



## Fourth African Nutritional Epidemiology Conference

The Fourth African Nutritional Epidemiology Conference (ANEC IV) was held in Nairobi, Kenya, 4-8 October 2010. The theme for the conference was *Nutrition and Food Security: Successes and Emerging Challenges*. A highlight was the presentation of the 2010 EV McCollum International Lectureship in Nutrition, by the American Society of Nutrition, to Professor Andrew Prentice at the conference. The title of the acceptance lecture by professor Prentice was *Trials and tribulations: unexpected outcomes from micronutrient interventions, and the need for more mechanistic research*. Other keynote speakers included Professors Alan Jackson, David Thurnham, Ken Brown, Charlotte Neumann, Suzanne Filteau, Regina Moench-Pfanner, Anna Lartey and Adelheid Onyango.

Nutrition Society members played an important role at the conference. Professors Wilna Oldewage-Theron and Johann Jerling were involved in the organisation of the conference and were members of the international scientific committee, and Professors David Sanders and Johann Jerling were invited speakers. Researchers from the Universities of the North-West, Stellenbosch and Witwatersrand, Vaal and Durban Universities of Technology, Walter Sisulu University, and the Human Sciences Research Council conducted presentations at the conference. The next ANEC will be held in Southern Africa in 2012, and will certainly be an important event on the nutrition calendar.

At this past meeting, the African Nutrition Society (ANS) was launched as a professional scientific forum and voice for Africa's nutrition and health. Prof Wilna Oldewage-Theron of the Vaal University of Technology is the President of ANS. More information about ANS is available at the website [www.answeb.org](http://www.answeb.org).

### Other news

The Directorate of Nutrition in the Department of Health compiled a draft document for a Nutrition Strategy for the South African Health Sector 2010-2015. Representatives of UNICEF, WHO, MRC, universities, ADSA, NSSA and non-governmental organisations were invited to discuss the draft and provide input. A table of priority nutrition interventions for achieving Millenium Development Goals 1, 3, 4 and 5 was workshopped. Interventions focusing on behaviour modification, micronutrient programmes, and complementary and therapeutic feeding have been proposed. Representatives indicated how they will support the efforts of the Directorate of Nutrition, for example by helping with training, reviewing documents and collaborating on a national agenda for research on current and emerging nutrition challenges. ADSA was represented by Carol Browne, and NSSA by Salome Kruger.