

PD-AAS-610

ICN 43282

Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP)

NUTRITION INTAKE AND FUNCTION

931-1309

TRIP REPORT

Mexico City, Mexico

11/6/85-11/10/85

000189  
5

Lindsay H. Allen, Ph.D.  
University of Connecticut  
Mexico Nutrition CRSP

TRIP REPORT

NAME: Lindsay H. Allen

DATES: November 6 to November 10, 1985.

LOCATION: Instituto Nacional de Nutricion, Mexico City

PURPOSE: In my capacity as Principal Investigator of the University of Connecticut / Instituto Nacional de Nutricion (INN) project on Intake and Function, to review and discuss personnel and budgetary issues, the progress of laboratory assays, and data management.

November 6

Left Mansfield Center at 5.30 a.m.

Flight AA 801 from Hartford/Springfield to Mexico City, arr. 1.40 p.m.

Taxi to INN. Discussions with the Data Analysis Unit at INN, and with Elsa Molina (Field Director).

November 7

Meetings at INN all day, with Dr. Adolfo Chavez, and the Data Analysis Unit (see below).

November 8

Continued meetings with the Data Analysis Unit and Dr. Chavez at INN. Also visited Lic. Martiniano in the Grants and Contracts Office, and had informal discussions with several field personnel including Dr. Jose Santos (Solis Clinic Director), LuzMaria Meneses (Jefa of the Socioeconomic area), Kelley Scanlon (Jefa of the Activity area), the laboratory technicians, and the data management personnel. Elsa Molina (Field Director) was also present for most of the day.

RECEIVED JAN 13 1985

November 9

During the morning and early afternoon, met with Margarita Mata (Jefa of the laboratory) to review analyses, quality control procedures, data, and laboratory supply needs.

November 10

Left Mexico City at 2.17 a.m. on AA 52. Arrived at Hartford 9.56 a.m. and drove to Mansfield Center.

The following summarizes the most important discussions and resolutions in various areas of the project research.

1. DATA MANAGEMENT

A major purpose of this trip was to review the changes made in the data management since my last visit to Mexico in August. Since that time there had been a data management site visit, and an earthquake had partially disrupted our data entry system. In addition, I had to explain and discuss what happened at the Data Analysis Group meeting in September, since none of the Mexicans were present at that meeting. I also presented a summary of the data which are needed at Connecticut in order to prepare the analyses planned for the DAG in February, and dates were set for sending this information to Connecticut. The data management team at Connecticut had sent with me a number of questions and concerns which were resolved during these two days of discussions.

In September, 1985, INN presented a calendar of data management activities to the site visit team. I was presented with a summary of the changes in the calendar which have resulted from the earthquakes on September 19 and 20. The worst damage as

far as the project was concerned was to the building which houses Salud Publica in Mexico City. This building needs extensive structural renovation so that it is no longer possible to capture all of our data there, with the exception of a few months of dietary data. INN's solution to this problem has been to hire 11 data capturists to work at INN, in two shifts per day, at least until December. These capturists are from Salud Publica, and this arrangement will be revised/renegotiated in January, 1986. INN have rented 3 microcomputers for 6 months, for use in data entry. In general, the data entry schedule has been put back one month because of earthquake-related problems. Notably, the Psychology and Activity data will not now be captured until early 1986.

Since August, the data management/analysis group at INN has been expanded and the roles of each individual have been clearly defined. This group is formally called "La Unidad de Analisis" (UA) and has 4 specific tasks; i) capture, mangement and flow of data, ii) data processing, iii) statistical management, and iv) to consult with the PIs, field staff and other relevant parties on hypothesis definition, interpretation of results, and the production of reports and publications. The personnel responsible for these major areas of activity are Loraine Schlaepfer (Chief of the UA), Carlos Cevallos (Statistics), Ramon Lira (Data Management) and Alfonso Mata (Coordination with Investigators). The UA has been, and continues to be, primarily concerned with data capture and quality control. Mexico does not plan to conduct many statistical analyses until mid-1986.

