on scientific issues, or indeed both. Increasingly they have to take account of social and ethical issues and public and stakeholder concerns. A scientific adviser, whether a committee or a person, is generally responsible for providing scientific input to assist policy making or analysis. The task of policy making, which is essentially one for Government, can be thought of as working up practical options for responses to the problem on which scientific advice has been sought, analysing those options and making decisions on them. The following sets out the Code of Practice for SACN which was agreed by members. It was set up as a working document, subject to review, and without prejudice to the outcome of the consultation process on new Office for Science and Technology (OST) guidelines.

Public Service Values

SACN is an advisory non-departmental public body. The members of SACN must at all times:

- observe the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and objectivity in relation to the advice they provide;
- be accountable through Ministers to Parliament and the public more generally for its activities and for the standard of advice it provides;
- in accordance with Government policy on openness, comply with the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information. The Committee should maintain high levels of transparency during routine business except when confidentiality needs to be maintained. The proceedings should be as open as is compatible with the requirements of confidentiality, and the Committee should be prepared to explain publicly why information or papers are being withheld.

Standards in Public Life

All members must:

- follow the Seven Principles of Public Life set out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life;

- comply with this Code, and ensure they understand their duties, rights and responsibilities, and that they are familiar with the function and role of this body and any relevant statements of Government policy. New members should consider attending relevant training or induction courses;
- not misuse information gained in the course of their public service for personal gain or for political purpose, nor seek to use the opportunity of public service to promote their private interests or those of connected persons, firms, businesses or other organisations and,
- not hold any paid or high-profile unpaid posts in a political party, and not engage in specific political activities on matters directly affecting the work of this body. When engaging in other political activities, members should be conscious of their public role and exercise proper discretion.

Individual members can in particular be removed from office if they fail to perform the duties required of them in line with the standards expected in public office, and if they fail to carry out the duties of office or are unfit to carry out those duties.

Role of Members

- Members have collective responsibility for the operation of this body. They must engage fully in collective consideration of the issues, taking account of the full range of relevant factors, including any guidance issued by the sponsor departments or the responsible Ministers.
- Members must ensure that the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information (including prompt responses to public requests for information) is adhered to; agree an Annual Report and, where practicable and appropriate, hold at least one meeting a year in public.
- Members must respond appropriately to complaints, if necessary with reference to the sponsor departments.
- All members should share the responsibility to consider the wider context in which their expertise is employed. There may, however, be a particular role in this regard for members who are in a lay or 'scientific generalist' capacity. Members with a particular expertise have a responsibility to make the Committee aware of the full range of opinion within the discipline. Lay members should be clear about the capacity in which they have been appointed, i.e. as independent members.
- Members are appointed as individuals to fulfil the role of the Committee, not as representatives of their particular profession, employer or interest group, and have a duty to act in the public interest. Where members declare an organisation's views rather than a personal view, they should make that clear at the time of declaring that view.

- If members believe the Committee's method of working is not rigorous enough they have the right to ask that any remaining concerns they have be put on the record.
- Individual members may be invited to serve on SACN's sub-groups.
- All members and the secretariat should regard it as part of their role to:
 - examine, and challenge if necessary, the assumptions on which scientific advice is formulated and ask for explanations of any scientific terms and concepts which are not clear;
 - ensure that SACN has the opportunity to consider contrary scientific views and the concerns and values of stakeholders before a decision is taken;
 - ensure that SACN's advice is clear and comprehensible.

Communications between SACN and the Ministers/Chair of the FSA will generally be through its Chair except where it has been agreed that an individual member should act on its behalf. Nevertheless, any member has the right of access to Ministers/Chair of the FSA on any matter, which he or she believes raises important issues relating to his or her duties as a member. In such cases the agreement of the rest of SACN should normally be sought.

