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On Research to Optimize Eating Timing: Simple Solutions for Complex Problems

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Editorial

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Recent accomplishments in animal and human physiology have contributed to urgency for creating innovative research on timing of nutrient intake [1-4]. These findings suggest that feeding and eating times during the 24-h period matter in how efficiently nutrients are utilized and partitioned into different tissues notable splanchnic and peripheral tissues. Shifting eating time from morning to evening in once-daily fed dairy and beef cattle has increased nutrient efficiency and milk fat and energy production. Such effects have mainly been resulted from altered circadian and postprandial rhythms of nutrient intake and energy-yielding metabolites and hormones [2-4]. On the other hand, evidence exists that human glucose intolerance and insulin resistance develop as day ends and night begins. Thus, despite the discovery that evening feeding may improve production and economics in food-producing animals, due to inter-species differences in evolutionary intermediary metabolism and eating behaviour, it could seriously impair the human physiology and health.

This editorial highlights the importance of future research on ascertaining optimal times of eating certain nutrients for today's man exposed to a variety of environmental stresses. Timing of eating would be among simple feasible solutions for complex challenges such as obesity, diabetes and related cardiovascular diseases frequently encountered by the modern and postmodern human populations worldwide. Manipulating the eating timing would help human to shift back into his evolutionary and natural life-style when optimal timing of eating, working, resting and exercising can significantly contribute to living a healthier and greater quality life. This philosophy would concur with a leading global memorandum that prevention as a foremost health-promoting strategy is superior to, and eliminates the need for, treatment.

In a nutshell, innovative research on circadian clock genes in all possible tissues, nutribiochemogenomical pathways in drainedviscera, hepatic and peripheral cells, and on nutrient intake and metabolism rhythms in response to varying intake timing of different nutrients will be greatly road-mapping. An ultimate goal will be to discover clear-cut global guidelines on when to eat which nutrient more or less to help approach optimal cell, tissue, organ and whole body physiology and health in the overly stressed man of the new times.

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