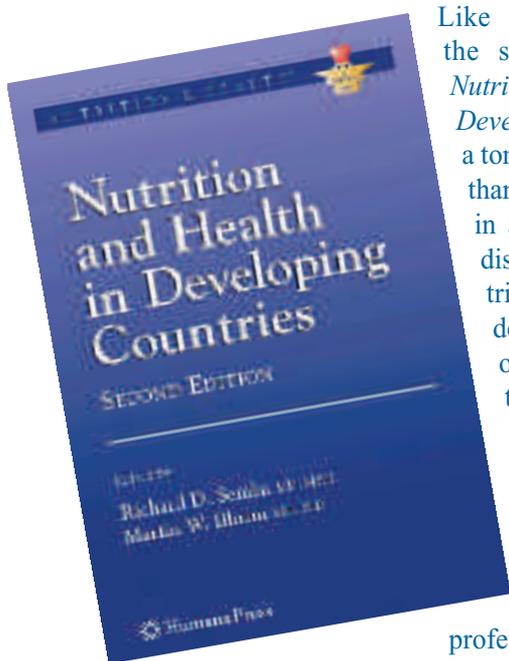


Publications

Editor's note: SIGHT AND LIFE presents recent publications which may be of particular interest to our readers. However, no publications other than SIGHT AND LIFE publications are available from us, nor do we have any privileged access to them.

Nutrition and Health in Developing Countries



Like the first edition, the second edition of *Nutrition and Health in Developing Countries* – a tome to which no less than 45 leading minds in a diverse range of disciplines have contributed – is set to define a new level of understanding in this important area of policy, research and programming. Intended for policy makers, nutritionists, students, scientists and professionals, the book

provides the most recent and up-to-date knowledge regarding major health and nutritional problems in developing countries, presented to facilitate an integrated approach to health research, programs, and policy.

The book begins with a historical overview of the idea of nutrition and development and goes on to explore a) the major health indicators in developing countries; b) major infectious diseases in which nutrition plays a role; c) the general problem of malnutrition and specific micronutrient deficiencies; and d) new emerging issues in countries where a nutrition transition has given rise to health problems such as obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. New chapters in the book's final section contain special topics relating to humanitarian emergencies, including a case study of the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004, food in humanitarian relief, food policy, the emerging role of supermarkets in developing countries, homestead food production, aging, ethics, and the adverse impact of parental tobacco use on child health in poor families.

Yet, while the book clearly focuses on the problems in developing countries, editors Dr Richard D. Semba (the W. Richard Green Professor of Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine) and Dr Martin W. Bloem (Chief, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS Policy, United Nations World Food Programme) recognize that, as a result of globalization, the distinction in health and nutrition problems between the developed and the less-developed world has become less clear. Emerging diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and obesity, have revealed the connectivity – and consequent increased vulnerability – of the world.

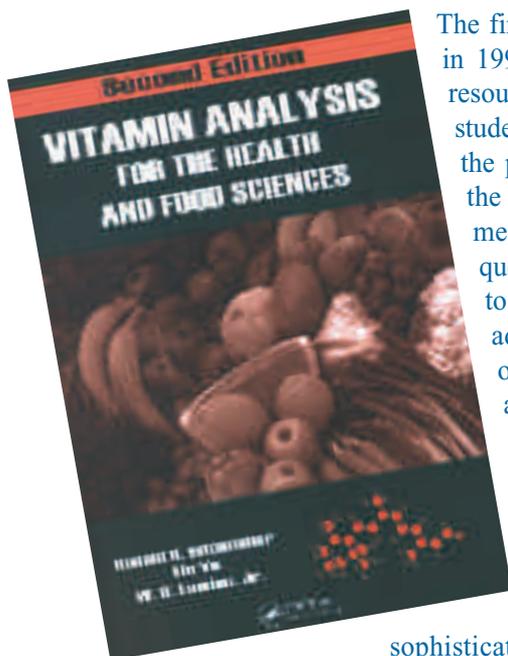
As readers of the previous edition know, what is characteristic of the volume is its underlying conviction that global health and nutrition problems can only be solved through a more integrated, multidisciplinary approach to better understand the various levels of causality and interactions between determinants. The editors acknowledge in the book's preface the inherent tension in combining diverse disciplines; nonetheless, the book powers on with insightful contributions from academics and professionals steeped in the fields of clinical nutrition, medicine, immunology, infectious disease, epidemiology, public health nutrition, anthropology, health policy, economics, and disaster planning.