Role of the Chair

The Chair has particular responsibility for providing effective leadership on the issues above. In addition, the Chair is responsible for:

- the operation and output of the Committee;
- ensuring that every member of the panel is heard and that no view is ignored or overlooked, using, where appropriate, a structured process which ensures that all views are captured and explored;
- ensuring unorthodox and contrary scientific views are taken into account;
- ensuring that the proceedings of the Committee are properly documented so that there is a clear audit trail showing how the Committee reached its decisions;
- ensuring that any significant diversity of opinion among the members of the panel is accurately reflected in the Report and in any other communications with sponsoring departments and should:

- represent the Committee to the public or the media (unless other specific arrangements have been made) and be clear when the views stated are their own and not those of the Committee;
- be responsible for ensuring that the Committee acts in accordance with this Code of Practice.

Role of the Secretariat

The primary function of the Secretariat is to support the Committee by assembling and analysing information and recording conclusions. The Secretariat should include, or have access to, people with relevant technical/scientific expertise. It should:

- advise the Committee on the process and procedure;
- draw the attention of the members to emerging issues of concern so as to inform the Committee's deliberations;
- identify all relevant and appropriate scientific information and ensure that it is made available to the Committee. Information should not be withheld from the Committee on the grounds of commercial or Government confidentiality unless it can be justified under the Freedom of Information Act 2000;
- ensure that the proceedings of SACN are properly documented so that there is a clear audit trail showing how the Committee reached its decisions;
- be an impartial and disinterested reporter. It should at all times respect the Committee's independent role. It should guard against introducing bias during the preparation of papers, during meetings, or in the reporting of the Committee's deliberations.

Role of Other Observers or Officials Present

Departmental representatives and other officials and advisers attending meetings as observers should at all times respect the Committee's independence. They should also ensure that their departments are promptly informed of any matters which may require a response from Government. Secretariats should ensure that the proportion of officials attending to members present is kept within reasonable limits.

Handling Conflicts of Interests

The purpose of these provisions is to avoid any danger of members being influenced, or appearing to be influenced, by their private interests in the exercise of their public duties. All members should therefore declare any personal or business interest which may, or may be perceived (by a reasonable member of the public) to, influence their judgement. This should include, as a minimum, personal direct and indirect pecuniary interests. If a member has an interest not specified in these notes but

which they believe could be regarded as influencing their advice, they should seek advice from the Secretariat as to whether it should be declared. The register of interests should be kept up-to-date and be open to the public. A declaration of any interest should also be made at any meeting if it relates specifically to a particular issue under consideration, for recording in the minutes (whether or not a member also withdraws from the meeting).

Members should not participate in the discussion or determination of matters in which they have an interest, if it is direct or pecuniary or if their interest is covered in specific guidance issued by sponsor departments which require them not to participate and/or to withdraw from the meeting. A guide to the different interests which are required to be declared is included in Annex 3. Members should normally withdraw from the meeting or at the discretion of the chair may remain but refrain from participating in the discussion and drawing of final conclusions.

Personal Liability of Committee Members

The Cabinet Office Model Code of Practice for Board Members of Advisory, Departmental Public Bodies states that: *“Legal proceedings by a third party against individual board members of advisory bodies are very exceptional. A board member may be personally liable if he or she makes a fraudulent or negligent statement which results in a loss to a third party; or may commit a breach of confidence under common law or a criminal offence under insider dealing legislation, if he or she misuses information gained through their position. However, the Government has indicated that individual board members who have acted honestly, reasonably, in good faith and without negligence will not have to meet out of their own personal resources any personal civil liability which is incurred in execution or purported execution of their board functions. Board members who need further advice should consult the sponsor department.”*

Remuneration

Members of SACN are currently paid £89 for attending each meeting of the Committee and are reimbursed for travel and subsistence expenses. A reading fee of £23 per meeting is also payable.

