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## ACEND Virtual Town Hall Meeting

### Questions

July 14, 2020, 11:00 a.m. Central Time

**Hosts: Nina Roofe, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND**

Program Representative at Large, ACEND Board

**Rayane AbuSabha, PhD, RD**

ACEND Executive Director

**Presenters: Chris Hartney, MS, RD, LDN, FAND**

Past ACEND Chair 2019-2020

DI Coordinator, Rush University Medical Center

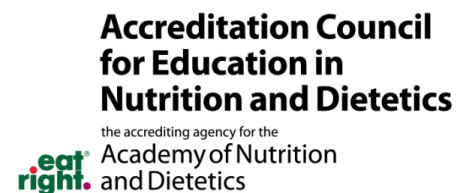
**Janet Johnson, MS, RDN, LD**

Past ACEND Chair 2020-2021

Senior Clinician, DPD, Iowa State University

**Alison Rosenstock, Dietetic Intern**

**John Nielsen, RD – former Dietetic Intern**



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### Webinar Recording Link:

#### Recording of the Iowa State Presentation Only

<https://vimeo.com/736188117/51ebcd591c>

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**Introduction/Announcements:** Nina Roofe welcomed all in attendance.

Nina discussed equity, diversity and inclusion. She said we must all look more closely at ourselves and not minimize the impact that racism has on our students, interns, preceptors, faculty and all our colleagues. It takes a unified effort to end the insidious racism and its consequences of social injustice. The ACEND Board would like to send the clear message that ACEND will not tolerate any acts of racism, social injustice, microaggression and discrimination in our nutrition and dietetics programs

Upon hearing stories of microaggression and discrimination faced by our students and interns, ACEND took swift action. ACEND's Accreditation Standards set the expectations for performance of our education programs to follow. Nona shared the recent actions that have been taken to affirm ACEND's strong position against racism, social injustice and inequity. The Board added several required elements to the Draft 2022 Standards that will be available for public comment in Fall 2020, and available for adoption in 2021.

- Revised the Core Knowledge and Competency statements and added new ones to ensure students and interns receive the training needed on the topic. These statements extend beyond the concepts of equity, diversity and inclusion, to address cultural humility, self-reflection of biases, social justice, racism and oppression.
- Added two requirements to ensure that program faculty and preceptors receive the training needed to eliminate any instances of microaggression and discrimination in their program.
- Added a requirement to ensure program policies protect students and interns against inequity, racism, microaggressions and discrimination. This policy will provide ACEND with the ability to investigate complaints received from students and interns with regards to inequity or acts of racism and discrimination.
- Based on a recommendation from the Academy's Diversity and Inclusion Committee, ACEND updated the format of the annual report to include more inclusive language and improve the accuracy of data collected on students'/interns' race, ethnicity as well as gender identification.

- ACEND is working on a webpage to provide resources to programs to train their students, faculty and preceptors on equity, diversity and inclusion. The page will also include best practices to recognize programs that support Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students/interns and highlighted BIPOC related educational activities. The link to this webpage is [www.eatrightpro.org/ACENDforDEI](http://www.eatrightpro.org/ACENDforDEI)
- The ACEND Board will continue discussing this issue. Whatever further actions ACEND takes, we promise they will be thoughtful and strategic to obtain outcomes that support inclusive education and learning environments.

Nina then discussed the NDTR programs. ACEND has recently learned that some associate degree Dietetic Technician Programs, accredited under the 2017 Standards, are considering whether they need to close prior to 2024 because of misinformation about the CDR change in eligibility requirements to take the Registered Dietitian Nutritionist credentialing exam. This change that becomes effective January 1, 2024, concerns the RD/RDN credential only. CDR does not plan to change the requirements for eligibility to take the NDTR exam to the minimum of a baccalaureate degree and will remain at the Associate Degree level. In the Future Education Model, ACEND elevated the education of NDTRs to the Bachelor's level but ACEND has no plans to stop accrediting associate degree DT programs. As long as CDR does not change its requirements, graduates of associate degree DT programs will continue to be able to take the NDTR exam.

