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**I would like to emphasise the following points as these represent my views to the questions asked on ‘research requirement’:**

**In addition to this, the Research should look at environmental pan-European approaches to physical activity in built environments. In order to learn from countries with best practice, we should be focussing on countries with leptogenic environments rather than obesogenic ones, as these offer the greatest opportunities for learning. This may include looking at countries outside of the European Union, where the trend is different. Research should also look at long-term outcomes and not just short-term ones, particularly as most eating habits are developed during the early years of life and research should look at educating and influencing this stage of development.**

Research would be welcomed in increasing the understanding of public awareness of food and nutrition as this would enable nutritionists to understand food choices and apply this knowledge to interventions. Research on cross-generational influence would also be welcomed, i.e. whether children impact on parents. It is important to remember when addressing childhood obesity, that children often have limited individual choices, and research priorities should affect this. Other areas that are in need of greater research include wider behavioural impacts on nutrition and physical activity, as well as safe upper nutritional limits for children’s consumption.

The group would like to stress the need for sustainability into research funding, as often good work is lost when funding ceases; also that the link between research and practice in this field should be strengthened. Research funding should be increasing available to non-clinical research, as social interventions are of significant importance in addressing areas around both nutrition and physical activity. In order to evaluate interventions it is necessary to develop a tool that may be used across different situations, thus allowing comparisons with consistency.

The group believes that the EU should play a role in bringing together existing research and dissemination of results, as well as creating an environment for consistent baseline data collection.

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