Annex 2

Committee Members

NAME

Chair	Professor Alan Jackson, Professor of Human Nutrition, Southampton University.
Members	<p>Professor Peter Aggett, Head of School, Lancashire Postgraduate School of Medicine and Health, Professor of Child Health and Nutrition, University of Lancashire.</p> <p>Professor Annie Anderson, Research Professor of Food Choice at the Centre for Public Health Nutrition Research, University of Dundee.</p> <p>Professor Sheila Bingham, Deputy Director of the Medical Research Council's Dunn Human Nutrition Unit, Cambridge.</p> <p>Professor John Cummings, Professor of Experimental Gastroenterology at Dept of Molecular & Cellular Pathology, University of Dundee.</p> <p>Miss Gill Fine, Company nutritionist at Sainsbury Supermarkets Ltd.</p> <p>Ms Paulette Jones, Senior Mentoring Development Officer, DIVERT Trust, London.</p> <p>Dr Tim Key, Reader in Epidemiology at the University of Oxford, works at Cancer research UK Epidemiology Unit in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford.</p> <p>Professor Peter Kopelman, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Assistant Warden (Education), Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of London.</p> <p>Dr Ann Prentice, Director, MRC Human Nutrition Research, Cambridge.</p> <p>Professor Andrew Rugg-Gunn, University Clinical Professor, Newcastle University Dental School.</p> <p>Dr Anita Thomas, Practising Consultant Physician in general (internal) and geriatric medicine, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth.</p> <p>Mrs Stella Walsh, Senior Lecturer, Leeds Metropolitan University and National Federation of Consumer Groups.</p> <p>Dr Anthony Williams, Senior Lecturer & Consultant in Neonatal Paediatrics, St George's Hospital, London.</p>

	Professor Christine Williams, Professor of Human Nutrition, University of Reading.	
Observers	Mr Tom Murray, Food Standards Agency.	
	Ms Imogen Sharp, Department of Health.	
	Dr Martin Donaghy, Scottish Executive, Health Department.	
	Dr Elizabeth Mitchell, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland.	
	Ms Jo Clarkson, National Assembly for Wales.	
Secretariat	Department of Health	Food Standards Agency
	Dr Sheela Reddy	Dr Lisa Jackson
	Dr Adrienne Cullum	Dr Alison Tedstone
	Mr Fayaz Aziz	Ms Orla Yeates
		Mr Jeff Allder
		Ms Tracey Dean
		Ms Rachel Elsom
		Ms Mamta Singh

Membership of Iron Working Group

	NAME
Chair	Professor Peter Aggett, Professor of Child Health and Nutrition, Head of School, Lancashire Postgraduate School of Medicine and Health. Member of SACN.
Vice Chair	Dr Ann Prentice, Vice Chair, Director, MRC Human Nutrition Research, Cambridge. Member of SACN.
International Observer	Dr Bruno de Benoist, Senior Advisor, Micronutrients, Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organisation.
Members	Dr Philip Calder, Fetal Origins of Adult Disease Division, University of Southampton, School of Medicine.
	Professor Sue Fairweather-Tait, Head of Nutrition and Consumer Science Division, Institute of Food Research.

Professor Sally Grantham-McGregor, Centre for International Child Health, Institute of Child Health.

Ms Paulette Jones, Senior Mentoring Development Officer, DIVERT Trust. Lay Member of SACN.

Dr Tim Key, ICRF Cancer Epidemiology Unit, Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. Member of SACN.

Professor Joe Lunec, Director of Chemical Pathology, Leicester University.

Professor Martin Pippard, Professor of Haematology, University of Dundee Medical School.

Professor Kim Michaelsen, Research Department of Human Nutrition, The Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Denmark.

Professor Mark Worwood, Department of Haematology, University Hospital, Wales.

