



Questions for Press Conference

To be answered Thursday 6th May 2010 11am-12 noon

Topics: Munich – EC funding/focus – EARNEST overall – ENP science – policy – industry

Science media – overall and nutrition science

Is EARNEST providing us with more information regarding the mechanisms involved in how nutrients programme health?

Has EARNEST developed a view on whether its pregnancy, lactation or weaning that is most influential in terms of early nutrition programming?

On what basis has the calculation been conducted that predicts a reduction in obesity risk of 13% at age 14-16?

Were the associations previously seen in observational studies (such as) generally confirmed by the longer-term follow-up of the randomised controlled trials in EARNEST?

Has EARNEST identified the most important/productive lines of research on ENP to follow up EARNEST?

It seems that EARNEST has uncovered clear hints that effects of ENP may differ between girls and boys – can you clarify and provide an indication of where this may lead?

Several of the EARNEST follow up studies of trials in pregnancy and infancy have failed to show an effect of 'programming' by breast milk or different formulas. How do you explain this?

Nutrition information – for professional and mother/baby media

Has EARNEST provided any information that explodes any dietary `myths` for pregnant women that are currently in circulation? Has it been shown that any of these myths even have detrimental effects?

Are dietary/programming effects on the fetus more pronounced in some stages of the pregnancy than others such as the first trimester?

In researching dietary effects on children's development and behaviour, how do you 'balance' the influence of nutrition and other environmental factors such as education and family upbringing?

Understanding of the importance of the timing and method of weaning appears to be increasing in terms of lifelong health and particularly in relation to its impact on obesity risk – has EARNEST developed a view on this that would be helpful for professionals in their interaction with mothers and in particular first time mothers?

Is it OK to give young babies drinks other than breast milk or formula milk? From the EARNEST study the percentage of mothers providing energy providing liquids (EPL – teas, juices) appears very high and this practice has a detrimental effect on total intake as shown in EARNEST – what can we say to professionals and families?

If susceptibility to obesity can be programmed in utero, where should the resources be put in terms of preventing childhood obesity – on women before they are pregnant, pregnant women or on young children?

What advice should be given to mothers whose babies are growing faster than the new WHO growth charts recommend?

How detrimental is maternal obesity on the baby's health outcomes?

Health Economics – Policy

Have any calculations been generated concerning the economic benefit of early nutrition programming? Are there yet any proven economic benefits?

Industry

Should the use of higher protein second milks for hungrier babies (marketed in the UK) be discouraged? One company has removed them from their core range but the others still include them in their 1,2, 3 range. Don't these milks send out the message that higher protein and faster growth is better than lower protein and slower growth?

How should industry modify its formulas apart from lowering the protein content?

Do you think industry will soon be producing different formulas for boys and girls ?

For further media information contact Rhonda Smith / Marc Catchpole @ Minerva

++44 (0) 1264 710428 / + 44 (0)7887 714957 // +44 (0) 7753 821525 / info@minervaprc.com