Nina indicated that at its May 2020 meeting, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) considered and passed a motion to approve a request from ACEND to revise the requirement for students in International Dietitian Education (IDE) programs to complete 900 of the required 1200 supervised practice hours in the United States. Effective June 1, 2020 IDE programs will be able to provide all the required supervised practice hours in the program's home country. ACEND is proposing to remove Required Element 1.6b in the IDE Standards and therefore remove the requirement for any hours of supervised practice completed in the US for these students. Proposed IDE Accreditation Standards can be accessed at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/2017-standards> Public comments can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevisedIDE2020> until August 15, 2020.

The ACEND Board voted to place a moratorium on accepting new eligibility applications from proposed dietetic internships housed in business entities or publicly- or privately held corporations interested in applying for candidacy for accreditation under Standard 1 RE 1.1e, effective April 7, 2020. This moratorium will allow the ACEND Standards Committee time to evaluate how to proceed with Standard 1 RE 1.1e for dietetic internship programs as they revise the 2017 Standards. **The Board's decision does not affect already submitted eligibility applications nor any of the currently accredited programs.** In Fall 2020, ACEND will be releasing the draft 2022 Accreditation Standards for public comment at which time stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments for consideration. Nina indicated that the notice regarding this moratorium can be found on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-process/candidacy-for-accreditation>

Nina noted that ACEND realizes that sometimes it is difficult to find some of our recorded webinars and FAQs on the website. As a result, ACEND developed a list of resources to guide program directors to the resources available to them on the website. This resource can be accessed on the program directors' FAQs and Resources section <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/program-directors/program-directors-faqs> The list is the first document posted on this page.

Nina then presented some updates on the FEM Standards. The ACEND Standards committee has recently revised the competencies and performance indicators in the Future Associate Future Education Model Standards to meet the Texas Department of Health Community Health Worker (CHW) certificate competencies:

- A total of 10 performance indicators on communication, advocacy and counseling were added and one performance indicator was revised
- By including these performance indicators within the competencies, the FA program will meet the Community Health Worker certificate competencies for Texas and FA programs in Texas can apply to the Texas Department of Health to be able to award the CHW certificate to their graduates.
- Also, because many states across the nation have adopted the TX Department of Health Competencies for the Community health worker, we are hoping that FA programs in many other states will be able to apply to their state department of health to be able to award that state's CHW certificate.

The proposed revisions to the FA Standards are posted on the ACEND website at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/future-education-model>. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input by accessing the survey from the ACEND website or using the survey link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevisedFA2020>. Public comments can be made until August 15, 2020.

Nina said that ACEND issued a call for applications for programs interested in being demonstration programs earlier this year for a cohort 5 of demonstration programs. Cohort 5 applications are due Wednesday December 2, 2020. The demonstration program application form and guidance documents are available on the ACEND Future Education Model Webpage.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/future-education-model>

Effective January 1, 2021, ACEND has slightly modified the demonstration program benefits for attending the CBE workshop:

- ACEND covers travel, room and board and workshop fee for the first program director
- Any program director sent afterwards: ACEND covers workshop fees. Program covers travel, room and board
- For all program faculty and administrators: Workshop discount fee of \$250. Program covers travel, room and board

Nina then discussed the program director workshops. These workshops are designed to help dietetic education program directors learn the latest accreditation standards and specific details on how to prepare for self-study reports and site visits.

- The Future Education Model workshop which specifically addresses the FEM standards and how to apply to become a demonstration program was originally set to be held in August 2020. Due to the pandemic, this workshop was cancelled and ACEND is developing training modules to make available to program directors.
- ACEND also provides program director virtual training modules based on the 2017 Accreditation Standards. These are under the ACEND training and volunteer opportunities section, in the Professional Development section on the website.

Nina said that ACEND will continue to issue periodic updates on its work and will include answers to questions it has received. Back issues of these Town Hall minutes are posted on the ACEND website. The next Town Hall is scheduled for November 10, 2020 from 11 – noon CT. Nina reminded participants that ACEND staff are always available to assist them and answer questions they may have.

