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Topic: The political economy of public health nutrition

Title: Workshop on Conflicts of Interest in Global Nutrition Research

Presentation Type: Workshop

Type of session

Interactive presentation with group work

Contributor details

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Purpose

Global nutrition intervention research has been characterised by conflicts of interest in the past couple of decades. Business Interest NGOs (BINGOs) as opposed to Public Interest NGOs (PINGOs) are increasingly involved in both nutrition advocacy and research funding. They are also in league with private foundations and the UN agencies in making room for these BINGOs in the policy making table for national nutrition programmes in both LMICs and high income countries. Nutrition scientist objectivity is now compromised across the globe due to their funding from industry. In this environment of scientific compromise, there is need for training of health care professionals on conflicts of interest in nutrition research. This workshop aims to provide a short introduction to this important topic for participants of World Nutrition Cape Town 2016.

Motivation

Technical merit

A large body of work now exists on this issue but little of it gets disseminated or discussed in nutrition meetings.

Relevance to topics listed

This session is being submitted under the theme of “The political economy of public health nutrition”. The commercially driven agenda of the food companies has deeply infiltrated the “science” of public health nutrition and there is an urgent need to alert public health nutrition actors of the dangers of this development.

Engagement of contributors

There will only be two contributors engaging with participants through facilitation of group work.

Facilitation of active participation

The group work will involve real life scenarios with judgment exercises about the nature and dangers of the conflicts of interest represented by the scenarios. The two contributors will closely facilitate the group work to help clarify any issues participants want to discuss.

Tangible outcomes

Participants attending this workshop will have a short introduction to conflicts of interest in nutrition research and thus be more alert to the dangers of compromised nutrition research in public health policy.