



Nutrition and Health: An Introduction

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Preface

The goals of this introductory text, *Nutrition and Health*, are twofold: first, to provide basic information and concepts of nutrition, including basic knowledge of the foods that provide nutrients and non-nutrients (phytochemicals); and, secondly, to enable each student to examine his/her food habits, food beliefs, and nutrient intakes, so that improved food habits will promote health and prevent the common chronic diseases of technologically advanced societies, such as in the US and Canada. These learning exposures and practical experiences should serve the needs of students. Each student should soon recognize that new knowledge about eating practices, processed foods, non-nutrients in plant foods, nutrient functions, and nutrition-disease relationships is advancing at a rapid rate. New findings from research that capture media attention are reported daily. This text attempts to set the stage for continuing learning by students in this interesting field of nutrition.

The essential contents of this introductory book have been offered in a basic nutrition course at the University of North Carolina for more than twenty years. Previous students have offered useful suggestions about the course and its content. Based on these experiences, basic college courses in biology and chemistry have become prerequisites. Constructive comments from users of this book are welcome.

This text consists of four sections: Social and Behavioral Aspects of Nutrition; Nutrients in the Body; Nutrition through the Life Cycle; and Nutrition-Disease Relationships. Recent research findings and new interpretations are provided when appropriate. Throughout the text an epidemiologic or population approach is taken.

The text deals with: (1) the general aspects of foods and nutrition in the context of society and culture; (2) the scientific aspects of nutrients, including their digestion from foods, absorption, utilization in cellular or tissue functions, storage, and excretion; (3) the requirements for nutrients across the life cycle and in physical activities; and (4) diet-disease relationships, including how the patterns of eating contribute to the etiologies of the common chronic diseases of our society. In order to master these broad areas of knowledge, students need a background in basic modern biology and chemistry, including some understanding of the structures of organic molecules.

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Abbreviations

A list of abbreviations commonly used in this text follows:

aa (AA) = amino acid	CT = computerized tomography (or computerized axial tomography)
ADL = activities of daily living	CV = coefficient of variation
AI = Adequate Intake	CVD = cardiovascular disease
AT = active transport	cyto = cytosol (cytoplasm)
ATP = adenosine triphosphate	DIT = diet-induced thermogenesis
BEE = basal energy expenditure	dL = deciliter
BMC = bone mineral content	DM = diabetes mellitus
BMD = bone mineral density	DBP = vitamin D-binding protein
BMI = body mass index	DRI = Dietary Reference Intake
BMR = basal metabolic rate	DXA = dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry
BV = biological value	EAR = estimated average requirement
C or c = cholesterol; or cup; or carbon (capitol C only)	EFA = essential fatty acid
Ca = calcium	EHC = enterohepatic circulation
Ca:P = calcium:phosphorus (dietary) ratio	EIT = exercise-induced thermogenesis
CA = cancer	en = energy
CAD = coronary artery disease (see CHD)	EPA = eicosapentaenoic acid
Carbo = carbohydrates	ER = endoplasmic reticulum
CE = cholesterol ester (fatty acid)	ERT = estrogen replacement therapy (see HRT)
C-H = carbon-hydrogen bond	FA = fatty acid
CHD = coronary heart disease (see CAD)	FAD = flavin adenine dinucleotide
CHO = carbohydrate molecules (various)	FAS = fetal alcohol syndrome
chylo(s) = chylomicron(s)	Fe = iron
Cl = chlorine or chloride	FSH = follicle-stimulating hormone
C-N = carbon-nitrogen bond	g = gram
CoA = coenzyme A	g/kcal = grams per kilocalorie (see nutrient density)
CRBP = cellular retinol-binding protein	

GH = growth hormone	oz = ounce
GI = gastrointestinal	P = phosphorus
GM = genetically modified (foods)	PBM = peak bone mass
GnRH = gonadotropin-releasing hormone	PC = phosphatidyl choline (lecithin)
GRAS = generally recognized as safe	PDV = percent daily value
GTT = glucose tolerance test	PFA = polyunsaturated fatty acid
H = hydrogen	PGE = prostaglandin E series
HBP = high blood pressure	pH = negative log of the hydrogen ion concentration
HFCS = high-fructose corn syrup	PIR = poverty index ratio
HDL = high density lipoprotein	PL = phospholipids
HP/DP = health promotion and disease prevention	pro = protein
H-P-A = hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (axis)	P/S = ratio of polyunsaturated to saturated FAs
H-P-O = hypothalamic-pituitary-ovarian (axis)	PSMF = protein-sparing modified fast
H-R = hormone-receptor (interaction)	PTH = parathyroid hormone
HRT = hormone replacement therapy (see ERT)	QFFQ = quantitative food frequency questionnaire
IBW = ideal body weight	RA = retinoic acid
IDDM = insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus	RBC = red blood cell
IF = intrinsic factor	RBP = retinol-binding protein
IGF = insulin-like growth factor	RCT = randomized clinical trial
IU = International Unit	RD = Registered Dietitian
K = potassium	RDA = Recommended Dietary Allowance
kcal = kilocalories	REE = resting energy expenditure (see BMR)
kcal/g = kilocalories per gram (see Atwater equivalents)	SCAA = sulfur-containing amino acids
kg = kilogram	SCFA = short-chain fatty acid
kj = kilojoule	SDA = Seventh-day Adventist
LBM = lean body mass	SERM = selective estrogen receptor modulator (drug)
LCD = low calorie diet	SES = socioeconomic status
LDL = low density lipoprotein	SFA = saturated fatty acid
LH = luteinizing hormone	T₃ = triiodothyronine (with 3 iodine atoms)
LOV = lactoovovegetarian	T₄ = thyroxin (with 4 iodine atoms)
m = meter	TC = total cholesterol
MCT = medium-chain triglycerides	TC:HDL-C = total cholesterol to HDL-cholesterol ratio
MET = metabolic energy unit	TG = triglycerides
MFA = monounsaturated fatty acid	TIA = transient ischemic attack (mini-stroke)
mg = milligram	TPN = total parenteral nutrition
mL = milliliter	UFA = unsaturated fatty acid
N = nitrogen	UL = Upper Tolerable Limit of safety
Na = sodium	µg = microgram
NAD = nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide	US RDI = United States Recommended Dietary Intake (for food and supplement labeling)
NIDDM = non-insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus	UV or UVL = ultraviolet light
NPU = net protein utilization	VLCD = very low calorie diet
O = oxygen	VLDL = very low density lipoprotein
OAA = oxaloacetate (oxaloacetic acid)	W-H (WHR) = waist to hip ratio
ox = oxidation	WIC = Women, Infants, and Children

Organizational Acronyms

A list of acronyms commonly used in this text follows:

ACN = American College of Nutrition

ADA = American Dietetics Association (and other orgs)

AHA = American Heart Association

AMA = American Medical Association

APHA = American Public Health Association

ARS = Agriculture Research Service (USDA)

ASCN = American Society for Clinical Nutrition

ASNS = American Society for Nutritional Sciences

CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

DHHS = Department of Health and Human Services

FAO = Food and Agricultural Organization (UN)

FDA = Food and Drug Administration

HFCS = Household Food Consumption Survey (USDA)

LRC = Lipid Research Clinics Program (NIH)

MRFIT = Multiple Risk Factor Intervention Trial (NIH)

NAS = National Academy of Sciences

NCEP = National Cholesterol Education Program (NIH)

NCHS = National Center for Health Statistics

NHANES = National Health and Nutrition Examination
Survey (PHS)

NIH = National Institutes of Health

NRC = National Research Council (arm of NAS)

UN = United Nations

USDA = US Department of Agriculture

