# FOODS, NUTRITION AND SPORTS PERFORMANCE

An International Scientific Consensus organized by Mars, Incorporated with International Olympic Committee patronage

Edited by
CLYDE WILLIAMS
and
JOHN T. DEVLIN



# Foods, Nutrition and Sports Performance

An International Scientific Consensus held 4–6 February 1991 and organized by Mars, Incorporated, with International Olympic Committee patronage

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### **Preface**

The material in this book is the peer reviewed proceedings of the International Scientific Consensus Conference on Foods, Nutrition and Sports Performance. It first appeared as a special supplement to the *Journal of Sports Sciences* in the Summer 1991. The supplement is in huge demand and reflects the growing interest in the links between nutrition and sports performance.

Our aim in reproducing the proceedings in book form is to make it more widely available, especially to students, teachers, coaches and dietitians. One of its unique features is that the nutritional recommendations are based on the results of research studies thoroughly scrutinized by all the contributing authors and experts in sports nutrition who attended the Conference. Therefore, the implementation of the recommended nutritional strategies during the preparation for, the participation in, and the recovery from sport and exercise can be undertaken with confidence. In addition, the information and insights contained in this book provide researchers with a solid base from which they can launch new, well controlled research studies in sports nutrition.

It is our hope that the interest in this subject will continue to grow, so much so that it will be necessary to convene a second International Scientific Consensus Conference on Foods, Nutrition and Sports Performance before the end of this decade.

Clyde Williams Loughborough University

## Introduction

This Consensus Conference on Foods, Nutrition and Sports Performance held in Lausanne on 4–6 February 1991, and under the patronage of the Medical Commission of the International Olympic Committee, brought together leading international scientists to review the current state of knowledge regarding the role of nutrition in improving sports performance. Under the direction of the Scientific Co-chairmen, scientists, widely recognized as experts in their respective fields, presented reviews of current scientific knowledge in their areas of expertise. Seven additional research scientists and four delegates of the International Olympic Committee were also invited to participate as discussants. The list of participants represented fifteen individual countries in four continents.

All participants received, in advance, copies of the scientific manuscripts for review prior to the Consensus Conference. They were requested to prepare written comments to be discussed at the meeting. The topics covered included recommendations for optimum carbohydrate, protein, fat, total energy, fluid and electrolyte, and vitamin and mineral intakes to maximize sports performance. The topics of carbohydrate and fluid intake included a review of the general state of current knowledge in the area (descriptive), and a separate discussion of the practical application of this knowledge in the training regimen (prescriptive).

Although the primary focus of this Consensus Conference was centred on optimum food intakes for the competitive athlete, the recommendations made in the following papers may be applicable to the recreational athlete as well. This is especially true for the individuals engaged in high-intensity forms of endurance exercise, in whom the higher intakes of carbohydrates, protein and fluids may enhance physical performance and possibly decrease the risk of injury. General recommendations can be made regarding those dietary modifications shown to improve various classes of sports performance (e.g. team sports, endurance sports, body

building), but advice for the individual athlete cannot be made without specific information on the type, duration and intensity of the athletic event.

Concern was raised during the Conference about the limited data available on female athletes. Additional research is clearly needed better to define optimum training and food intake regimens to achieve desired body weight goals, and to limit the risks of reducing the body stores of calcium and iron, in particular.

For two productive days the manuscripts were individually presented, and open discussions were enjoined by all the participants. Only after the modifications recommended by the group had been incorporated into a revised manuscript was a final version approved for publication.

The Consensus Statement (p. xv) was reached after full participant discussion. A final draft of this statement was circulated prior to its presentation by the Scientific Co-chairmen at the International Olympic Committee headquarters in Lausanne on 6 February 1991. In the presence of Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee and IOC delegates, Prince Alexandre de Merode, Chairman of the IOC Medical Commission, introduced the Consensus Statement by expressing his gratitude and support for this Conference on Foods, Nutrition and Sports Performance. This marks an important milestone in officially recognizing the important role of food intake in optimizing athletic performance, and reflects the positive message so urgently needed after the recent pre-occupation of the Medical Commission with illicit drug use. As stated by Prince de Merode, this Conference and its proceedings set the precedent for a new era of co-operation and mutual support between the International and National Olympic Committees and the scientific community leading to a better definition of proper nutrition for optimum sports performance.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The participants gratefully acknowledge the support of Mars, Incorporated in convening this important conference.

# Foods, nutrition and sports performance: final consensus statement

Diet significantly influences athletic performance. An adequate diet, in terms of quantity and quality, before, during and after training and competition will maximize performance. In the optimum diet for most sports, carbohydrate is likely to contribute about 60–70% of total energy intake and protein about 12%, with the remainder coming from fat.

Total energy intake must be raised to meet the increased energy expended during training and maintenance of energy balance can be assessed by monitoring body weight, body composition and food intake. Where there is a need to reduce body weight this should be done gradually, and not immediately before competition.

In athletic events of high intensity and long duration (such as multiple sprint sports and endurance sports) performance is generally limited by carbohydrate availability. High carbohydrate diets (even in excess of two-thirds of total energy) maximize carbohydrate (glycogen) stores and improve performance in such activity. A high carbohydrate diet is also necessary to sustain high-intensity training on a daily basis. After each bout of exercise, the diet should contain sufficient carbohydrate to replenish the glycogen stores and to maximize subsequent performance. The requirement for sugars and starches, in both solid and liquid forms, will vary, depending on the timing and nature of the physical activity.

Increased fluid intake is necessary to avoid dehydration, and may improve performance during prolonged exercise, especially when sweat loss is high. These fluids may contain some carbohydrate, the concentration of which will be dictated by both duration of exercise and climatic conditions. If exercise is of short duration and sweat losses are small, the replacement of salts can be achieved from a normal food intake after exercise.

Protein requirements are higher in individuals involved in physical training programmes than in inactive people. However, most athletes already consume sufficient protein as a consequence of their increased energy intakes.

Fat consumption should be no greater than 30% of total energy intake. Supplementary fat beyond this intake is not recommended for training or competition because the body is able to mobilize its large reserve of this energy store. Except where there is a need to reduce body fat content, it is important to maintain these stores by ingesting sufficient energy between periods of exercise.

Vitamin supplements are not necessary for athletes eating a diet adequate in respect of quality and quantity. Of the minerals and trace elements essential for health, particular attention should be paid to iron and calcium status in those individuals who may be at risk.

There is no good evidence to support the use of other nutritional supplements, including those commonly assumed by athletes to have ergogenic effects.

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# Limits of energy turnover in relation to physical performance, achievement of energy balance on a daily basis

Klaas R. Westerterp and Wim H.M. Saris

#### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The main component of the daily energy turnover (ADMR = average daily metabolic rate) in the average subject is the energy expenditure for maintenance processes, usually called basal metabolic rate (BMR). This is the energy expenditure for the ongoing processes in the body in the resting state, when no food is digested and no energy is needed for temperature regulation, i.e. in the post-absorptive state in a thermoneutral environment. BMR is usually expressed as a function of body size to allow comparisons between subjects and even between species. The remaining components of ADMR are the diet induced thermogenesis (DIT) and the energy expenditure for (physical) activity (EEA). DIT is a fraction of energy intake of about 10% depending on the macronutrient composition of the food consumed. EEA is the most variable component of the daily energy turnover, ranging between an average value of 25-30% up to 75% in extreme situations during heavy sustained exercise. Table 1.1 shows some examples of energy intake in endurance, strength and team sport athletes.

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