Nina then said that our invited speakers will discuss how they adapted their internship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Before introducing them, Nina reminded participants of the temporary changes that ACEND has made to assist programs and student/interns during the COVID emergency. These include:

- Approval to offer distance education during the COVID-19 situation without submitting a substantive change to ACEND.
- Ability to allow students/interns a one to two-week break to give the program director the time to plan and arrange alternate experiences without seeking ACEND approval.
- Approval to temporarily use a different activity to measure a student's/intern's achievement of the competency or knowledge requirement.
- For Supervised practice/Experiential Learning Hours, the Board voted to decrease the minimum number of hours:
  - Minimum was reduced from 1200 hours to 1000 hours supervised practice for 2017 programs leading to the RDN credential and international programs. Programs that incorporate more than 1000 of supervised practice or more can limit their hours to the minimum for this period without submitting a substantive change to ACEND
  - Of the 1000 hours, a minimum of 600 hours must be in professional practice.
  - For DT programs the minimum hours were reduced from 450 hours to 375 hours in supervised practice and of those a minimum of 225 hours must be activities conducted in authentic, real world settings.

This decision applies to all programs that currently have an active cohort of students or interns, even if the program started in a previous year. It applies to all programs accredited under the 2017 Standards who have cohorts of students/interns completing program requirements through June 30, 2022.

Nina reminded participants to access the ACEND COVID-19 webpage. The link is provided at the top of the ACEND home page in the warning section.

To help guide our programs and especially help our free-standing dietetic internship programs make plans for the fall semester, ACEND asked some of our programs that are housed in a college or university of their plans for the fall. Here is what we learned:

- The majority are returning on-campus in fall.
- All are taking preventative measures including social distancing on campus, requiring students wear masks, limiting class sizes, offering hybrid mix of in-person and online and shortening the term (for example, ending classes by Thanksgiving break and offering online final exams).
- In terms of supervised practice, many stated that the interns will possibly go back into the facilitates this fall, but this will be supplemented with using telehealth, virtual precepting and adding alternate experiences to supervised practice
- Some indicated that parts of the experience will be virtual such as ambulatory and rounding visits

Nina introduced the first presenter, Christine A. Hartney. Chris was recently the Chair of the ACEND Board, is an Advanced Level Dietitian and the Dietetic Internship Coordinator at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois.

Chris discussed how the dietetic internship at Rush Medical Center adapted rotations during the COVID-19 pandemic and shared lessons learned from the experience. Following her presentation, Chris introduced Janet Johnson who is a Clinical Professor in the Didactic Program at Iowa State University. Janet is the current ACEND past-Chair. After Janet's presentation she introduced two of her former interns who were in the program this spring during COVID. Alison Rosenstock returned to her home in California and continued her rotations there while John Nielsen remained on site in Des Moines.

Rayane then addressed items in the chat box.

**Questions/Comments from the Chat Box:**

Q: You just introduced new standards for training on cultural humility, self-reflection of biases, social justice, microaggressions and discrimination that you will require for all faculty, all preceptors and all students, thus all involved at the practical level of ACEND-accredited programs. Particularly for preceptors, a CEU-bearing presentation with assignment would be very useful.

A: ACEND plans to develop training materials for programs to help support the revised standards when they are implemented. Presently ACEND does have some recorded training on microaggression posted in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion section of the ACEND website. Just a reminder that the new changes on diversity, equity and inclusion will be in the Draft 2022 Standards which will be out for public comment Fall 2020.

Q: Will this Town Hall be recorded?

A: Parts will be recorded and placed on the Town Hall page on the ACEND website under the July 14 heading.

Q. Is using Facetime while speaking to patients HIPAA compliant?

A. Usually when speaking to patients, no, you can't use face time and be HIPAA compliant. Chris Hartney said they used Facetime to answer questions from physicians. Google Voice can protect the patient's phone number.

Q. What is the community of practice? (Question directed to Alison Rosenstock, former Iowa State dietetic intern)

A. Alison explained that this was a group of four different instructors to whom the group of 60 interns were assigned and each of these groups were known as a community of practice. The groups were broken down by geographical regions and time zone.

