

## MDC dietary database

A range of researchers with different specialities have expressed an interest in the MDC dietary data:

- Nutritional epidemiologists with experiences from other dietary datasets.
- Nutritional researchers established in clinical or experimental research, but with little experience of epidemiology.
- Epidemiological researchers with limited experience of food science and nutrition.
- Clinical researchers with limited experience of food science, nutrition and/or epidemiology.
- Experimental researchers having defined clear biological hypotheses, but with limited experience of food science, nutrition and epidemiology.

Regardless of speciality, the **very** first step in the application process, if you wish to examine MDC dietary data, is to study the document “*The modified diet history methodology of the Malmö Diet and Cancer cohort – including recommendations on how to handling dietary data*”. The specific characteristics of the MDC dietary history methodology will have important implications both for the design **and** conduct of analytical projects.

Also, a good grip of the whole database will without doubt help the planning of the dietary analysis, since a large number of variables are needed to handle biases (exclusions/inclusions, stratification e t c) and to control appropriately for potential confounding factors.

Please follow the following steps:

- ✓ Think through the research questions carefully, and how these can be **concretized** into analytical procedures.
- ✓ Scrutinize the available variable lists (both general data and dietary data) to find out what information is available, and what is **possible to do** within the MDC.
- ✓ Discuss with the nutritional epidemiologists that are familiar with the data set.

The application to the Steering Committee should contain:

1. a **project plan** that delineates the major steps in statistical analysis; and
2. a **complete list of required variables** (exposures and potential confounders) identified from the dietary and general databases **using the MDCS variable names**, and end-point variables from the endpoint registries.