

To Gunnar Akner
President of the Swedish Society of Clinical Nutrition

Report 14th European Nutrition Conference – FENS2023 – Belgrade

By Armando Perez-Cueto

Background:

FENS established three working groups to discuss and publish consensus documents around improving standards in nutrition sciences. Working Group 1 focused on “Concepts and methodologies”. Working Group 2 addressed “Organisation, capabilities and funding” in relation to how research on nutrition and health is currently organised and funded in different countries and continents, its interactions among the various scientific disciplines and stakeholders (also from private sector). Working Group 3 is to focus on “External communication and public trust” in relation to public trust in nutrition science”. Each Working Group presented their work at International Congress of Nutrition 2022 in Tokyo and at the 14th European Nutrition Conference in Belgrade, in 2023.

I have been member of the Board of the Danish Nutrition Society since 2017 until 2022 when I moved to Sweden. As part of my duties in the board, I was appointed as representative on the working groups that were launched by Philip Calder, the Past-President of FENS. In 2020, during the pandemic period, I was appointed chair of WG2. That also made me part of the Steering Group and later of the Scientific Committee of the 14th European Nutrition Conference. Consequently, my participation to the Conference was covered by FENS on those grounds.

In 2022, I became the “*Professor i kost-och måltidsvetenskap*” at Umeå University, with formal inauguration on October 2023. I applied for membership to the Swedish Society of Clinical Nutrition as the recognized member of FENS. Prior to the ENC, I volunteered to represent the Society at the FENS General Assembly in case none of the Board members were attending, since I was going to be there anyway. Thus, Swedish Society of Clinical Nutrition appointed me as their representative.

Report on my Participation:

Scientific Activities:

Member of the scientific committee. I was co-chair of track 9, Nutrition Education, Consumers and Practitioners. This track had two sessions with invited guests mostly from the side of consumer behaviour, sensory and behaviour change.

Relevant for the Society, the importance of clinical nutrition at FENS should be underscored. There were 10 Symposium sessions on Nutrition across the life course, and 14 on nutrition, metabolism and chronic disease, with 5 and 8 oral sessions respectively. Additionally there were 4 symposium sessions on personalized nutrition and 4 oral sessions, that represent 47% of all the Symposium sessions (n=60).

Special Lecture – Nutrition education in the changing world 16.11.2023 The World is changing at unprecedented speed. Global warming and climate change will affect food security in the near future. It is well recognised that food and nutrition practices have an important environmental footprint, hence, the field is facing new challenges, from food crises to high dependency on AI. This lecture provided insights on integrating sustainability competences in nutrition education.	
FENS Presidential Symposium - The European nutrition research landscape: diversity and perspectives 16.11.2023 Provided a report on the activities of Working Group 2 “Organisation, capabilities and funding”, with emphasis on dealing with financial conflicts of interest, and with promoting positionality statements as alternative to promote transparency, reflexivity and dialogue within the scientific community.	
FENS Symposium Education for Behaviour Change - The impact of nudging on sustainable healthy food choices 17.11.2023 Provided evidence supporting a dietary shift for environmental issues, and how the role of nudging could be perceived as part of the puzzle. Evidence supports also the use of new defaults (very large effect size), and increasing availability, changing the menu and providing information.	
Chair of Industry organized symposium by Upfield - Plant based foods fulfilling the needs of many, not the few 14.11.2023 Example of constructive engagement between academia and private sector. I did not receive honoraria but UPFIELD made a donation to FENS instead.	

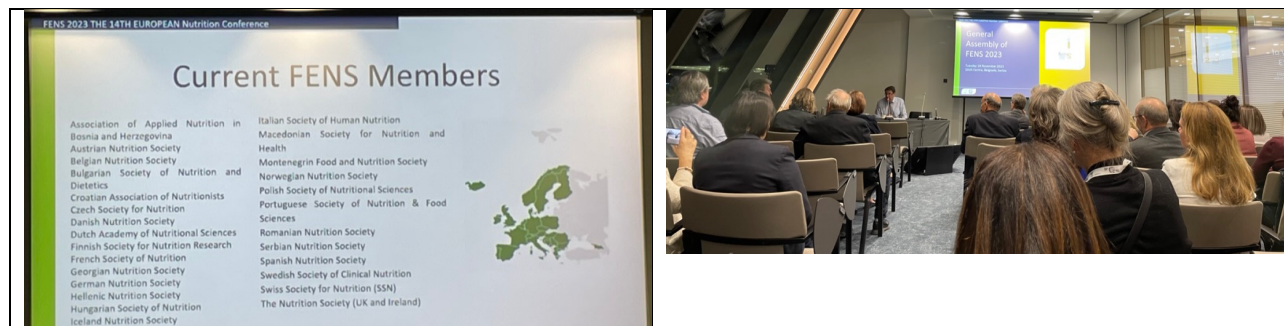
Report of the FENS General Assembly

Role: Representative of Swedish Society of Clinical Nutrition at FENS GA, 14.11.2023.

Date: Tuesday 14th of November 2023

Time: 19:30 – 21:30

Place: Room 3, Sava Centre (Conference venue)



Agenda

1. OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
 - a. PHILIP CALDER, PRESIDENT
2. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT
3. RECOGNITION OF NUTRITION SCIENTISTS DECEASED SINCE 2019
4. ACCEPTANCE OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS
5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (VIRTUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY JANUARY 2023)
7. REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE FENS CONFERENCE Sladjana Sobajic, Chair of the FENS Conference
8. DISCUSSION AND COMMENTS ON THE FENS CONFERENCE
9. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF FENS Philip Calder, President
10. REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF FENS Frank Thies, Treasurer
11. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF FENS Jacques Delarue, Secretary
12. REOPENING BIDDING FOR THE 15TH EUROPEAN NUTRITION CONFERENCE (FENS 2027) Philip Calder, President
13. THE SLATE OF NOMINATIONS FOR THE FENS BOARD Philip Calder, President
14. VOTING BY ELIGIBLE FENS MEMBERS
15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS Philip Calder, President
16. IUNS – ICN PARIS 2025 PRESENTATION Jacques Delarue, Chair of ICN 2025
17. CLOSING

There were some important issues that were discussed during the GA. Two key elements: the bid offered by the Portuguese Nutrition Society to host the 15th ENC-FENS was withdrawn, therefore the bidding process is open again. Many representatives highlighted the issue of funding from private industry, particularly food and pharmaceutical industries. At IUNS in Tokyo, there was already a large movement against accepting such funding, and it was mentioned that the Latin American Society of Nutrition (SLAN) has completely banned private sector's sponsorship for their congresses, setting the bar relatively high. It was noted that this is a matter that will affect future ENC.

Regarding working groups, Kirsti Laitinen from Finland was appointed member of the Nordic Task Force. No representative of Sweden has been ever appointed to the Task Force since its inception four years ago.

I voted in favour of Kirsti Laitinen, and also for the other candidates as described in the minutes that will be circulated later.

I hope this report covers your requirements, otherwise please kindly let me know where or what to elaborate.

Armando Perez-Cueto,
Professor i kost-och måltidsvetenskap