



" Feeding the Immune system "
takes centre stage at Experimental Biology Congress
2016

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Prof Philip Calder named as the 10th recipient of the Danone International Prize for Nutrition for his outstanding work on Nutrition and Immunity

San Diego (April 5th, 2016) - Prof. Philip Calder of the University of Southampton (UK) is named as the 10th recipient of the Danone International Prize for Nutrition for his cutting edge research on fatty acid metabolism and functionality, focusing notably on the immune, inflammatory and cardiometabolic systems. A particular strength of his research is its translational approach, extending the results of research in mechanistic and basic nutrition science to studies in humans, thereby influencing the development of nutritional guidelines and innovative treatments. In his Prize Lecture, Prof Calder previewed his most recent unpublished findings on the value of omega-3 fatty acids to pregnant women and their offspring.

Being healthy requires that one eats healthily. The proposition appears obvious, yet the specific mechanisms behind this truth have long remained very vague, not least with regard to fatty acids. As components of nutrition they play a crucial role. Prof. Calder's findings have shown that fatty acids – or a lack of them – are involved in a broad spectrum of common diseases ranging from diverse allergies through to atherosclerosis and inflammatory conditions such as Crohn's disease. **The work carried out in this area over the last 25 years, to which Prof. Philip Calder has made important contributions, has deepened the scientific community's understanding of the underlying mechanisms that explain the relationship between nutrition and immunity, the important first step in the formulation of nutritional advice for better feeding the immune system.**



Nutrition, immunity and health – an intricate relationship from early life to old age

The specific relationships between nutrition and immune-induced conditions over the course of the human life cycle have long held Prof. Calder's attention. **In his Prize Lecture, Prof. Calder presented his laboratory's most recent findings. Prof. Calder and his team have been looking at how early changes to the immune system have longer term consequences. He finds that the offspring of mothers who consumed salmon - a source of omega-3 fatty acids - during their pregnancy appear to benefit from an improved immune function later on; the likelihood of suffering from asthma is diminished at 2.5 to 3 years of age. This is presumably due to an early supplementary exposure to omega-3 fatty acids,** although some other nutrient in the salmon could be also involved.

Though fatty acids are at the centre of Philip Calder's work, he has also covered neighbouring areas such as pre- and probiotics, iron deficiency and amino acids, at all times with the objective of channelling the insights of nutrition science into improved public health.

Danone International Prize for Nutrition: Promoting outstanding work

"It is in honour of his pioneering work over the last 25 years, his ground-breaking results and their far-reaching clinical applicability that Prof. Calder has been awarded, on the Jury's unanimous decision, the 10th Danone International Prize for Nutrition 2016" said Prof. Olivier Goulet, President of the Danone Institute International. *"It is a great honour to receive the Danone International Prize for Nutrition. To me, it represents recognition by the nutrition community of 25 years of research in nutrition, immunology and on omega-3 fatty acids functionality. It is also an encouragement to keep going further along this path"* said Prof Calder as he received the award.

The prize which is one of the most distinguished honours in the field of nutritional science carries with it a donation of 120,000 €. It is awarded every two years to reward internationally outstanding researchers and promote their work in this field.

Danone Institute: 25 years supporting research, education and training in nutritional health

Promoting research, education and training in the field of nutritional health is the mission of the Danone Institute International. *"Through multi-faceted support to research and educational programmes the Danone Institutes and their projects actively and independently contribute to Danone's commitments to nutrition and health. With increasing obesity rates, an ageing*



population and severe malnutrition issues, maintaining a healthy population is a huge task, said Danone CEO, Emmanuel Faber. “At Danone, we believe it is crucial to support academic research in the field of nutrition as it enables to unlock new approaches and efficient solutions to address these growing challenges. We have proudly been supporting the Danone Institutes for 25 years with the Danone International Prize for Nutrition as a key initiative helping us to meet our mission: “bringing health through food as many people as possible”.

Read more:

- Click to download the 10th DIPN press kit “Feeding the immune system” including an infographic on Nutrition and Immunity.
- Listen to Prof Calder and Prof Goulet’s interviews.

<http://www.danoneinstitute.org/nutrition-science-support/philip-calder>

About the Danone Institute International

The Danone Institute International is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to develop and disseminate scientific knowledge on diet and nutrition to benefit public health. To accomplish these goals, Danone Institute International supports research initiatives and training programs on diet and nutrition for health and education professionals and disseminates information on diet and nutrition to the general public – <http://www.danoneinstitute.org>

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