The 1959 Fort Detrick Symposium on Nonspecific Resistance To Infection

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Examine these relationships when variations in findings are difficult to explain

There are a number of factors which alert investigators must constantly scrutinize and evaluate if biological experimentation is to result in maximum productivity.

One of the most important of these is the relationship of one factor to another. For should the reaction of these relationships be overlooked, variations in experimental results would be hard to trace.

What are these relationships? Some of the more basic ones are the relationship of nutritional requirements to: body surface area; energy-amino acid content of the diet; food intake. And within the nutrients themselves, many other relationships exist. Relationships such as those indicated by an optimum balance between essential amino acids; the effect of change in the calcium-phosphorus ratio; and the sparing effect of niacin on the tryptophane requirement.

Some relationships are more complex than others. For example, one of the most critical relationships which the investigator should consider is the relationship of physiologic status and nutritional deficiencies.

This relationship is indicated when nutritional abnormality results in a diseased state. Often this presents a perplexing problem because systemic disease unrelated to nutrition may precipitate a nutritional deficiency even though normally adequate intake of nutrients is maintained. The use of diets improperly balanced and controlled (from a quality or manufacturing viewpoint) could cause even further variations in findings.

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