Q. Can free preceptor training modules that earn CEU be updated to reflect the COVID experience?

A. ACEND will reach out to CDR and other organizations to see if they can accommodate this request.

Q. What was the resource of self-grading of case studies?

A. From Janet Johnson: Think Space is a clinical diagnostic tool out of veterinary college. The intern is presented with a case and the software walks them through the Nutrition Care Process. Before the intern can move on, they have to have a certain score. An expert response is included in the simulation. The interns earn points as they go through the simulation. Interns get immediate feedback in the software about that case study. There are about 13 topics altogether and the interns work through them at their own pace.

From John Nielsen, former Iowa State dietetic intern: Think Space: <http://www.thinkspace.org/>

Rayane reminded everyone to provide comments for the draft 2022 Standards when they are posted. If interested, please provide comments on the FA Standards and IDE Standards.

The next Town Hall is scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 11 am Central Time.

Rayane thanked everyone involved for their participation on the Town Hall. The call ended at 12:25 pm CT.

# Welcome to the ACEND Virtual Town Hall

We will begin shortly

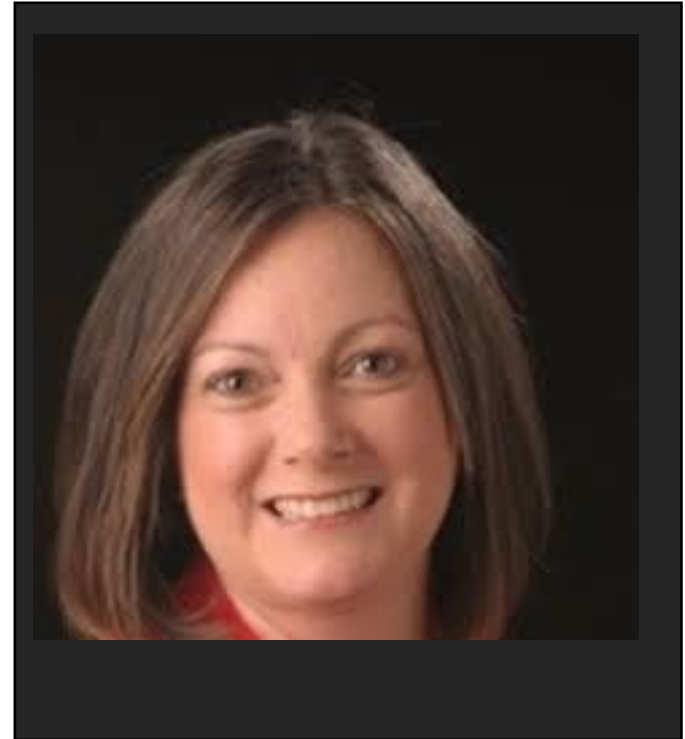




Rayane AbuSabha,  
PhD, RD  
ACEND Executive  
Director



Nina Roofoe, PhD,  
RDN, LD, FAND  
ACEND Board



# Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



# ACEND's Stance on Inequity, Racism, Discrimination



**ACEND will not tolerate any acts of racism, social injustice, and discrimination in our nutrition and dietetics programs**

# Recent Actions Taken by ACEND



1. Draft 2020 Standards: Out for public comment Fall 2020
  - Strengthened the Core Knowledge and Competency requirements: Statements address cultural humility, self-reflection of biases, social justice, racism and oppression
  - Added a requirement for training of program faculty
  - Added a requirement for training of preceptors
  - Added a requirement for a policy to address equitable treatment, microaggressions and discrimination
2. Updated format of ACEND annual report to include more inclusive language
3. New ACEND webpage [www.eatrightPro.org/ACENDforDEI](http://www.eatrightPro.org/ACENDforDEI)

# 2017 Accreditation Standards Update



# NDTR Programs



- The education requirement for eligibility to take the NDTR credentialing examination **remains at the Associate Degree level**
- CDR does not plan to change the requirements for eligibility to take the NDTR exam to the minimum of a baccalaureate degree
- The Education of the NDTR moved to the Bachelor's level by ACEND only in the FEM Standards!
- ACEND will continue to accredit associate degree NDTR programs



**Dietetic Technicians,  
Registered in the  
Acute Care Setting**

# International Dietitian Education Programs (IDE) 2017 Standards Proposed Revisions

## ■ Key Proposed Change

- **Delete RE 1.6b:** *At least 900 of the supervised practice hours must be conducted in a work setting in the United States or its territories, possessions (including the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands) or military bases.*
- **Based on a request from ACEND,** CDR revised the requirement for students in IDE programs to complete 900 of the required 1200 supervised practice hours in the United States
  - Effective June 1, 2020 IDE programs will be able to provide all the required supervised practice hours in the program's home country.

