

NEWS

NEW NUTRITION DIRECTOR



Cynthia Mgijima has recently been appointed to the position of Director of Nutrition at the National Department of Health in Pretoria.

Since October 1996, she has held the post of Deputy Director of Health Facility-Based Nutrition Interventions and has been involved in the nutrition field since 1977.

Her educational achievements include a Diploma in Home Economics (University of Swaziland - 1977), a Bachelor of Science degree (University of Maryland - 1981), a Masters degree in Public Health (Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine - 1989) as well as a certificate in Nutritional Anthropology and Communication (University of Indonesia - 1995).

Mgijima is married with two children and speaks English, Siswati, Zulu and Xhosa.

The *SAJCN* would like to take this opportunity and congratulate Mrs Mgijima on her appointment and wish her the very best for the enormous challenges and responsibility associated with her new position.

ITANA 2002

The Pan-African Conference on Information Technology in the

Advancement of Nutrition in Africa will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 21-25 July.

The event at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre will focus on:

- Empowering of African nutrition professionals through IT
- Connectivity and communication in Africa
- IT and networking in nutrition
- IT in nutrition training
- Useful nutrition computer programmes

There is further information on the conference website at www.itana2002.org.

The Advisory and Scientific Committee can be contacted through Professor Demetre Labadarios at Stellenbosch University, tel: (021) 938 9259; fax: (021) 933 2991 or email: demetre@maties.sun.ac.za

AMERICAN NUTRITION WEEK

Nutrition Week will be held in San Diego from 23-27 February next year and be hosted by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, the American College of Nutrition, the American Society for Clinical Nutrition, and the North American Association for the Study of Obesity.

Nutrition Week is composed of non-profit, membership-based, scientific, educational and research-oriented nutrition associations and societies and focuses on state-of-the-art clinical approaches and research findings. It will be modelled after the successful Digestive Diseases Week.

The multi-disciplinary topics will include: obesity, nutrition and chronic diseases; neuropsychology; parenteral and enteral nutrition support; micronutrients, phytoestrogens, nutraceuticals and alternative therapies.

For further details, contact the ASPEN

Director, Adrian Nickel, at +1-301-587 6315 or visit the conference website at www.nutritioncare.org.

NATIONAL FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY AND SAVCG REPORT

These reports are available at- www.sahealthinfo.org and www.sun.ac.za.

SOY LITERATURE SUMMARY OUT

Specialised Protein Products recently published a 55-page peer-reviewed summary of the latest world literature on the potential health benefits of soy.

Interest has been escalating since October 1999 when the American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) allowed certain soy products to carry heart-healthy labels. South African labeling regulators are expected to recognise soy in the same way by 2002.

The summary-review on soy coincides with the Food Based Dietary Guidelines (FBDG) published in the February edition of *SAJCN*.

Recommended by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the guidelines promoted the importance of regular soy intakes. Clinical studies have indicated that soy-based infant formulas may lead to normal infant growth, protein nutritional status and bone mineralisation. Soy is also believed to be instrumental in preventing cancer, diabetes and osteoporosis.

To obtain a copy of the review e-mail Sharon de Jager at spp@sppcom.com. Alternatively phone Christine Leighton on (012) 667 3980.