For more information, please visit the website of the publisher, <http://www.springer.com>.

Vitamin Analysis for the Health and Food Sciences

(Second Edition)

Vitamin Analysis for the Health and Food Sciences, by Ronald R. Eitenmiller, Lin Ye and W. O. Landen, Jr., is a comprehensive and up-to-date reference on the methods of vitamin analysis applicable to foods, supplements, and pharmaceuticals. With a uniform, easy-to-use format, the volume provides the tools to efficiently make decisions on the appropriate analytical approach to saving time and effort in the lab.



The first edition, published in 1999, was written as a resource for the training of students and analysts in the proper application of the best vitamin assay methods and the frequently required efforts to improve, develop, or adapt existing methods to meet specific analytical needs. This second edition highlights the advances in vitamin assay methodology and emphasizes the use of improved and

sophisticated instrumentation, including the recent applications and impact of liquid chromatography-mass spectrometry (LC-MS) on vitamin analysis. Detailed tables are presented for the vitamins for which LC is the best approach, describing the milestones that led the way to current methods as well as significant publications.

Stressing that a thorough understanding of the chemistry of each compound is needed to effectively analyze it, each chapter is devoted to a particular vitamin and begins with a brief review of its uniqueness and its role in metabolism, along with tabular information on spectral properties. It also details the commonly used analytical and regulatory methods for each vitamin. Each chapter also includes a methods section that provides a summary of commonly used and available handbook and regulatory methods, discussing in detail several of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) International methods.

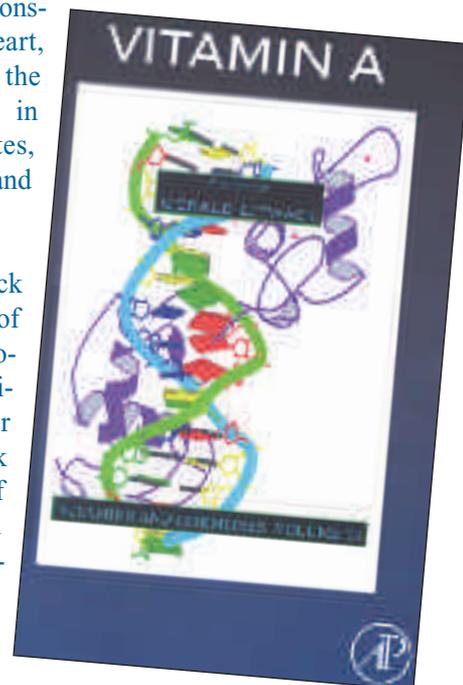
For more information, please visit the website of the publisher, <http://www.crcpress.com>.

Vitamin A: Vitamins and Hormones, Volume 75

The *Vitamins and Hormones* series was first published by Academic Press in 1943 on what were then the distinct subjects of vitamins and hormones. Today, the editorial focus reflects expertise in the field of hormone action, vitamin action, X-ray crystal structure, physiology, and enzyme mechanisms. Nonetheless, it still maintains its hallmark characteristic of providing comprehensive reviews on the structure and function of biologically active molecules like hormones and vitamins by leading experts in this and related disciplines.

This 75th volume of the series presents a review of the modern aspects of the retinoic acid receptor and its relatives as well as the roles of vitamin A in development and differentiation, and its activity in certain tissues and in disease states. The initial chapters provide information on receptors and signaling pathways, while the later chapters discuss development and differentiation, touching on vitamin A-storing cells and studies on compartmental analysis and metabolism. Further chapters elaborate on the regulation of antibody responses, the skin, the heart, therapeutics, and the effects of vitamin A in various disease states, such as HIV/AIDS and emphysema.

Editor Gerald Litwack has been the Chair of Pharmacology at Thomas Jefferson University since 1991. Dr Litwack, whose work has been in the area of mechanisms of steroid receptor action involving especially the glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid receptors, immunophi, is also Deputy Director and Associate Director for Basic Science of the Jefferson Cancer Center.

