

Introduction to the third issue of World Nutrition for 2023

If you get a chance to spend some time with a genius, you'll learn more in a short time than in taking an entire course. I had the amazing luck to be mentored by Michael Latham (my professor at Cornell) and Hans Rosling (who I divided an office with at Uppsala University for several years), but also was generously given time by other extraordinary experts who have now passed on like John Mason, David Sanders, and Urban Jonsson. Twenty-five years ago, Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan generously spent time with me at his institute in Tamil Nadu, India. I am saddened to report that this great man, who has done so much to end hunger and malnutrition in his home country and around the world, died two days ago at the age of 98. This [short video](#) from 2018 tells a bit about his life and work.

In this issue of World Nutrition ([Greiner](#)), we all will now get a little vicarious time with geniuses in the field of public health nutrition who are still with us, in particular Alan Berg, as well as respondents to his questions. Anyone working on global problems of malnutrition in low-income settings is familiar with Alan's work, and has likely been indirectly if not directly influenced by it. One aspect of his genius has always been to challenge and draw out the best ideas from the wisest and yet most practical and down to earth experts in his field. (He calls them, not nutrition scientists, but "nutrition engineers.") Here we present what 11 of them have provided to World Nutrition in response to three seminal questions Alan asked of us a couple months ago. Swaminathan says in the video above that in about five years (from now) we will certainly have the tools needed to end hunger and malnutrition. Alan, and the responses he has elicited here, suggest HOW that might best be accomplished.

Readers are welcome, both to respond to these and to add their own perspectives and responses to his questions. You can write directly to me at the email address below or to submit a letter to the editor or commentary [here](#).

This issue of World Nutrition includes five important research papers. First, [Rana et al.](#) document the recent devastating inflation of food prices in Malawi, making a healthy diet out of reach for all the wealthiest group. Next, in a study out of Türkiye, [Kahriman and Kaya](#) find that overweight and obese participants had lower levels of intuitive eating and mindful eating, while emotional eating levels were higher. [Kokilaa et al.](#) find that knowledge of junk food was high among students at a medical school in India, but practices did not reflect this, nor did current levels of overweight. In a large purposive sample of young high-income Indians, [Mediratta and Mathur](#) compare the results obtained from using two international diet quality scales based on 24-hour recalls. They find that, based on one of these scales, 88% had a moderate risk of nutritional inadequacy and 11% were at a high risk. Finally, in a qualitative study conducted in rural Tanzania, [Craig et al.](#) explore parents' use of non-prescribed (largely traditional) medicines in response to infants' colic-like symptoms during the exclusive breastfeeding period.

[Kanjiani and Qasim](#) present an explanation for something likely to be counterintuitive for us nutritionists – the need to avoid both oral and intravenous feeding of people at the end-of-life stage. Then, in a scathing letter to the editor, [Ackerman Aredes](#) explains how FAO is failing to listen to the NGOs and civil society groups included in its Committee on World Food Security.

However, she does not agree with the claim of a Devex journalist that the CFS is not fit for purpose. The risk of further corporate capture of FAO is too great if the CFS, a rare phenomenon in the UN System, is scrapped. Finally, [Ben-Dak](#) reviews George Kent's seminal book "Caring About Hunger," including Kent's three pivotal considerations: the values of community self-reliance, timely help to organized groups within the locality, and partnership instead of domination in economic arrangements.

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