Each year, the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) holds its international conference. It is the premier event for worldwide professionals working at the research, practice, and policy nexus related to nutrition education and behavioral change. The SNEB conferences are a vital platform to discuss the transformational power that nutrition education and behavior change solutions, can have to promote equity, public and planetary health, and ultimately contribute to sustainable development. In this editorial, it is my great pleasure and honor to extend to you, SNEB members, potential members, and partners from all parts of the world, a warm invitation to fully engage and participate during the preparations of the 2023 SNEB Conference that will be held in Washington D.C.

Let’s get acquainted with the 2023 SNEB conference theme, “Empowering Food Citizens: Together for Nutrition and Food Systems Transformation. Re-connect, Re-nourish, Re-inspire.” This theme capitalizes on SNEB’s expertise for promoting effective nutrition education and behavior through research, policy, and practice, and invites all of us to come together to identify and propose the most powerful ways to empower food citizens, who must be at the heart of nutrition and food systems transformation.

In 2020, the whole world came to a halt due to the pandemic. COVID-19 unprecedentedly arrived on top of growing malnutrition, environmental and food systems challenges, and reaffirmed that our world suffers of unacceptable food and nutrition inequalities. The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021 report indicated that almost 40% of the world’s population cannot afford a healthy diet, putting them in a vulnerable situation. A situation that affects all of us, because we are all connected.

This urgent need to re-connect, re-nourish, and re-inspire pushed everyone’s effort to work toward actionable “pathways for transitioning food systems to protect human and planetary health,” and several opportunities have been put in place to ensure an active and meaningful participation of all people. Two remarkable examples are the past 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health to be held in September 2022.

The 2023 SNEB conference will be also the perfect platform to build upon, share, and apply new developments, evidence, and expertise to better understand and influence the interconnections between food-related behaviors, food systems, nutrition education research, and practice approaches and policies for healthier diets. At this conference, we can work together toward maximizing the multiplier effect of nutrition education and behavior for ensuring that no one is left behind, and that everybody, from policy makers to producers to consumers, is empowered to become active food citizens, real partners, and thus, drivers of change.

This 2023 conference will also be the place to unleash, discover and/or live what makes SNEB unique. Without a doubt, its uniqueness comes from each of its members. SNEB people, through its specialized Divisions inspire others with innovative approaches and cultivate strong connections to nourish each other’s professional growth. You will not leave the conference without feeling the solidarity everywhere!

So, are you ready to live the SNEB 2023 conference experience? We hope so and urge you to save the date for Washington D.C., July 19-23, 2023. The call for programs is open with a due date in early October, and the first deadline to submit an abstract is in January. We also ask you to encourage others to share their work and attend the conference. For more details visit www.sneb.org/2023.

Enjoy this journey and I look forward to seeing you in Washington, D.C.!

Yenory Hernández-Garbanzo, PhD
President-Elect, Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior

REFERENCES