A considerable amount of time was spent in reviewing the

status of data capture to date, and plans for the future. I was presented with detailed summaries and data flow charts, showing data capture plans up to June, 1986. For the months of November and December, 1985, the schedule includes the completion of capture and revision of the following data sets;

- i. Diet: finish capture of June - August 1985 data at Salud Publica (by 11/29) and revise by 12/13.
- ii. Anthropometry: finish capture of June - August 1985 data on Columbia at INN.
- iii. RMR: capture all data from Jan 1984 - May 1985 on the Columbia at INN by 11/ 15, and complete revisions and corrections by 12/20.
- iv. Morbidity: all data have been captured up to 5/85, and corrections will be completed by 11/29. During November, a preliminary analysis will be made of the data collected during September and October on the second method for morbidity recall (i.e. collecting information on who was sick last week in addition to who is sick today). Collection of data on the second method will continue. There was considerable scepticism on the part of field personnel that the second method was valid in our communities; the strong belief is that the respondents only provided reliable data if referring to a current illness, which is well-remembered and also mentioned to the physician in order to obtain medical advice and assistance.

It is anticipated that this schedule will provide the Connecticut group with all the data needed for the analyses planned for the February DAG meeting. We are collaborating on

the development of a number of programs for data quality control and analysis purposes.

The UA would like to purchase an IBM-AT computer for the purposes of 1) running the version of SAS for microcomputers, thus limiting the dependency of the project on the IBM Computer Center, and 2) for transferring diskettes of data captured on the Columbias to tape. The ME Site Visit suggested this purchase. It was agreed that the UA would write up a justification for the IBM-AT. Apparently it is now possible to purchase these machines in Mexico - a new development.

## 2. STATUS OF SAMPLE FAMILIES.

Between June and October, 1985, 83 families will be leaving the study. These contain 87 schoolers, 37 preschoolers and 41 infants. Between November and December, an additional 39 will be completed, containing 20 schoolers, 16 preschoolers and 15 infants. Between January and April 1986, the final 74 families will be leaving, with 3 schoolers, 39 preschoolers and 38 infants. During the early summer of 1985, a number of women already in the sample (because they had a target child) became pregnant providing us with the opportunity to increase the number of pregnant women and infants - groups which we have had the most difficulty in recruiting and maintaining due to migration, birth control programs, and unwillingness of the mothers to participate.

Up to June, 1985, 1,443 individuals have participated in the study. Of these 38% have either abandoned the study or were dropped for various reasons. 888 persons will have at least one year of longitudinal data, as follows;

TYPE	N
Lead male	202
Lead female	168
Lactating females	105
Preschoolers	93
Schoolers	110
Pregnant women	107
Infants	103

### 3. BUDGET.

The budgetary situation was discussed and it was agreed that INN would submit an updated version of its financial needs . Dr. Mata will submit this to Connecticut by December 6.

### 4. REVALIDATION OF DIETARY METHODOLOGY.

I emphasized the need to repeat the comparison of our food intake methodology against a continuous observation - weighing / measuring method. This was done in early 1984, but needs to be repeated now that the interviewers and respondents have had a long period of familiarity with the current method. A study was designed to achieve this and will be started within a few weeks, using interviewers as they are freed when families leave the study.

### 5. PLANS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was apparent to all concerned that the intense period of data capture will be over early in 1986, and that the entry of most areas of the study will be up to date at that time. A major implication of this situation is that a greater proportion of the

effort must now be directed toward data analysis issues. It is imperative that the UA communicates more with the UConn Statistician and Data Management team in order to understand the location and structure of the SAS files, to learn SAS, to understand the programs developed at UConn in order to use them in Mexico, to become involved in the work that the statistician is doing, and to plan the future analyses. It was decided that the most efficient way for this communication to occur was for Ramon Lira and Carlos Cevallos to spend time at Connecticut in late January. In early January, when Drs. Allen and Pelto are in Mexico, a major activity will be the planning and outlining of publications and analyses, and assignment of responsibility for publication of specific areas to individuals in the project.

#### 6. LABORATORY ANALYSES

We are still continuing to collect blood samples as individuals leave the study. All laboratory analyses are proceeding satisfactorily and all are in progress except measurement of secretory IgA. This assay (radioimmunoassay) will be started in January. The laser nephelometer is functioning well and is processing large numbers of samples per day. Ferritin assays were started in October and are running smoothly. All analyses should be complete by mid-1986.