

Invitation to the Seminar on



TREATMENT OF CHILDHOOD UNDERNUTRITION: CALL FOR RESEARCH, CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND ACTION

Time: 31 October 2008 at 09:00 – ca. 15.30
Venue: Faculty of Life Sciences, Thorvaldsensvej 40, Auditorium -13
Organisers: Danish Research Network for International Health;
Department of Human Nutrition, University of Copenhagen; and
Médécins Sans Frontières (MSF)

BACKGROUND:

It is increasingly recognized that childhood undernutrition is a major global health problem which the international community has to address. The prevalence of childhood undernutrition, and its short and long-term consequences, has recently been assessed. It is clear that childhood undernutrition is not only a cause of morbidity and mortality, but impairs human capital and socio-economic development.

However, treatment of undernutrition has not received adequate attention, despite recent advances.

Collaboration between Institute of Human Nutrition and MSF in Denmark concerning childhood undernutrition was started one year ago. The focus is put on treatment of severe and moderate malnourished children in developing countries and currently new treatment protocols are being designed.

PURPOSE:

The aim of the seminar is to highlight and discuss experience and findings and to explore new strategies to meet the challenges of childhood nutrition.

PARTICIPANTS:

Network participants, including researchers, students, consultants, NGOs, Danida representatives, politicians and others who may find this subject of interest.

REGISTRATION:

Kindly indicate your participation in the seminar before 27th October 2008 by sending a mail to Marianne Lindblad: maped@sund.ku.dk

PROGRAMME

- 09:00 - 09:10 **Welcome**
Anne-Birgitte Albrechtsen, Head of Dep., Department for Humanitarian Policy and Assistance, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 09:10 - 09:30 **Introduction**
Chairman, Prof. Andrew Tomkins, Institute of Child Health & Development, London
- 09:30 - 10:05 **"Childhood undernutrition: prevalence, causes, effects"**
Henrik Friis, MD, PhD, Prof., University of Copenhagen
- 10:05 - 10:35 **"Treating childhood undernutrition: an NGO perspective"**
Susan Shepherd, MD, MSF, New York
- 10:35 - 11:00 **"Effect of RUF supplementation on the nutritional status, mortality and morbidity in children 6-60 months in Niger: what worked?"**
Rebecca Grais, Dir. Epidemiology and Population Studies, EpiCentre, Paris
- 11:00 - 11:20 **Coffee and tea break**
- 11:20 - 11:55 **"Current priorities: the WHO perspective"**
André Briend, MD, PhD, Medical Officer working on policies and programmes for treatment of undernutrition Department of Child & Adolescent Health and Development, WHO.
- 11:55 - 12:25 **"Research in childhood undernutrition - Malawi"**
Per Ashorn, MD, PhD, Prof., Tampere University, Finland
- 12:25 - 13:30 **Lunch**
- 13:30 - 14:05 **"Research in childhood undernutrition - Zambia"**
Suzanne Filteau, MSc, PhD, Prof, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
- 14:05 - 14:40 **"Foods for children with moderate undernutrition: research priorities?"**
Kim Fleischer Michaelsen, MD, DmSc, Prof, University of Copenhagen
- 14:40 - 15:30 **General discussion and wind up**
- 15:30 - **Coffee and tea – and networking**