

Paul M. Coates, Ph.D.

*Director
NIH Office of Dietary Supplements*

Dr. Paul Coates has directed the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since October 1999 in its mission to strengthen knowledge and understanding of dietary supplements. He oversees a range of initiatives and programs that support research and the training of investigators and also lead to the development of information resources and tools. Under Dr. Coates' leadership, the ODS budget had grown eightfold, from \$3.5 million in 1999 to nearly \$28 million in 2008. He has established ODS as a strong and authoritative voice for rigorous research. As the ODS spokesperson, he has presented at many national and international scientific meetings and is frequently interviewed by the media to increase the knowledge of dietary supplements among diverse audiences.

In related work, Dr. Coates serves as a member of the Federal Steering Committee that oversees the development of nutrient recommendations for the public known as Dietary Reference Intakes. He is also the lead editor of the authoritative *Encyclopedia of Dietary Supplements* published by Marcel Dekker in 2006.

Prior to his tenure at ODS, Dr. Coates served from 1996-1999 as Deputy Director of the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination (DNRC) at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). In that role, he coordinated human nutrition research efforts at the NIH and between NIH and other government agencies. Among these efforts was *Healthy People 2010*, the initiative from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to set public health goals for the nation. Dr. Coates co-lead production of the chapter on "Nutrition/Overweight," for which he received the NIH Director's Award for outstanding activities. Dr. Coates was also Co-Chair of the Joint DHHS/USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) Steering Committee that planned the National Nutrition Summit held in Washington, D.C. in May 2000.

Before joining the DNRC, Dr. Coates was NIDDK's Program Director for the Type 2 Diabetes Research Program (1993-1996) and Project Officer for the multi-center clinical study known as Epidemiology of Diabetes Interventions and Complications (1994-1996). In 1994-1996, he was also involved in career development and fellowship training in the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Metabolic Diseases.

From 1975 to 1993, prior to his career at NIH, Dr. Coates served on the faculty of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia as well as the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine as Research Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics and Biochemistry/Biophysics. His Ph.D. in human genetics was awarded by Queen's University in Canada (1972) followed by postdoctoral training in the Department of Human Genetics and Biometry at University College London (1972-1974).

Dr. Coates' major research interests for many years focused on inborn errors of human lipid metabolism, an area where he conducted some of the first studies of fatty acid oxidation disorders in infants and children. With an international team of collaborators, he defined many of the genetic defects of human mitochondrial fatty acid oxidation. Dr. Coates has also studied the metabolism of intestinal and hepatic lipoproteins to identify the metabolic defects in inherited hyperlipidemias. These studies have led to a new understanding of the role of environmental factors, such as diet, in the manifestation of genetic diseases. Dr. Coates has published more than 100 scientific papers and has edited two books in these areas of research.