Membership of Risk Sub-Group

NAME

Chair

Professor John Cummings

Professor Christine Williams

Dr Tim Key

Membership of Salt Sub-Group

NAME

Chair

Professor Alan Jackson

Professor Peter Aggett

Professor Sheila Bingham

Miss Gill Fine

Biographies of Main Committee Members

Professor Alan Jackson

Professor of Human Nutrition in the School of Medicine at the University of Southampton. Professor Jackson's current work explores the extent to which modest differences in maternal diet and metabolic competence influence fetal development, predisposing to chronic disease in adulthood. Professor Jackson has been a member of COMA for ten years and a Consultant Adviser to the Chief Medical Officer on Nutrition since 1989.

Professor Peter Aggett

Head of School, Lancashire Postgraduate School of Medicine and Health, Professor of Child Health and Nutrition. He is interested in nutrition and metabolism and experienced in issues relating to food composition. Professor Aggett has initiated and chaired a variety of advisory committees at national and international levels relating to clinical nutrition, public health and preventative medicine. He has participated in various DH and MAFF advisory committees and was a member of COMA for 7 years.

Professor Annie Anderson

Research Professor of Food Choice at the Centre for Public Health Nutrition Research, Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, Ninewells Medical School, University of Dundee. She is a member of the FSA Working Party on Dietary Surveys, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh SIGN (Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network) Review Group on Obesity Management and Department of Health Diet and Cancer Reduction Steering Group & Research Committee. She has been involved in dietary measurement, nutrition education and interventions in children and adults in disadvantaged communities.

Professor Sheila Bingham

Deputy Director of the Medical Research Council's Dunn Human Nutrition Unit. Well known for her work in the prevention of cancer through diet. She is a principal investigator of the UK EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer) study which is a European-wide collaboration. She was a member of COMA for 9 years and has served on a number of other government sub-committees and working groups including the Food Standards Agency Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals Working Group on Phytoestrogens.

Professor John Cummings

Professor of Experimental Gastroenterology at the Department of Molecular & Cellular Pathology, University of Dundee. He is a practising gastroenterologist and has maintained a clinical interest in gastroenterology for over 30 years. He has published many research papers on the influence of diet in relation to gut and other diseases. Professor Cummings has served on many public bodies, both national and international, with specific interest in nutrition and public health and is regarded as an expert in dietary fibre and colonic health.

Miss Gill Fine

Company nutritionist at Sainsbury Supermarkets Ltd with responsibility for developing and implementing the company's nutrition strategy. She is a qualified Public Health Nutritionist with 18 years experience in both private and public sectors. In her previous job at the British Nutrition Foundation (BNF), she was involved in developing the Foundation's strategy to improve nutrition education in the UK and was responsible for the initiation and subsequent development of the BNF/MAFF 'Food a Fact of Life' programme for schools. She has experience of working as a nutritionist in industry, nutrition education and consumer communication.

Ms Paulette Jones

Senior Mentoring Development Officer, DIVERT Trust (The National Charity for the Prevention of Youth Crime), London where for three years her achievements include supporting and advising the mentoring projects throughout London, writing the DIVERT mentoring handbook, setting up and managing projects, spearheading the Charity's development of parental support. Represents DIVERT at the Associate Parliamentary Group on Parenting, co-ordinates a London mentoring and befriending forum. She has an interest in nutrition through her work with the elderly.

Dr Timothy Key

Reader in Epidemiology at the University of Oxford, works at the Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit in the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. He studied veterinary medicine, nutrition and epidemiology. He has special interests in the interactions between nutrition and hormones, cancer and cardiovascular disease. He is the lead investigator of the Oxford component of EPIC (European Prospective Investigation into Cancer) which is a European-wide collaborative study, and chair of the EPIC working group on nutrition and prostate cancer.

Professor Peter Kopelman

Professor of Clinical Medicine, Assistant Warden (Education), Barts and The London, Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of London. He has considerable experience, from a clinical perspective, in the delivery of diabetes care and the management of obesity to all age groups. Worked closely with Health Authorities and national organisations in addressing nutritional matters. Chaired a large number of committees within the university sector, NHS, Health Authorities and the Royal College of Physicians.