# International Dietitian Education Programs (IDE) 2017 Standards Proposed Revisions

- Proposed IDE Accreditation Standards accessed at [eatrightPRO.org/2017Standards](http://eatrightPRO.org/2017Standards)
- Public comments can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevisedIDE2020> until **August 15, 2020**.



# Moratorium on Business Entities and Corporations



- Moratorium on DIs housed in business entities or publicly- or privately-held corporations interested in applying for candidacy for accreditation (Standard 1 RE 1.1e) **effective April 7, 2020**.
  - Decision does not affect already submitted eligibility applications
  - Decision does not affect currently accredited programs
- Notice on ACEND website at:  
<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/accreditation-process/candidacy-for-accreditation>

# List of Program Director Resources

## PD Resource List



- On the ACEND Website
- [www.eatrightpro.org/acend](http://www.eatrightpro.org/acend)



### Program Directors

ACEND offers multiple resources for dietetic program directors including a program director portal which includes an accreditation forum with information and forms for meeting ACEND accreditation requirements.

- **Dietetic Internship Match for Directors**
- **ISPP for Directors**
- **Program Director FAQs and Resources**



# List of Program Director Resources

## PD Resource List

**Accreditation Council  
for Education in  
Nutrition and Dietetics**  
the accrediting agency for the  
Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics



### Topics

- About ACEND +
- Accreditation Standards, Fees and Policies +
- Accredited Programs +
- Accreditation Process +
- Public Notices and Announcements +
- Students and Advancing Education +
- Program Directors Dietetic Internship Match for Directors -  
ISPP for Directors  
Program Director FAQs and Resources
- Training and Volunteer Opportunities +

## Program Director FAQs and Resources

ACEND® receives inquiries from program directors about various topics within the accreditation process. The links below provide information about commonly asked questions as well as resources that can assist program directors. If you need further assistance, please contact [ACEND Staff](#).

- [List of Resources](#)

### Resources for ACEND Program Directors

Pass rate tools and tips, orientation handouts and information about the distance education authorization.

### 2024 Graduate Degree Requirement: Registration Examination Eligibility

Effective January 1, 2024, the minimum degree requirement to be approved for eligibility for the registration examination for dietitians will change from a bachelor's degree to a graduate degree.

### Evaluating International Students Applying to U.S.- Based ACEND Programs

This webinar explains how to work with international students from both ACEND-accredited international programs and non-accredited international programs who wish to apply to your ACEND-accredited program.

### FAQs: Future Options for Free-Standing Dietetic Internships

ACEND® hosted and recorded a topic-specific Virtual Town Hall meeting on Tuesday September 24, 2019. Program options for free-standing dietetic internships were discussed regarding the 2024 CDR graduate degree eligibility requirement and the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards.

### FAQs About Verification Statements

Did you know that verification statements do not expire; however, individual internships may have different admission requirements related to recency of education for particular courses.

# Future Education Model Standards Update



**Accreditation Council  
for Education in  
Nutrition and Dietetics**

the accrediting agency for the  
**eat**  
**right.** Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics

# Future Associate (FA) Education Model Standards Proposed Revisions

## FA Proposed Revisions to Performance Indicators

- **Key changes proposed**
  - To meet Texas Department of Health Community Health Worker certificate competencies:
    - Added 10 performance indicators on communication, advocacy and counseling
    - Revised one performance indicator

# Future Associate (FA) Education Model Standards Proposed Revisions

- Proposed FA Accreditation Standards accessed at [eatrightPRO.org/FutureModel](http://eatrightPRO.org/FutureModel)
- Public comments can be made at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RevisedFA2020> until **August 15, 2020**.

