

Future Research Priorities

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The final session of the Third Commonwealth Conference on Diarrhoea and Malnutrition was chaired by Professor AS McNeish (UK). Delegates were asked to make proposals for future research priorities. Each proposal in the list was then voted on, with each delegate being allocated a maximum of 5 votes. The results of this exercise are summarised and ranked:

Rank	Votes	Proposal
1	38	Identify and promote home-based ORS
2	33	Evaluate and promote dietary management of diarrhoea
3	28	Pathophysiology, different organisms, persistent diarrhoea
4=	27	Find rapid and cheap methods to diagnose <i>E coli</i> infection
4=	27	How to persuade mothers to continue breast-feeding
4=	27	Global study to document traditional weaning foods
7	24	Cross-cultural anthropological study of failure of use of ORT
8=	20	Elucidate role of antidiarrhoeal drugs
8=	20	What components of breast-milk are most antidiarrhoeal?
10=	19	Factors augmenting (decreasing) mucosal immunity
10=	19	How to communicate with mother to effect treatment of diarrhoea
12=	16	Define role of HIV in acute and persistent diarrhoea
12=	16	Determine social/cultural aspects causing malnutrition
14	15	Critical assessment of aid for under-developed world
15	14	Importance of cow's milk protein intolerance in developing world
16=	12	Role of eradication of <i>H. pylori</i> on small bowel contaminants
16=	12	Starvation in early life and later motor/learning skills
18	10	Molecular genetic aspects of susceptibility to malnutrition
19	9	Hypo-osmolar ORS: its role?
20	8	Why do mothers not feed quality food in quantity?
21	6	Models for assessment of extent of good practice
22=	4	Pathogenesis of systemic manifestation of shigellosis
22=	4	Safety of quinolones in dysentery
24	3	Risk factors for stunting
25=	2	Epidemiology of diarrhoea/PEM using e.g. GIS (mapping)
25=	2	Rational drug therapy in persistent diarrhoea
25=	2	How to counter disinformation
28=	1	How to prevent early infancy diarrhoea?
28=	1	If early infancy diarrhoea controlled: effect on burden of malnutrition