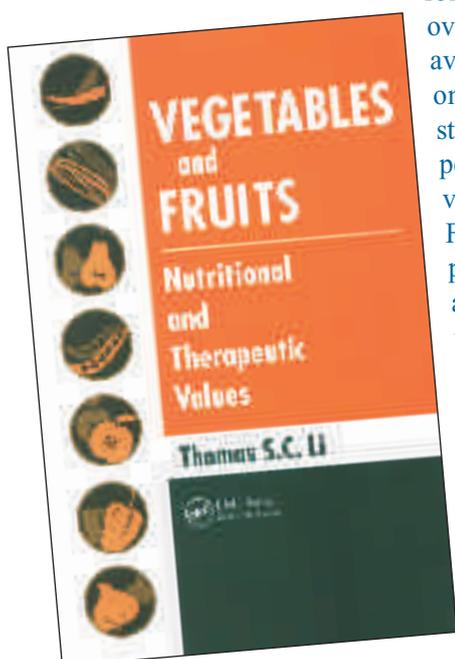


For more information, please visit the website of the publisher, <http://www.elsevier.com>.

Vegetables and Fruits: Nutritional and Therapeutic Values

A trip to the neighbourhood fruit and vegetable market stands be far more meaningful with a copy of Thomas S.C. Li's book, *Vegetables and Fruits: Nutritional and Therapeutic Values*. As the title suggests, the book contains comprehensive information on over 100 species of each these two food groups.

This important book fills a gap in the knowledge of the general public, who may know about the healthful properties of vegetables and fruits, but may not realize that some contain more than just nutritional value – they may contain therapeutic compounds that are beneficial to consumers. Li begins his volume with a general introduction on essential human nutritional values,



followed by an overview of currently available information on the major constituents and therapeutic values of the vegetables and fruits. Following chapters present the vitamin and mineral content of the featured foods and how their use can protect or improve human health.

Researchers, manufacturers, and producers will find in the

book easy access to information on vegetables and fruits, which is clearly laid out in user-friendly tables. The author, however, notes that the book is intended as a reference and not to make specific recommendations on the use of vegetables and fruits in place of a physician's advice.

For more information, please visit the website of the publisher, <http://www.crcpress.com>.

The State of the World's Children 2008

Child Survival is the theme of UNICEF's *The State of the World's Children 2008* report. This is a timely reminder by Executive Director Ann M. Veneman of the fact that while, in recent years, the total number of annual deaths among under-five children has fallen below 10 million – a 60% drop in global child mortality from the rate in 1960 – it remains unacceptable that 9.7 million still died in 2006, especially when many of these deaths are preventable.

According to the Inter-agency Group for Child Mortality Estimation, countries in every region of the world have made considerable progress in reducing mortality among children under five years of age since 1990. Nonetheless, over 60 countries are making insufficient or no progress toward the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of reducing the rate of child mortality by two-thirds by 2015 (MDG 4). Of

these, 75% are in Africa, where previously recorded declines in some African countries have been reversed by HIV and AIDS.

Achieving the MDGs remains a formidable challenge, and efforts need to be stepped up to make and sustain impacts across the various goals. In addition to reducing child mortality, these include reducing poverty and hunger; improving maternal health; combating HIV and AIDS, malaria and other major diseases; increasing access to and use of improved water and sanitation; and sustainably providing affordable essential drugs.

Echoing a series of articles on nutrition in the scientific journal, *The Lancet*, earlier this year, the report's authors highlight the fact that simple, reliable and affordable interventions with the potential to save the lives of millions of children are readily available – the challenge is ensuring these interventions reach those who most need them. The report also emphasizes the need to involve local communities to generate demand for quality health care and reach marginalized and remote populations.

A key message of the report is UNICEF's optimism in the innovative public-private partnerships now widely being established. Such partnerships, UNICEF believes, hold great promise for advancing progress toward the MDGs by coordinating the activities and pooling the knowledge of various sectors and stakeholders.

The report is available for download on the internet at <http://www.unicef.org/sowc08/>.

