Book Reviews

Oxford Handbook of Nutrition & Dietetics

Edited by Joan Webster-Gandy, Angela Madden and Michelle Holdsworth
Published by Oxford University Press, 2006
ISBN: 0-19-856725-7 (flexicover)

There are many Oxford Handbooks for Clinicians, but one in the field of Clinical Nutrition has been a long while coming. The present book has small dimensions, but 730 pages worthy of a place in the clinician’s library of practical information. It enunciates the principles and contemporary science on which clinical (and, in large measure, public health) nutrition should be based. It is systematic and comprehensive for nutrients, some bioactive food components, their food sources, dietary reference values and food labelling, with useful and relevant information about diagnostic nutrition and nutrition intervention and support. Clinical situations and disease states in which nutrition is relevant are succinctly and systematically presented. In regard to diabetes, the glycaemic index is introduced briefly, but the appendices to do with food composition persist with a “carbohydrate exchange” table for foods containing 10g carbohydrate – without regard to impact on blood glucose or insulin response. This points to the limitations of a handbook like this, which can encourage prescriptive, disconnected and even irrelevant approaches to health care. However, ultimately, no hand-book can stand alone from a discursive and critical environment for clinical decision-making.

The broader socio-economic and cultural dimensions of clinical nutrition are sometimes lost, but, to its credit, this handbook addresses nutritional needs, methods and intervention in various settings including poverty, if not in development.

The handbook has a definite national context, that of Britain, which limits its use in other health care systems.

By Mark L Wahlqvist

Future Events

January 31-February 2, 2007
CIES International Food Safety Conference 2007, Munich, Germany
www.ciesfoodsafty.com/

February 9-10, 2007
4th Asia-Oceania Conference on Obesity will be held in Seoul, Korea
www.obesity2007.org/info.asp

March 7-9, 2007
7th International Soy Symposium: Role of Soy in Health and Disease Prevention, Bangkok, Thailand
www.soyconferencebangkok2007.com

April 4-6, 2007
Global Scientific Challenges: Perspectives from Young Scientist, An international conference celebrating 75 years of ICSU, Lindau, Germany
www.icsu.org/10_icsu75/75ANNIV_Young.html

April 22-25, 2007
15th European Conference on Obesity, Budapest, Hungary
www.eco2007@easobesity.org

April 25-26, 2007
3rd International Conference on Traditional Mediterranean Diet - MEDIET 2007, Athens, Greece
mediet@heliotopos.net

April 25-28, 2007
2nd International Congress on "Prediabetes" and the Metabolic Syndrome, Barcelona, Spain
www.kenes.com/prediabetes

May 7-9, 2007
1st Federations of African Nutrition Societies
FANUS meeting in Quazazate, Morocco
www.africanutrition.org

May 29-June 1, 2007
34th Annual International Conference on Global Health, DC, USA
www.globalhealth.org/conference

July 10-13, 2007
FENS-IUNS Congress: 10th European Nutrition Conference, Paris, France
www.fens2007.org

September 9-13, 2007
FANS-IUNS Congress: 10th Asian Congress of Nutrition, Taipei, Taiwan
www.2007acn.org.tw

November 6-10, 2007
5th International Congress on Developmental Origins of Health & Disease, Perth, Western Australia
www.dohad2007.org

September 27-30, 2009
World Congress on Oils and Fats & 28th ISF Congress, Sydney, Australia
www.isfsydney2009.com

October 4-9, 2009
19th International Congress of Nutrition 2009, Bangkok, Thailand
www.icn2009.com