**UK-Peru Workshop: Relationship between Food, Nutrition and Health**

**Date: 22-23 May 2018**

**Venue: Lima, Peru**

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Peru’s National Council of Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC) and the MRC (in partnership with BBSRC, AHRC and ESRC) are pleased to announce that they will later this year launch a joint call for research proposals focusing on the relationship between Food, Nutrition and Health research in Peru.

**In advance of launching this call, the funders will hold a workshop for researchers in Lima, Peru, to discuss the key research challenges that relate to the aims of this programme and to explore UK-Peruvian opportunities for collaboration in this research area.**

**Scope**

The relationship between food, nutrition and health is dynamic and complex. Global changes in lifestyle and dietary habits are placing an unsustainable burden on individuals, families, healthcare systems, and societies.

Elucidating the interactions between food, its nutritional content and human physiological systems represents a multidisciplinary challenge with key public health and economic impacts. Inadequate nutrition affects long-term health and is associated with increased risk of many chronic conditions.

‘Dietary risks’ are the single biggest risk factor driving death and disability in Peru**. In this context,** Peru faces significant maternal, neonatal and nutritional challenges, as well as an increasing burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including anaemia, diabetes mellitus, obesity, hypertension, chronic malnutrition and stunting.

Tackling Peruvian nutrition challenges must be founded on an in-depth understanding of the links between diet, nutrition and health, as well as other factors that determine nutritional patterns. Such understanding must rely on a holistic approach to nutrition research, requiring strong interactions between disciplines such as biological, nutritional, health and medical sciences, food production and supply systems, the social sciences, as well as a greater understanding of relevant historical and cultural factors.

Interdisciplinary partnerships are increasingly needed to deliver the robust and authoritative evidence base, which is crucial to the development of, for example, healthier food products, the optimisation and stratification of dietary guidelines, and the determination and delivery of effective intervention strategies.

In recognition of this, CONCYTEC and MRC (the latter in partnership with BBSRC, ESRC and AHRC) will later this year launch a joint Newton Fund call for proposals with a view to supporting excellent UK-Peruvian research partnerships seeking to address the nutrition and diet related health challenges faced by the Peruvian population, particularly the poorest and most vulnerable in society.

The scope of the call is likely to include, but not be limited to, research in the following areas, with interdisciplinary proposals strongly encouraged:

* Drivers of consumer and dietary behaviours to inform methods for effective intervention, such as
	+ Food production, food systems, and other factors in food consumption with emphasis in the role of culture, language, education, geography and urbanisation dynamics.
	+ Gut-brain axis and psychobiology of food choices
* Understanding the response of both individuals and groups to nutritional/dietary interventions, particularly in children and adolescents, and the long-term effects on health improvement and disease reduction risk
* Nutritional food products
	+ Novel crops and derived products
	+ Enhanced nutritional value by biofortification or reformulation
	+ Alternative food sources: Insects, single cell protein, algae, etc.
* Understanding the interactions between the gut, gut microbiome, infection and antibiotics prescriptions on nutrient bioavailability and uptake, nutritional conditions, health and disease.
* Identification and validation of early biomarkers linked to health status and trajectory across the lifecourse.
* Infectious diseases (Tuberculosis, HIV) and NCD (anaemia, diabetes, professional diseases, environmental) risk related to dietary regimes, lifestyle and physical activity.
* Health conditions triggered by exposure to environmental contaminants and components of formulated foods.
* Double burden of obesity and malnutrition considering the highly diverse geography and cultural background of Peru.

• Nutritional requirements at key life stages (e.g. maternal, the first 1000+ days, early childhood, and adolescence).

The call will enable the support of projects that are of a duration up to 3 years in length. All projects that receive funding must be completed by 31st March 2022.

**The workshop**

The upcoming workshop will be an opportunity for UK researchers to meet researchers from Peruvian institutions and explore opportunities for research collaborations. The agenda for the workshop will include time for networking and sharing information about UK and Peruvian research expertise and areas of interest, as well as visits to leading research centres in and around Lima for UK participants.

**How to apply to attend the workshop**

We would like to see expressions of interest from academics who would be interested in representing their institution at this workshop in Lima, Peru **on 22-23 May 2018**.

**Due to a limited number of spaces, it is likely we will only be able to invite one academic per institution to attend. Therefore, attendees will be expected to represent the wider interests of their institution as well as their individual interests.** **CONCYTEC will try to ensure a balance in terms of different disciplines within the OECD’s fields of knowledge (natural sciences, engineering and technology, medical and health sciences, agricultural sciences, social sciences and humanities), expertise, REGINA researcher and representation of an institution.**

If you would like to represent your institution at this workshop, please submit the following;

* The Expression of Interest (please use only the proforma provided in this call and note that this information could be shared with the UK researchers collaboration with Peru in this area.
* Your CV (no more than two pages).

Attendance at the workshop does not automatically enable project bids to be submitted or guarantee funding. Conversely, absence from the workshop does not preclude bidding into the call that will follow the workshop.

Given that the workshop will be in English, without the help of a translator, it is required that all Peruvian participants are fluent in spoken English.

**Please submit any queries and applications to** tpena@concytec.gob.pe

​**The closing deadline for expressions of interest is Monday, 16 April at 17:15.**

### The Newton-Paulet Fund

The Newton-Paulet Fund is a £20 million fund which, through science and innovation partnerships, promotes the economic development and welfare of poor people in Peru. It aims to strengthen science and innovation capacity and unlock further funding to support poverty alleviation.