Primary Prevention by Nutrition Intervention in Infancy and Childhood
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Primary Prevention by Nutrition Intervention in Infancy and Childhood

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Foreword

For the 57th Nestlé Pediatric Nutrition Workshop, which took place in May 2005 at Half Moon Bay, San Francisco, the topic ‘Primary Prevention by Nutrition Intervention in Infancy and Childhood’ was chosen. Early nutrition seems to be involved in the mechanism of control, especially taking into account the role of protein and long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids (LC-PUFAs). It seems that the new generation of infant formulas already takes those findings into consideration.

We would like to thank the two chairmen, Prof. Hugh Sampson and Prof. Alan Lucas who are recognized experts in this field, for putting the program together and inviting the opinion leaders in the field of maternal and infant nutrition as speakers.

Our first chairperson, Prof. Hugh Sampson, already chaired the 34th Nestlé Nutrition Workshop entitled ‘Intestinal Immunology and Food Allergy’ in Versailles, France, in June 1993, a topic related to allergy and intestinal immunity. Since then a lot of new data concerning this area have been discovered and the results of the GINI study in Germany have confirmed the hypothesis that mildly hydrolyzed whey-based formulas are effective in the prevention of atopy. Having Professors von Berg, Björkstén, Zeiger and Sampson around the table was a source of lively exchanges, discussions and ideas resulting in strong and valuable conclusions.

Prof. Alan Lucas, our second chairperson, has substantially contributed to our understanding of early nutrition and long-term outcome. With his co-workers A. Singh and M. Fewtrell, he is raising new hypotheses in the development of obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases later in life, the so-called ‘syndrome X’.

We would also like to thank Mrs. Linda Hsieh and her team from Nestlé USA, who provided all logistical support, enabling the participants to enjoy the American hospitality.

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