# Early Adopter Demonstration Programs

## Application



- **Cohort 5** Demonstration Program Application due: **Wednesday December 2, 2020 by 11:00 am Central Time**
  - Application, Guidance Document and information webinar available at: [www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel](http://www.eatrightpro.org/FutureModel)
  - ACEND is seeking a representative sample of programs in terms of geographic location, program size, and proposed program structure

# Cohort 5 Benefits for Attending the CBE Workshop



- Slight modifications to the benefits for attending CBE workshop applicable January 1, 2021:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> program director: ACEND covers
  - Any program director sent afterwards:
    - ACEND covers workshop fees
    - Program covers travel, room & board
  - Program faculty:
    - Workshop discount fee of \$250
    - Program covers travel, room & board



# Program Director Workshops

## Upcoming Workshops



- **FEM Program Director Workshop**
  - Virtual Modules will be available Fall 2020
- **2017 Program Director Virtual Modules**
  - Under Training and Resources, Professional Development

### Training and Volunteer Opportunities

ACEND provides opportunities for both accreditation and dietetics professionals to expand their knowledge with professional development resources.

- ▶ Preceptors and Mentors
- ▶ Program Reviewers
- ▶ Training and Resources



# Communication from ACEND



## ■ ACEND Update

- Periodic update from ACEND posted on the website

## ■ Virtual Town Hall

- Next town hall: Tuesday, November 10 at 11:00 am – 12:00 noon Central Time.
- Directions for joining on the ACEND website

## ■ ACEND Staff

- 800-877-1600 x5400
- [acend@eatright.org](mailto:acend@eatright.org)

# COVID- 19 Update



# COVID-19: Temporary Flexibilities



1. Approval to offer distance education
  - No substantive change
2. Ability to allow students/interns 1-2 wk break
  - Break of 2 weeks or less does not need ACEND approval
3. Use a different activity to measure student/intern achievement of the core knowledge or competency



## 4. Supervised practice/Experiential Learning Hours

### CP/DI/FDE/IDE

- Minimum 1000 hours supervised practice
- Minimum 600 hours in professional practice

### DT

- Minimum 375 hours supervised practice
- Minimum 225 hours in professional practice

**Effective for period starting January 1, 2020  
and ending June 30, 2022.**

# ACEND COVID-19 page

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend/public-notices-and-announcements/acend-update/acend-covid-19>

Home > ACEND

## COVID-19 ALERT

ACEND<sup>®</sup> is closely monitoring the information emerging regarding the spread and scale of the COVID-19 virus and its potential impact on dietetics programs and students. ACEND<sup>®</sup> will continue to keep its programs and students informed of any changes or additional information on [its COVID-19 page](#). Please contact [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

STAY INFORMED

## Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics

the accrediting agency for the  
Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics



## ACEND

The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics is the accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitian nutritionists or nutrition and dietetics technicians, registered.

ACEND<sup>®</sup> can be contacted by:

- Email: [ACEND@eatright.org](mailto:ACEND@eatright.org)
- Phone: 800/877-1600, ext. 5400

Read More +

# College/Universities Plans for Fall 2020



## Looks different for every college/university

- Majority are returning on campus
- Taking measures for social distancing on campus
- Limiting class sizes
- Offering hybrid mix of in-person and online
- Shortening the term with online learning support
- Using telehealth, virtual precepting and adding alternate experiences to supervised practice
  - Ambulatory and rounding visits virtual



Chris Hartney, MS,  
RD, LDN, FAND



Rush University Medical Center


# Internship Rotations in the Midst of a Global Pandemic: A Hospital-Based Internship Perspective

July 14, 2020

**Chris Hartney, MS, RDN, LDN, FAND**

Clinical Nutrition Manager

Internship Coordinator—Food Systems Management

- 
- 1 Program Overview
  - 2 Rotations Prior to COVID-19
  - 3 COVID-19 Hits
  - 4 Current State
  - 5 Plans for Intern Re-Entry

Internship Rotations in the Midst of a Global Pandemic: A Hospital-Based Dietetic Internship Perspective

