

A special feature of research in the field of nutritional physiology in man and animals is the fact that the almost identical biochemical and physiological processes are studied by means of the similar investigating methods. A need was felt to discuss the issues in a common forum which will benefit both scientists working with humans and animals.

With this background the Research Unit of Nutritional Physiology „Oskar Kellner“, Research Institute for the Biology of Farm Animals, Dummerstorf-Rostock and the German Society for Nutritional Medicine have jointly organized the

“1st International Rostock Workshop on Energy and Substrate Utilization

– Methodical aspects of in vivo assessment in animals and man”

from 5th to 7th September 1996 in Rostock.

The workshop has focused on in vivo methods which can be largely applied for non-invasive investigation of energy and substrate metabolism and body composition in animals and man. Topical methods of this kind are, among others, stable isotope techniques, indirect calorimetry,

bioelectrical impedance analysis and positron emission tomography. The topics discussed particularly were the study of energy metabolism and its relation to body composition, physical activity and ambient temperature; protein and amino acid metabolism, carbohydrate and cholesterol metabolism.

The great enthusiasm towards the 1st International Rostock Workshop is reflected by the participation of more than 80 nutritionists, biochemists and physicians from Europe, India and Far East. In spite of the variety of different themes presented in 20 papers and 21 posters and the limitation of time for their presentation, the organizers believe that the workshop gave opportunity for discussion and exchange of topical knowledge in different fields of nutritional physiology in animals and man. This could be concluded from discussions with participants who emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary research characterized by the use of same methodical approaches for different investigating subjects. The organizers are encouraged to plan for further workshops at intervals of about 3 years which will focus on methodical aspects of in vivo assessment of energy and substrate utilization in animal and man.

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