Seaweeds... International interdisciplinary symposium Copenhagen 2010

> Dr Prannie Rhatigan Irish Seaweed Kitchen Sligo Ireland





Why seaweed?

- traditional food for coastal peoples since ancient times
- nutritional/medicinal properties valued then & now
- great historical/cultural significance
- evident through music, poetry, stories, religious traditions



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Fruit and Vegetable recommendations

• 5 a day?







"A Weed is a plant whose virtues we have not yet discovered"

Ralph Waldo Emerson


















































































Comparison of Iodine Content of Common Dietary Seaweeds

















...the secret....

• A small amount of a wide variety of seaweeds on a daily basis.















How can we get seaweeds into mainstream useboth culinary and medicinally

• ? Naming seaweeds individually

 Seaweeds are as diverse as any land vegetables, herbs or even weeds.















Broccoli

• How did broccoli get such recognition.

• What research was carried out and can the same research be applied to Alaria

• Food, Nutrition, Physical activity and the Prevention of Cancer- The Policy Report

Evidence informed umbrella

- What Works those interventions which have been subject to rigorous RCT examination, or systematic reviews;
- Good Practice interventions which have been evaluated using sound methodologies, but not along RCT lines.
- *Promising Practice* have simply been subjected to small scale non-generalisable evaluation and which adhere to evidence based principles.
- *Emerging Practice* those interventions, initiatives which have yet to be evaluated but which adhere to evidence based principles.

- The 'gold' standard of evidence is metaanalyses of numerous randomised Control Trials (RCTs), - 'long-term outcomes across multiple settings.'
- The next level down is multiple RCTs demonstrating short-term effects.
- Thirdly, a single RCT
- Fourth 'cross-sectional study' (a study which looked at an intervention in various different settings but with no RCT).
- Fifth are studies which use pre and post norm-referenced questionnaires,
- and finally, there are pure qualitative studies.

Japan

treatments for Hypertension, Liver disease and Peripheral Blood Flow using seaweed as a food.

Doctors don't prescribe-they recommend.
Capsules which equal 6 sheets of nori in a peptide fraction.

- Hypotensive health food
 - Liver protecting food

Experiences with 3 patients.

All positive

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Prannie Rhatigan's



Irish SEAWEED KITCHEN

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