# Rush University Medical Center

- **Located in Chicago, IL**

- Acute academic medical facility licensed for 660 beds
- Fully integrated electronic medical record-Epic

- **Designated bioterrorism response hospital**

- National and international attention on how Rush responded to COVID
- Rush was “built for this” type of pandemic
- COVID planning began in January, Incident Command Center opened 2/2020

- **Unit Breakdown**

- 4 Adult Critical Care (ICU) Units
- 4 Women’s and Children’s Units (2 Pediatric Critical Care Units)
- 11 Medical/Surgical Units
- 1 Acute Rehab Unit
- 2 Behavioral Health Units

- **Department of Food and Nutrition Services**

- Patient Food Service, Retail Food Service, Clinical Services, Dietetic Internship
- Clinical Services
  - *25 Clinical Dietitians serve as preceptors in inpatient and ambulatory settings*



# Program Overview

- **Rush University Medical Center (RUMC) Dietetic Internship**

- Housed in the Department of Food and Nutrition Services (Hospital Operations)
- 21 month dietetic internship with Master's Degree in Clinical Nutrition
- Master's Degree conferred by Department of Clinical Nutrition-College of Health Sciences, Rush University
- 85% of experiential learning occurs on RUMC campus
- Maximum enrollment: 16 interns per class
  - *Total number of interns on campus at one time: 32 interns*
- Interns complete rotations in Food Systems Management during the fall (first semester) and move to Clinical Rotations in winter (second semester)
  - *Graduate coursework completed throughout the program*
  - *Rotations continue up until program graduation*



# Pre-COVID: January-February 2020

- Interns completed orientation to clinical and started specialty rotations
- Specialty rotations start off with more basic rotations and move to more advanced areas of nutrition care
  - Specialty rotations 1-2 weeks, 20 hours per week
  - Rotate in groups of 2-3 interns per dietitian
  - Interns complete module (created by dietitian specialist) practicing in specialty area prior to coming to rotation
  - All inpatient dietitians work as preceptors for dietetic interns
- Started watching COVID-19 situation closely as part of hospital operations
- RUMC preparing to have surge of COVID-19 patients
  - 3 additional adult critical care units (ICU's) and 1 additional medicine floor created
  - Emergency Department expanded into hospital lobby
  - Entire Tower building converted to negative pressure air flow



# Planning-February-March 2020

- Started working with clinical team on developing alternative learning experiences at beginning of March
  - Expected less “regular” patients and more COVID patients in hospital
  - Joint effort between Program Director, Internship Coordinator, Clinical Nutrition Manager, and staff dietitians
  - Think “outside the box” on how to teach interns
  - Look at resources provided by NDEP to supplement patient care
- Unclear if dietitians or dietetic interns would be on campus with COVID-19 surge
- Hospital asked all departments to evaluate if individuals could complete work remotely
  - Decision made that dietitians could complete consults, assessments, instructions remotely via telephone calls
  - Dietitians could round with medical teams using FaceTime and phone calls
- Decisions for Clinical Rotations if Dietitians not working on-site
  - Module review could be done via Zoom, WebEx
  - Patients could “see” patients remotely and then discuss with preceptor



# COVID-19 Hits State of Illinois and RUMC

- **March 16, 2020**

- All IL (K-12) schools and universities begin to close
- Restaurants and non-essential businesses close
- Employers asked to allow employees to work remotely if possible

- **March 19, 2020**

- IL Governor issues a Stay at Home order for all IL residents

- **What happened at RUMC?**

- Dietetic Interns were in research week 3/9/2020, started remote clinical rotations 3/16/2020
- Dietitians start working remotely on Tuesday 3/17/2020
- Hospital begins to see increase in COVID-19 admissions
- Elective surgeries/procedures stopped
- More telemedicine visits

- **Rush University moves all classes to on-line platform and postpones on-site clinical rotations for all students until Fall 2020 semester**





# Rush in the COVID-19 Spotlight



Rush University System for Health

50 mins · 🌐



Rush's central kitchen staff shared messages of hope and support with #COVID19 patients by decorating their disposable meal trays.





