

### P15 Design and Pilot Testing of a Cultural Appropriate Evaluation Tool for Elementary School Children's Food Preferences

Tania Robert, BS, [taniarobert@gmail.com](mailto:taniarobert@gmail.com), Inversiones AMPM, San José, San José, 573-2300, Costa Rica; P. Robert, BS, Rostipollos; G. Masis, MS, Hospital Nacional de Niños; M. Zúñiga, MS, Universidad de Costa Rica; X. Fernández, PhD; C. Aragón, MS, Washington State University

**Objective:** To design and pilot test a food preferences evaluation tool in children from first to third grade.

**Target audience:** Children from first to third grade at a public school in San José, Costa Rica.

**Theory, Prior Research, Rationale:** Theory of psychoanalysis-using games as a technic for expressing true desires and feelings of children.

**Description:** Food preferences play an important role in the development of eating habits. In order to better assess food preferences, a cultural and age appropriate innovative instrument was designed. This tool contains 55 foods and is applied to the child through a game strategy. The selection of the foods was based on the results of previous investigations on food frequency consumption. The food items in the formulary were colored photographs with its name above, which were carefully identified to the child before they started selecting their favorite ones.

**Evaluation:** The instrument was applied by trained personnel (n=310) and in order to measure the level of preference of each item, a color and numeric (0, 1, 2) scale was established. The main limitation of the tool was selecting the foods to include in each mealtime and finding a clear photograph to illustrate each item.

**Conclusions and Implications:** This is a first approach towards the evaluation of food preferences of Latin American children with a unique delivery method. Next steps include psychometric testing and measures validity and reliability. This tool can be used as an input for future investigations related to children's food preferences and eating habits.

**Funding:** None.

### P16 Moving from Good to Great: Increasing Healthy Food Access in the Faith-Based Community through Food Hubs

Khin Mar Cho, PhD, [kc458@cornell.edu](mailto:kc458@cornell.edu), Cornell University Cooperative Extension, New York City, 40 East 34th Street, Suite 606, New York, NY 10016; C. Parker, MS; D. J. Tobias, PhD

**Objective:** The Cornell University Cooperative Extension (CUCE) New York City Faith-Based Food Hubs program is designed to increase access to New York farm products by Faith-Based Organizations through direct marketing MarketMaker program. MarketMaker is an online resource (<http://nymarketmaker.cornell.edu>) provides access to over 2000 New York farmers and their available produce.

**Target audience:** Members of Faith-Based Organizations.

**Theory, Prior Research, Rationale:** Hands-on interactive workshops.

**Description:** Food Hubs create distribution and networking locations for Faith-Based Organizations to receive fresh produce from NY farmers. Each Food Hub creates a network with 6-8 additional churches. The "Hub" church collects the food orders, negotiates with the producers on price and delivery and organizes the volunteers every week to unload and distribute through the network. CUCE-NYC provides instruction and support to the "Hub" churches and assists the "Hub" administrators in scheduling and managing deliveries.

**Evaluation:** Food Hub administrators and participating faith-based leaders received free MarketMaker training and nutrition education by CUCE-NYC. They ordered different variety of seasonal vegetables and fruits for their congregation, feeding programs and community on a weekly basis. The purchasing volume per Hub per week was \$700-\$1,000 and over \$1,500 at the time of Thanksgiving. Food Hubs administrators and participating faith-based leaders reported that they are very satisfied with freshness, taste, aroma, and price of fruits and vegetables they purchased direct from farmers.

**Conclusions and Implications:** Faith-based leaders now realize the nutritional value of locally grown fresher and flavorful foods through direct marketing. Based on this successful initiative Faith-based Food Hubs program will be expanded in all five boroughs with small funding from SNAP-Ed.

**Funding:** Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education, Cornell University Cooperative Extension–New York City.

### P17 Design Considerations in Implementing an Online Master of Public Health in Nutrition Degree Program

Patricia Beffa-Negrini, PhD, RD, [patsy@nutrition.umass.edu](mailto:patsy@nutrition.umass.edu), University of Massachusetts Amherst, Department of Nutrition, 100 Holdsworth Way, Amherst, MA 01003; N. L. Cohen, PhD, RD, LDN

**Objective:** To share how an online MPH in Nutrition program (OL-MPHN) was designed, marketed, and managed; and share student satisfaction outcomes.

**Target audience:** Dietitians; other health professionals.

**Theory, Prior Research, Rationale:** The public health nutrition field lacks adequate numbers of trained professionals. Thus, a fully online, part-time OL-MPHN was designed. Few evaluations of online nutrition curriculum models describe design and management features.

**Description:** The OL-MPHN follows an accredited curriculum including coursework in public health (15 credits) and nutrition (29 credits). Nutrition courses were designed following the Quality Matters™ Rubric to include clear directions; assure that course objectives, assignments, and assessments aligned; and provide accessible course elements. Classes feature asynchronous discussions, "live" webinars with archived video access, collaborative group projects, and mentored individual research and field