

Acknowledgements

This publication is an English version of the invited papers and academic activities carried out during the II Latin American Workshop on Nutrition and Health in Urban Areas which took place in Mexico City during the week of March 2nd to the 6th, 1992 at the Centro Interamericano de Estudios sobre la Seguridad Social excellent facilities. This was not an isolated event, but part of a series of activities and meetings of experts and specialists in many disciplines that the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) has sponsored in recent years. It follows directly from the I Workshop in Vina del Mar, Chile which took place in 1988 in which it was recommended to give the utmost attention to the problems and challenges that the formulation and implementation of nutrition and health policies poses in the Latin American urban areas. Thus great importance was given in this II Workshop to the prevailing nutritional conditions in the larger capital cities of this region as well as to the close relationship between the bio-medical and the social sciences.

The main purposes of the Workshop itself were to stimulate nutrition intervention projects, and research on their potential impact upon the urban and metropolitan areas in Latin America. The Workshop intended to promote a deeper awareness in the participants as to the availability of information on urban nutrition programs, and thus produce specific proposals for action in those areas, within a multi-disciplinary approach.

The organization of such an international meeting demands the full collaboration and support of multiple institutions and individuals. Ours was no exception to this. The reader will appreciate this fact as he or she goes through the contents of this issue. Several laboratories provided funding for necessary activities during the conference: Abbott Laboratories de México S.A. de C.V., Baxter S.A. de C.V., Compañía Nestlé S.A. de C.V., Mead Johnson de México S.A. de C.V. and Wyeth S.A. de C.V. Fundación Herdez A.C., Kelloggs S.A. de C.V. and Sociocultur also contributed with funds. Here we are particularly eager to acknowledge those whose names do not appear as authors or participants, but who nevertheless had a crucial role during the Workshop and also during the preparation of this issue. First we would like to express our deep gratitude to Francisco Xavier Vasquez and Gloria Rojas Eslava, who went through all the material and did the secretarial work with dedication and cheerfulness. The staff at the Instituto Nacional de la Nutrición Salvador Zubirán, and El Colegio de México gave their unconditional support during the organization and development of the Workshop: María Teresa García, Moisés Andrade Espinosa, Clara Resendiz Vite, Gloria Valadez, Estela Esquivel, Isabel Avila, Jaime Vargas, Lourdes Morales Garcia, Alberto Menchaca and Gloria Lemus. Also, our thanks to the Department for Health Education whereby the data gathering, formatting, designing and printing took place, with special thanks to: Concepción Nolasco, Karina Salas, Raúl Espino, Felipe Osornio, Julian Cedillo, Monica Santos and Dr. Mariano Garcia Viveros. Generous beyond words were Eduardo Maldonado from Cine Testimonio S.A., who donated the filming of the whole event, and kindly offered the exhibition of two of his films, and Helen Escobedo -environmental sculptor- who donated her work related to the urban environmental-nutritional topic, exhibited during the Workshop.

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The Editors