

Prof. Lluís Serra Majem

Lluís Serra Majem is medical doctor with a Ph.D. specialising in Preventive Medicine and Public Health.

In the early stages of his professional career as a medical epidemiologist, he oversaw various activities within the Catalan Ministry of Health, which he left to undertake Masters and Doctoral degrees in Nutrition at the University of Sherbrooke (Canada). Upon his return in 1988, he became Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Barcelona, where he founded and is the Director of the Community Nutrition Research Centre of the University of Barcelona Science Park. In 1995 he became Full Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, where he also holds the UNESCO Chair for Research, Planning and Development of Local Health Systems (collaborations in Africa and Southern America since 1999) as well as serving as the Director of the Department of Clinical Sciences until 2010.

He has directed, among others, the National Nutrition Surveys of the Catalan population (1992-93), the Nutrition Survey of the Canary Islands (1997-98), the ENKID Study on the Evaluation of Feeding Habits and Nutritional Status in Spanish Children and Youth (1998-2000), the Food and Nutrition Survey of Catalonia (2002-03), the Andorra Nutrition Survey (2004). He currently directs a pan European survey on Consumption of Plant Food supplements in six European countries as part of the plantLIBRA Project.

He is President of the Mediterranean Diet Foundation (since 1996) as well as the Nutrition Research Foundation (since 1997) and the Spanish Academy of Nutrition and Food Sciences (since 2009). He led the successful initiative to classify the Mediterranean diet as part of the UNESCO representative list of intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In 1989 he founded the Spanish Society of Community Nutrition, of which he served as President from 2000 to 2006. He currently holds the Honorary Presidency. He created in 1994 the Spanish Journal of Community Nutrition. Precursor of the I World Congress of Public Health Nutrition, held in Barcelona in 2006, in which the Latino American Community Nutrition Group (GLANC) was founded with the aim of promoting the exchange of knowledge and experiences with Latino American countries.

In his relationship with Latin America has carried out exchange activities with several universities, among others: the validation of the nutritional risk screening test in socially deprived children of the province of Neuquén, Argentina; funded by the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation (AEFI)–University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria–National University of Lanús (Argentina). Also the nutritional, cognitive and social assessment of children attended at the Centre for the Prevention of Child Undernutrition CONIN, in Mendoza, Argentina.

He was responsible of the nutritional and food security diagnosis within the project “Opportunities for Investment in Preventive Nutrition in Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador”; this project was carried out as part of the Inter-American Development Bank’s Regional Technical Cooperation, with funds from the European Community. This work was carried out in collaboration with Gesaworld SA, in Barcelona.

In his role as president and founder of the NGO Nutrition without Borders (2005), he is currently involved in the implementation of a Nutrition Health Centre in Gambia with the

aim of providing technical and humanitarian support in the fields of food and nutrition, applying the experience and model of the CONIN Foundation in Mendoza, Argentina. Also in collaboration with the CONIN Foundation and other NGOs, a project under development is giving nutritional and social intervention to children and marginal populations of Latin America.

He has served in the Steering Committee, among others, of the following European Union Projects: PlantLIBRA: PLANT food supplements: Levels of Intake, Benefit and Risk Assessment (current); EURRECA: EUROpean RECommendations Aligned. Harmonising nutrient recommendations across Europe with special focus on vulnerable groups and consumer understanding(current); BENERIS: Benefit-Risk assessment for food: an iterative value-of-information approach; PIPS: Personalised Information Platform for Life and Health Services and ENHR II: European Nutrition Health Report II. He is also involved in the Spanish Ministry of Health's Thematic Networks of Cooperative Health Research (RETICs): Healthy eating and the prevention of chronic diseases: the Predimed Network.

He has authored more than 690 publication with a total of 260 referenced publications with 2630 citations. He has written or edited 65 books on topics in his field and produced more than 210 chapters and editorials, prologues and presentations. He serves as visiting professor for several European and American Universities, and is President and Honorary Member of several Foundations and Scientific Societies. He has received numerous awards and honours for his professional achievements.

He is also Director of the Grupo Español de Investigación en Nutrición Comunitaria (Spanish Research Group on Public Health Nutrition), which is comprised of researchers associated with the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria as well as with other Canary Island Institutions such as the University of La Laguna or the Canary Islands Health Service. Additionally, certain researchers are affiliated with other parts of Spain including entities such as the Nutritional Research Foundation and the Mediterranean Diet Foundation in Catalonia and the Bilbao City Hall. This team of researchers comprises a research Group of Excellence and serves as a key reference in the area of nutrition and obesity within the context of Community Nutrition in the Canary Islands, as well as the rest of Spain and Europe for government, food industry and the population at large. Well established alliances have been formed with Scientific Societies (Spanish Society of Community Nutrition, Spanish Society of Obesity Research, Spanish Pediatric Association, etc.) and the Group is actively involved with International networks, Institutions and Entities.

He has a leading role both nationally and internationally in the field of public health nutrition as well as the Mediterranean Diet, and organised and served as President of the First World Congress of Public Health Nutrition in September 2006.