# COVID-19 and Dietetic Interns

- **Clinical Rotations became virtual!**

- Hours adjusted based on ACEND guidance and changes
- Preceptor “met” with Dietetic Intern each morning to review plan, assign patients
- Interns “saw” patients and completed assessments, diet educations, follow-ups virtually under guidance of preceptor
- Dietetic Intern reviewed Epic medical record, collected data
- Dietetic Intern called the patient and/or family member to gather additional information
- Dietetic Intern developed a plan based on their assessment
- Preceptor “met” with Dietetic Intern at end of scheduled hours to review patients, answer questions, adjust intern plans, teach interns about different conditions seen in their specialty areas
- Dietetic Intern wrote ADIME note in Epic
  - *Indicated nutrition-focused physical examination not completed in their note*
- Preceptor co-signed note once completed

- **Did this for 2-3 weeks to end semester**



# What Wasn't Anticipated

- **Patient acuity for Clinical Dietitians increased**
  - 2 new adult ICU's open (in addition to 4 usual adult ICU's)
  - Patients admitted were not stable
  - Critically ill patient volume triples
    - *At peak, over 140 patients with COVID-19 admitted to RUMC*
    - *Over 110 patients on enteral nutrition support, 95 patients in ICU's on ventilators*
  - Staff charting on 25+ patients/day
- **More senior and seasoned staff needed to provide nutrition care for patients**
  - Doubled staff coverage on weekends due to acuity
  - Staff not available to work with dietetic interns
- **Very few non-COVID patients being admitted to hospital**
  - Experience would not be great for dietetic interns in specialty rotations if no patients to see
  - Example: GI/Surgery rotation was difficult as no patients being admitted for surgery
  - Interns became frustrated



# Current State

- **Virtual Rotations stopped in April**
  - Patient acuity and patient load for dietitians too high to support through summer
  - Interns missed seeing patients on site
- **All Clinical Dietitians back on hospital campus**
  - Returned in phases to ensure proper social distancing guidelines
    - *Phase I—half of team returned 5/11/2020*
    - *Phase II—remainder of team returned 6/15/2020*
- **Dietetic Interns off campus**
  - Most returned home
  - Didactic learning through Zoom lectures
  - Working on research projects
  - Graduate coursework on-line
- **Rush resumed elective surgeries and procedures on 5/11/2020**
  - Patient acuity back to “normal” as COVID-19 cases dropped to below 35



# Dietetic Intern Re-Entry

- Interns will be screened using the COVID-19 screening used in ambulatory clinics
- Interns will have temperature checks completed as enter hospital and university and be given a face mask
- Interns will be able to see patients on units even those with COVID-19
  - Use appropriate PPE before entering room
  - Likely will call these patients to limit individual exposure
  - May deliver patient meal trays as in room for less than 5 minutes
- Coursework for fall semester will be entirely on-line
- Second year students (15)
  - Clinical rotations for second year students will start in September
- First year students (13)
  - Program orientation and Food Systems Management rotations will start in August



# Lessons Learned

- Though not ideal, virtual patient care and preceptor rounding did work to provide adequate experiences when complimented with additional simulation activities
  - Interns not as happy with virtual rotations
  - Allowing interns to come back at end of scheduled rotations to gain more in-person experience and practice
- Thinking outside of the box and being open to change are absolutely necessary with any planning for experiential learning activities
  - This is now the new normal and may help us implement FEM Standards or possibly 2022 Standards
- May need to add additional experiences once back on-campus to ensure competence with skills
  - Nutrition-Focused Physical Exam
  - Multi-disciplinary Rounding



# Thank you.



Rush University Medical Center

Excellence is just the beginning.



Janet Johnson, MS,  
RDN, LD  
ACEND Board

# IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

## Dietetic Internship





# Distance Internship



- Experienced in delivering content in a distance format
- Team based learning delivered on line
- CANVAS
- Asynchronous
- January and June cohort -60 interns

# COVID-19 experience

- Anything but routine
- New constraints on use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Existing simulations in ThinkSpace
- Individualization
- Nutrition Care Pro
- Creativity of Preceptors

# Tale of Two Interns



John Nielsen R  
D



Alison Rosenstock