

## **Report of Glasgow Progress Meeting – October 2008**

The eighth progress meeting was held alongside the River Clyde in Glasgow, Scotland, where despite the rather rainy weather, we were given a very warm welcome by Professor Harry McArdle and Tim King from Aberdeen. They lived up to their reputation for providing great hospitality and had us all stripping the willow, being dashing white sergeants and doing eightsome reels at a Scottish Ceilidh in the evening.

The day had begun with an update from Professor Koletzko, who told us that we had received approval for an unfunded extension of the EARNEST project to month 66. This would allow us to hold our final international conference in Munich in May 2010. Plans for this conference are well underway and he asked everybody to advertise the conference in any presentations. There is a slide for this purpose on the website.

Margaret Ashwell and Rhonda Smith described the dissemination activities that had taken place over the previous six months. There had been extensive coverage of Sjurdur Olsen's paper on fish oils and asthma at age 16. The EuroScience Open Forum meeting in Barcelona allowed the opportunity to reach over 500 journalists from all over the world. . Rhonda was convinced that the concept of early nutrition programming was gaining momentum amongst journalists and that more and more wanted to be kept up-to-date with the subject. She asked participants to let her know when a paper had been accepted for publication so that she could prepare suitable press material. Margaret said that, in response to suggestions from the reviewers at the last review meeting, we plan to develop a glossary of terms used in programming. She would like this to be a collaborative effort with everybody contributing. A forum on the website has been set up and she encouraged everybody to suggest terms to be defined and what their definitions should be. She also introduced the idea that we would make some teaching slide sets available on the website as a resource for teaching early nutrition programming at an undergraduate and postgraduate level. Could project members please send her any suitable presentations that they would be willing to share?

During the rest of the morning, we heard about some of the results from the different themes and had time for discussing them from a multi-disciplinary perspective. Veronica Luque from the Childhood Obesity Project, presented some results on protein intake and kidney size and function. The discussion afterwards compared these results with what might be predicted by the original observations by David Barker on fetal growth restriction and later blood pressure and with animal studies which suggested there might be an effect on inflammation. Hella Meltzer from the Norwegian Mother and Baby (MoBa) study then presented their findings on the effect of n-3 LCPUFA intake on gestational duration. Mothers who had pre-term births had a slightly lower intake of n-3 LCPUFA and those with higher intakes had a small increase in gestational duration. Although the effect was small, it might be important clinically and because so many Norwegian women take cod liver oil supplements during pregnancy, it is possible that the effect is minimised because the intakes of the lowest reference group are relatively high. Sylvain Sebert from Nottingham discussed some work his group have been doing on the programming of appetite: whether this occurs pre-natally and, if so, what might be the important factors? The afternoon was set aside for individual theme meetings.

A workshop on measuring body composition was organised by a group from the Institute of Child Health, London on the second day which proved very popular. Meetings of the Dissemination and Exploitation Consensus Panel, the Childhood Obesity Project and those involved in the Nutrimenthe project were also held in Glasgow .