

Monthly Activity Round-Up

October-November 2023

International Collaborations

United Nations FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization)

Society Trustee Barbara Bray led a delegation from the Society to attend, for the first time, the annual Committee for Food Security (CFS) meeting at the UN FAO in Rome 23-27 October. The delegation participated in a range of briefings on nutrition, food security, gender equality and youth in agriculture.



Georgian Nutrition Society

Saba Kobakhidze, Executive Director of the Georgian Nutrition Society, visited our London offices 6-9 November to gain an insight into how we operate. This is part of our ongoing support to Georgia to develop their nutrition science capacity. On 9 November their President, Dr Manana Stanley, joined Saba in a planning meeting with our key team members to discuss a potential international conference in Georgia in 2024.



14th European Nutrition Conference (FENS 2023)

A delegation of trustees, members and staff attended the FENS Conference in Belgrade Serbia, 13-17 November. We hosted a stand in the Exhibition which showcased our publications, Academy platform and our secretariat support to FENS and IUNS. In addition, we hosted a symposium discussing global school feeding programmes, and co-hosted a symposium with the French Nutrition Society on nutrition and cancer.



Federation of African Nutrition Societies (FANUS) 2023 Conference

Trustee Barbara Bray, and member Basma Ellahi, supported by the CEO and 2 members of staff, attended the FANUS Conference in Dakar Senegal 20-24 November. We hosted a stand in the Exhibition promoting our publications and Academy platform. In addition, we chaired and co-chaired 3 plenary sessions, and hosted two workshops (Scientific Writing and Introduction to Leadership).



External Partnerships

Parliamentary Advisory Committee

The CEO and members of our new Parliamentary Group attended the Royal Society of Biology's Strategic Partners Parliamentary Advisory Committee on 2 November. The Group were briefed on the outcomes of the recent various political party conferences and discussed the potential general election timetable in 2024. The Group also received an update on recent activities in the House of Lords from Viscount Stansgate.

Academy for Nutrition Sciences (ANS)

ANS Trustees, and member organisation representatives, met on 9 November. The meeting discussed the progress in developing position papers, and also considered the challenges and opportunities of wider, more regular, communications. The meeting also discussed opening the ANS to new member organisations in 2024.

Governance

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee met on 3 October. The Committee noted the 9 months of continuous membership growth, especially in the Early Career Member category. The meeting then reviewed and agreed a work plan for 2024 focusing on the new Membership Panel, communications, improving member grants, and support to international members.

Medical Working Group (MWG)

The Medical Working Group (MWG) met on 4 October. The MWG re-evaluated its direction, and agreed a range of new initiatives to help improve engagement with the medical and health profession.

Nutrition Society Academy Committee

The Nutrition Society Academy Committee met on 9 October. The Committee reviewed its strategic map, noting progress in many areas. It was agreed to progress with a mentoring programme, and approved a number of new partnerships for the delivery of content on the Academy Platform.

Advisory Council

The Advisory Council met on 11 October. The Council reviewed the revised draft Supporter Engagement Policy, making a number of suggestions to improve the draft. Council also discussed methods to improve communication within Sections, the challenges of fluctuating Impact Factors for our Journals, opportunities to develop external engagement in the new Congress-style format for the 2024 summer conference, and the new project offering free membership to undergraduates.

Trustee Board

The Trustee Board met on 12 October. The Trustees spent the majority of their meeting reviewing the substantial progress being made with our Strategic Plan (it is at its halfway point in its 5 years), and highlighted potential areas of activity for 2024 and 2025. Trustees also accepted the advice from Council and amended, and then approved, the revised Supporter Engagement Policy.

Strategic Communications Committee

The Strategic Communications Committee met on 8 November. The committee agreed the plan for media training for the new President. The committee considered the role it should play in helping deliver the Strategic Plan priorities in 2024/25, outlined potential topic areas for the Gazette in 2024, and approved the new Wikipedia page. Finally, the committee reviewed the continued growth and positivity with our various social media platforms.

Publications

Cambridge University Press (CUP)

Trustees and staff met with representatives of our publishers, Cambridge University Press (CUP), on 10 November to conduct a review of our publishing contract, which is now approaching its mid-way point. A further meeting, to agree on possible enhancements to the contract, will take place in February 2024.

Parliamentary Activities

All Party Parliamentary Group for Nutrition, Science and Health (APPG)

Our All Party Parliamentary Group for Nutrition, Science and Health (APPG) held its second meeting on 7 November in the House of Commons. The meeting, chaired by Tracey Crouch CBE MP, discussed 'Food and Mood: the impact of nutrition on cognition and mental health, dementia, Alzheimer's, and healthy ageing.