



www.diogenes-eu.org

The Diogenes Project – Diet, Obesity & Genes
Targeting the obesity problem: seeking new insights & routes to prevention
Project Co-ordinator:
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EC funded Sixth Framework Project Contract No: FP6-513946
Priority 5: Food Quality & Safety

Media Release

Issued: 5 May 2009

USA and Europe agree research collaboration essential to understand early life programming and its impact on the rise of obesity

Hosted at the EC-funded Diogenes project Symposium on prevention of weight regain, a workshop jointly organised by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the US and the European Commission (EC) discussed potential priority areas for research that could be addressed collaboratively both sides of the Atlantic.

Presentations were made by US and EU speakers on fetal and infancy taste preferences and eating behaviour of children, programming of energy balance and appetite regulation, gestational diabetes and long-term consequences of protein intake of infants and weight gain.

From the perspective of public health policy, a summary was presented suggesting that gestational diabetes, fetal and infancy taste, breastfeeding and Infant weight gain may be most effective in addressing obesity.

The NIH and EC pledged to continue their discussions on the formulation of plans for future collaborative research work in this emerging area of science.

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Notes to Editors

1. The US-EC workshop on Early Life Programming of Obesity was held as part of the Diogenes ECO09 Satellite *Prevention of Weight (Re)gain* held in The Netherlands (4-6 May 2009). The full programme can be accessed at www.diogenes-eu.org.
2. The EC funds an integrated project EARNEST on early nutrition programming co-ordinated by Professor Berthold Koletzko who presented at the US / EC workshop. Further information available at www.metabolic-programming.org
3. The Diogenes Project www.diogenes-eu.org managed by Professor Wim Saris (Maastricht) is an EC-funded pan-European Research Programme targeting the obesity problem from a dietary perspective: seeking new insights and new routes to prevention. It is an Integrated Project of the EU Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (2005-2009). The name Diogenes is an acronym for the project and stands for 'Diet, Obesity and Genes'. Diogenes is integrating dietary, genetic, physiological, psychological / behavioural and food technology studies.