Dr Ann Prentice

Director, MRC Human Nutrition Research, Cambridge. Her main research interests are nutritional aspects of bone health and osteoporosis; dietary requirements for human growth, pregnancy and lactation, and old age with particular reference to micronutrients. She has published extensive peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and reports. She also chaired COMA's Sub-Group on Nutrition and Bone Health.

Professor Andrew Rugg-Gunn

University Clinical Professor, Newcastle University Dental School. Professor Rugg-Gunn is adviser to the British Dental Association on nutrition and oral health; Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nutrition and Oral Health; author of several textbooks, one of which is a definitive work on nutrition and dental disease; has extensively published work in nutrition and oral health.

Dr Anita Thomas

Practising Consultant Physician in general (internal) and geriatric medicine, Derriford Hospital, Plymouth. Scientific background in health, nutrition and old age, has a doctorate on the subject of the nutritional status of elderly inpatients. Dr Thomas has served on various DH committees and is currently a member of the FSA's Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals.

Mrs Stella Walsh

Senior Lecturer, Leeds Metropolitan University. She has a long-standing interest in the subjects of food and nutrition. Until recently she was the Secretary of the National Federation of Consumers (NFC). She is a NFC representative on the Institute of Grocery Distribution. She has experience of replying to government and industry consultations on behalf of consumers. She has published several refereed articles for academic and professional journals, book chapters and conference papers on consumer issues.

Dr Anthony Williams

Senior Lecturer & Consultant in Neonatal Paediatrics, St George's Hospital, London. He was the Chair of COMA's Panel on Child & Maternal Nutrition and a member of COMA. Represented COMA/PCMN on the Welfare Food Review Group. He is currently a member of the FSA's Expert Group on Vitamins and Minerals. Dr Williams has published peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and reports on child health.

Professor Christine Williams

Professor of Human Nutrition, University of Reading. She is currently President of the UK Nutrition Society. She is an established international authority in human lipid nutrition and hormone metabolism in humans. She was a member of COMA's Working Group on Nutrition and Cancer. Professor Williams has extensive collaborations with researchers in Europe and the food industry.

Biographies of Working Group on Iron Members (not SACN members)

Dr Bruno de Benoist

Dr de Benoist is a senior adviser on micronutrients at the Department of Nutrition for Health and Development, at the World Health Organisation.

Dr Philip Calder

Dr Calder is a lecturer at the University of Southampton. His research interests include the identification of the influence of dietary fatty acids on the immune and inflammatory systems and understanding the mechanisms of action of specific fatty acids. He is a member of a number of expert panels and committees.

Professor Sue Fairweather-Tait

Divisional Manager for Diet, Health and Consumer Science and Theme Leader for Diet and Health Research at the Institute of Food Research. Her main research interests are in human mineral requirements and bioavailability. She has served on various expert panels and committees including the 1991 COMA Panel on Dietary Reference Values and three British Nutrition Foundation task forces, one of which was on 'Iron; Nutritional and Physiological Significance'. She has also served on the Department of Health Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances, and the Steering Committee for Medical Research Council-BBSRC Foresight Associate Programme in Human Nutrition Research.

Professor Sally Grantham-McGregor

Professor of Child Health and Nutrition at the Centre for International Child Health, Institute of Child Health. She is an international expert on nutrition (energy and micronutrients) and child development, cognitive function and school achievement. She has spent thirty years in Jamaica, where she has built up a strong research base looking at the cognitive development of children. An adviser to UNICEF and the WHO.

Professor Joe Lunec

Professor and Director of Chemical Pathology at Leicester University. His main research interests are in the catalytic effects of iron and free radical reactions during inflammation. He is currently investigating the effects of iron catalysed lipid peroxidation products in colon cancer and oxidised lipoprotein metabolism and cardiovascular disease. He is a member and previous chairman of ESCODD (European Standards Committee on Oxidative DNA Damage) and of EUROFEDA (European Committee on Functional Effects of Antioxidants). He is also a member of the FSA's Committee on Toxicology of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment.

