



Media Release

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The EU Childhood Obesity Programme

First results support hypotheses

First results of the EU Childhood Obesity Programme by Project Co-ordinator Professor Berthold Koletzko from the University of Munich, Germany to be presented at the pre-congress EARNEST Satellite conference of the 15th European Congress on Obesity (ECO, Budapest 20 April): “Early Nutrition Programming and Health Outcomes in Later Life: Obesity & Beyond (Session B2, Friday 20 April, 16.30)

The first results of the EU Childhood Obesity programme indicate that low protein content infant formulae bring metabolic and endocrine benefits, as well as body growth rate close to that of breastfed babies. The further follow-up of the children as part of the EU project EARNEST will indicate whether these changes are associated with lower risk indicators of childhood obesity at a later age. Low protein content in infant formulae did not show any untoward effects and is considered safe.

“These first results of the EU Childhood Obesity Programme emphasise the importance of promotion of and support for breastfeeding, together with the development of the right composition of infant formula, and support for the choice of appropriate complementary food” states Project Co-ordinator Professor Koletzko.

“These first results of the EU Childhood Obesity Programme contribute to the growing body of scientific evidence that early nutrition can exert important long term ‘programming’ effects on early development and later health,” adds Professor Koletzko.

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Notes to Editors

Project funding

The EU Childhood Obesity Programme is funded by the EU framework Five Quality of Life Programme (QLK1-2001-00389). The EU is providing about 80 % of the total funding which amounts to over 2 million EUR. Industries and academics contribute the remainder. The study continues under the Framework 6 EC funded project EARNEST (FOOD-CT-2005-007036)

Scientific Partners of the Study

The EU Childhood Obesity Programme, which continues under the Early Nutrition Programming Project (EARNEST) brings together a multi-disciplinary team of international renowned scientists and leaders within the field of early nutrition

Partners

- University of Munich, Germany (Prof. Dr Berthold Koletzko; Co-ordinator)
- Free University Brussels (ULB), Belgium (Prof. Daniel Brasseur)
- University of Milan, Italy (Prof. Marcello Giovannini)
- Children's Memorial Health Institute Warsaw, Poland (Prof. Jerzy Socha)
- Medical Research Council, Cambridge, UK (Dr. Andy Coward)
- University Rovira i Virgili, Reus , Spain (Dr. Ricardo Closa)
- Blédina SA, Steenvoorde, France (Dr Emmanuel Perrin)
- Danone Institutes International (Dr. Agnes Martin)

Subcontractors

- Ashwell Associates, Ashwell , UK (Margaret Ashwell)
- INSERM, ISTNA - CNAM, Paris, France (Dr. Marie-Françoise Rolland-Cachera)
- Schauerte GmbH, Munich, Germany (Dr Till Richardsen)

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You can also visit the following websites :

www.childhood-obesity.org and www.metabolic-programming.org