Professor Martin Pippard

Former head of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Pathology at the University of Dundee, Professor Pippard is a specialist in diseases of the blood, especially disorders involving altered iron metabolism. His current research includes the identification of new therapeutic strategies for the clinical management of haemopoiesis in myelodysplasia and other anaemias associated with progressive bone marrow failure; the relationship between iron supply and disordered erythropoiesis. He was a member of the British Nutrition Foundation Task Force on Iron. He is a scientific adviser to the UK Haemochromatosis Society, chairs a working group for the British Committee for Standards in Haematology and is associated editor for the British Journal of Haematology.

Professor Mark Worwood

Professor Worwood has a personal chair in the Department of Haematology, University of Wales College of Medicine, and is a registered clinical scientist. His interests include iron absorption, biochemical and diagnostic testing of iron status, genetic and functional studies of human tissue ferritins and haemochromatosis. He was Editor of the British Journal of Haematology from 1986 to 1991, was a member of the 1995 British Nutrition Foundation's Task Force on Iron and is scientific adviser to the Haemochromatosis Society. He is author of numerous articles and books on iron biochemistry.

Annex 3

Declaration of Interests as of October 2000

All SACN members and members of committees/panels are asked to submit a return of existing personal and non-personal interests to the Secretariat.

Members of advisory committees are appointed as independent experts and are asked to give objective and disinterested scientific advice to Government. The advice of committees is sought on a very wide range of topics and may sometimes concern matters which are of interest to industry. Many advisory committee members are likely to have a specific financial interest in some aspect of industry, and some members are employed by industry or obtain part of their income by providing services to industry. The Departments recognise that such involvement with industry is perfectly normal, and does not consider that it need detract from the quality and integrity of members' advice. It would probably be impossible, as well as unnecessary, to seek to appoint to committees only those people who could have no direct or indirect personal interest in any of the topics to be considered by the committee.

However, both from the point of view of the Departments and in the interest of protecting members from unwarranted allegations of partiality, it is important that clear and acceptable rules should be laid down both for the declaration of interests and for the management of committee business where a specific interest has been declared.

Different Types of Interest

The following is intended as a guide as to what constitutes an interest. Where a member is uncertain as to whether an interest should be declared, guidance should be sought from the Committee Secretariat. *If a member has an interest not specified in these notes but which they believe could be regarded as influencing their advice they should seek advice as to whether it should be declared.* However, neither members nor the Departments are under an obligation to search out links between one company and another; for example, where a company with which the member is connected has an interest in another company of which the member is not aware and could not reasonably expect to be aware.

The arrangements cover membership of SACN, of its standing panels/committees and of its ad-hoc panels/committees.

Personal Interests

A *personal interest* involves payment to the member personally. The main examples:

- a. *Consultancies*: any employment, consultancy, directorship, position in or work for industry which attracts regular or occasional payments in cash or kind.
- b. *Fee-Paid Work*: any work commissioned by industry or other organisation for which the member is paid in cash or kind.
- c. *Shareholdings*: any shareholding in or other beneficial interest in industrial shares. This does not include shareholdings through Unit Trusts or similar arrangements where the member has no influence on financial management.

Non-Personal Interests

A non-personal interest involves payment which benefits a department for which a member is responsible, but is not received by the member personally. The main examples are:

- a. *Fellowships*: the holding of a fellowship endowed by industry.
- b. *Support by Industry*: any payment, other support or sponsorship by industry which does not convey any pecuniary or material benefit to a member personally but which does benefit his or her position or department, e.g.:
 - I. a grant from a company for the running of a unit or department for which a member is responsible;
 - II. a grant or fellowship or other payment to sponsor a post or a member of staff in the unit for which the member is responsible – this does not include financial assistance for students;
 - III. the commissioning of research or other work by, or advice from, staff who work in a unit for which a member is responsible.

SACN Members Declaration of Interests

Member	Personal interests		Non-personal interests		Any other interests
	Company	Nature of Interest	Company	Nature of Interest	
Professor A Jackson	None		1. Nutricia Clinical 2. Baxter Healthcare	Sponsors of Annual Nutrition Course	None
Professor P Aggett	None		1. Nestec 2. Astra Zeneca 3. Pfizer 4. SMA 5. Yakult	Lecture fees, funding school research, consultancy	None
Professor A Anderson	None		None		None
Professor S Bingham	None		None		None
Professor J Cummings	None		PACKAGE – an EU programme on bar code reading of foods	Consultant	None
Miss Gill Fine	1) Sainsbury Plc	Shareholder	Sainsbury Supermarket Ltd	Employee	Committee member of: Project Management Committee for BBSRC Eating, Food & Health Programme Steering Group for the Department of Health's Diet & Cancer Reduction Project (Five-a-Day Pilot) BNF Governor, Nutrition Society member, Royal Society of Health Fellow, British Dietetic Association Affiliate Member.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

Member	Personal interests			Non-personal interests			Any other interests
	Company	Nature of Interest	Company	Company	Nature of Interest	Nature of Interest	
Ms P Jones	None		None	None		None	None
Dr T Key	None		None	None		Vegetarian Society of the UK member, Vegan Society Member	
Professor P Kopelman	1. Weight Watchers (UK) Ltd 2. Servier Research & Development	Medical Advisor Medical Adviser, Mitiglinide Advisory Board	1. Janssen Cilag 2. Servier Research & Development 3. Knoll Abbott Pharmaceuticals 4. Roche Pharmaceuticals		Clinical trial sponsor Previous clinical trial sponsor	Honary treasurer & trustee, International Obesity Task Force (registered charity)	
Professor A Rugg-Gunn	Colgate-Palmolive	Consultancy	1. Procter & Gamble 2. Borrow Dental Milk Foundation 3. Danisco		Research Grants to University	None	None
Dr A Thomas	None		None			None	None
Mrs S Walsh	None		None			Consumer representation for National Federation of Consumers on other FSA and DEFRA committees and working parties, including Cattle Movement, and Food Borne Disease	

Member	Personal interests		Non-personal interests		Any other interests
	Company	Nature of Interest	Company	Nature of Interest	
Dr A Williams	None		None		Provision of voluntary advice to the following organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Childbirth Trust • La L�che League • Breastfeeding Network • UK Association for Milk Banking • Baby Milk Action • UNICEF(UK) Baby Friendly Initiative • UNICEF(UK) Child Friendly Hospital Initiative
Professor C Williams	None		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unilever UK Ltd 2. Hoffman La Roche 3. Milk Development Council 4. Xymega Corporation 	Research Funding	None
Dr A Prentice	Brooke Bond, Danone, ILSI Europe, Kraft Sverige, Nestle China, Nycomed Pharma	Attendance/ speaker's fees and conference expenses	Arthritic Association British Broadcasting Corporation British Nutrition Foundation Brooke Bond Cereal Partners Coca-cola Cohn & Wolfe ILSI Europe Kelloggs Nestle China Nycomed Pharma Roche Sainsbury Shire Pharmaceuticals Wall-wall TV	Nutritional Consultancy Nutritional Consultancy Scientific Governor Nutritional Consultancy Nutritional Consultancy Nutritional Consultancy Nutritional Consultancy Commissioned Report Nutritional Consultancy Conference Expenses Donated materials for research Nutritional Consultancy Donated materials for research Nutritional Consultancy	Personal interests of husband- Professor Andrew M Prentice, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London: Alizyme --Brooke Bond -- Danone -- Kraft Sverige -- Nestle China -- Roche --Slimfast -- Tanita UK --

