
**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 22-23, 2018**



Activity highlights since our September 2017 meeting.

Academy Encourages President Trump to See an RDN

Following the results of President Trump's recent physical examination, I wrote to the president and the White House physician, encouraging the president to consult with a registered dietitian nutritionist. The letter said in part: "Through our education and training, RDNs specialize in translating nutrition science into practical advice. It is no understatement to say we help change people's lives for the better – especially a person with a life as complex as yours, and a job as stressful as that of President of the United States." The full letter is available on the Academy's website

(<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/news-center/member-updates/from-our-leaders/open-letter-from-academy-president-to-president-trump>).

Response to *Wall Street Journal* Op-Ed: RDNs' Knowledge, Skills

I submitted a response to the *Wall Street Journal* in response to a February 1 op-ed that questioned whether a college degree is needed to give diet advice. In the response, I wrote that there are "important distinctions between giving general dietary advice and providing potentially lifesaving services that require significant levels of education and training." The full article is available on the Academy's website (<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/news-center/member-updates/from-our-leaders/academy-responds-to-wall-street-journal-op-ed>).

Letter to *JAMA* on Nutrition Counseling

On behalf of the Academy and all members, I submitted a letter to the editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/news-center/member-updates/from-our-leaders/presidents-response-jama-article-nutrition-counseling>) in response to the article "Nutrition Counseling in Clinical Practice: How Clinicians Can Do Better," which appeared in *JAMA*'s September 7 issue. The letter emphasizes that "strong evidence exists" to support using registered dietitian nutritionists "to provide nutrition care as part of the health care team."

Senate Passes Academy's Centennial Resolution

The U.S. Senate passed S. Res. 75 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-resolution/75>), the congressional resolution commemorating the Academy's Centennial. A companion measure, H. Res. 161 (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-resolution/161>) is gaining support in the House of Representatives. Academy members have been asked to contact their representatives and ask them to cosponsor this exciting measure.

Cook County Board Commemorates Our Centennial

The Cook County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution November 14 honoring the Academy's Centennial. Commissioner Richard Boykin recognized the important role the Academy has played in improving the health of Americans, lauding the Academy's work on treating conditions like obesity and diabetes and its role in working to end food deserts. "You are 100 years strong and we expect you to be even stronger in the next 100 years," Boykin said. Mary Russell and Academy members Jennifer Bruning and Lisa Eaton Wright attended the meeting where the resolution was adopted.

Academy Briefs Congress: School Foodservice Equipment Modernization

The Academy organized a December 13 congressional briefing on "School Foodservice Equipment Modernization," showcasing the need for improving equipment and infrastructure

<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/media/press-releases/public-policy/congressional-briefing-on-school-foodservice-equipment-modernization-highlights-needs-in-schools>. The briefing highlighted a multi-state school cafeteria tour I undertook with Mary Russell and Academy members Nancy Z. Farrell and Dayle Hayes. The briefing was followed by visits to congressional offices to seek support for school foodservice equipment modernization. The project is part of an agreement between the Pew Charitable Trust and the Academy to ensure that school kitchen equipment and infrastructure provisions, as included in the School Food Modernization Act, are included in any child nutrition reauthorization introduced in Congress.

Integrating RDNs into Primary Care Practices

The Academy submitted a letter of commitment to the American Academy of Family Physicians to collaborate with AAFP on its proposed project on integrating registered dietitian nutritionists into primary care practices to the National Institutes of Health (FOA 17-177) titled Enhancing Performance in Primary Care through Integrated Nutrition Care Models. We assured AAFP the Academy will provide the infrastructure to facilitate this research and accomplish the objectives of this study, and that we strongly support AAFP's efforts as outlined in its proposal: "The appropriate programmatic and administrative personnel of our organization are aware of the NIH consortium/subcontract agreement policy and are prepared to establish the necessary inter-organizational agreement(s) consistent with that policy."

Bright Futures Program

As part of our continued partnership with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Academy submitted a letter to AAP in support of its work with the Bright Futures Pediatric Implementation Program, promoting child and adolescent health prevention and promotion strategies. The Academy's involvement has spanned more than 15 years. Academy member and RDN, Bonnie Spear, represented the Academy on the project's Implementation Advisory Committee and served on the multidisciplinary expert panels for the development of the Bright Futures Guidelines (4th edition). Should AAP be funded, we will be asked to appoint a representative to serve on the Bright Futures committee.

External Peer Review: Obesity Medicine Education Collaborative

The Academy was invited to participate in the Obesity Medicine Education Collaborative as an external peer reviewer. OMEC is a working group of 13 professional societies comprising 40 obesity and education experts. The purpose of the OMEC initiative is to develop obesity-focused competencies and evaluation benchmarks that can be directly incorporated into training by program directors in undergraduate, graduate and subspecialty medical programs and equivalent training programs for advanced practitioners. The Academy has appointed Hollie Raynor, associate professor in the department of nutrition at the University of Tennessee, as our representative. The Academy looks forward to exploring further involvement in OMEC.

Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition

Kelly Tappenden, head of the department of kinesiology and nutrition at the University of Illinois at Chicago, has been named the Academy's representative to the Global Leadership Initiative on Malnutrition working group. The Academy, with Avalere Health and Abbott Nutrition, has launched the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii) to address malnutrition quality of care for hospitalized older adults. We continue to lead in treating malnutrition and have developed important tools and resources that an interdisciplinary team can use to address malnutrition care gaps. Within the last four years, 56 unique facilities across 23 hospital systems have efficiently and effectively implemented the MQii tools and resources providing optimal nutrition care (<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/media/multimedia-news-center/videos/preventing-and-identifying-malnutrition>).

Case Western Reserve University Wins Award

Congratulations to Hope Barkoukis and her team for creating Case Western Reserve University's *JJM Mandel Wellness & Preventive Care Pathway* program for medical students which has been selected to receive the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Innovation Award for Health Care Provider Training and Education. The program is the only one in the country which was fully created by RDNs, and among the 22 faculty who present in the program 9 are RDNs, including Tammy Randall. The program is unique in that it includes all the published competencies for physicians in lifestyle medicine, a monthly culinary lab to demonstrate the MNT concepts, and is heavily supported with nutrition.

National Commission on Correctional Health Care

The Academy is fortunate to have a long standing alliance relationship with the National Commission on Correctional Health Care with Academy member Barbara Wakeen as our liaison. She has been the Academy's alliance representative since 2001 and has extensive experience on NCCHC's executive, education and juvenile health committees. Barbara recently became the 2017-2018 chair of NCCHC's board of directors, after serving a year as chair-elect.

New National Diabetes Education Program Blog

The National Diabetes Education Program launched its new Diabetes Discoveries & Practice blog (<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/professionals/diabetes-discoveries-practice>) to create dialogue with thought leaders and people in the field representing a variety of disciplines. Through the perspectives of subject matter experts, NDEP's blog includes lessons learned from the front lines and contains updates on new technologies in diabetes treatment, management, and care. A recent posting addressed "Talking to your patients about prediabetes" and quoted past DCE chair Ann Albright, director of the Division of Diabetes Translation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Future Education Model Standards

The Accreditation Council on Education in Nutrition and Dietetics has 19 programs in the first cohort of demonstration programs to be accredited under the Future Education Model Accreditation Standards. The call for applications for the second cohort has been issued (<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resources/acend/accreditation-standards-fees-and-policies/future-education-model>).

National Campaign and Social Media Guidelines

The Academy's National Campaign and Social Media Guidelines were revised for the 2018 election (<http://www.eatrightpro.org/resource/leadership/nominations-and-elections/elections-process/national-campaign-and-social-media-guidelines>). Nominating Committee members Bethany Thayer and Christine Palumbo presented a December 4 webinar to inform members about changes to the campaign guidelines and how to take an active role in the election process.

Meetings

October:

- October 18: Ethan Bergman attended the presentation in Des Moines, Iowa, of the World Food Prize, and held discussions with attendees including Academy members on how the Academy can play a more active role in the WFP.
- October 29: Lucille Beseler and Diane Enos attended the Obesity Week meetings in Washington, D.C., of the Obesity Society and the Association for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgeons. TOS has been a longstanding network with the Weight Management DPG and recently moved to an Academy alliance. Leadership from TOS, WM, CDR and the Academy met to discuss next steps in formalizing the alliance.

November

- November 7: William Swan, the Academy's representative to the Trinity Health System Nutrition and Wellness Advisory Council, presented to the Council the Academy's quality and outcomes management tools including ANDHII. Trinity Health is a national, not-for-profit Catholic health system operating 93 hospitals in 22 states.
- November 15: Katie Eliot attended the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professions Education, "Improving Health Professional Education and Practice through Technology" workshop. Katie is the Academy's representative to the Forum.
- November 17: Lucille Beseler represented the Academy at the 4th Annual National Collaborative Care Summit in Chicago.
- November 17-19: Lucille Beseler, Jo Jo Dantone DeBarbieris, Marcy Kyle and I attended the 2nd National Conference on Prevention of Diabetes in Atlanta, Ga. Lucille and I presented a session on childhood obesity; Jo Jo and Marcy gave a hands-on workshop on diabetes prevention.
- November 20: I participated in the Pennsylvania School Food Service Equipment Modernization Project.
- November 28-29: Jeanne Blankenship attended the 2017 IFIC/ Foundation Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.
- November 29: I participated in the Georgia School Food Service Equipment Modernization Project.

December

- December 3: Lucille Beseler presented the commencement speech Case Western Reserve University's dietetics interns.
- December 4-8: Alyce Thomas, chair-elect of the Diabetes Care and Education DPG, represented the Academy at the International Diabetes Federation in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Attendees were interested in the Academy's EAL and ANDHII.
- December 6: I attended the GENYOUth Fuel Up to Play 60 program in New York City.
- December 7: I participated in the New York School Food Service Equipment Modernization Project.
- December 14: Alison Steiber, Deepa Handu and Pat Babjak met with Eric Hentges, executive director of ILSI North America, and ILSI's senior staff in Chicago to discuss potential collaborations.
- December 15: I gave the keynote address for Samford University's dietetic internship program in Birmingham, Ala.

January

- January 20-23: Alison Steiber and Mary Beth Whalen attended the ILSI North America Annual Conference.
- January 22-25: Mary Russell, Alison Steiber, Sharon McCauley and Pat Babjak attended the 2018 ASPEN Nutrition Science & Practice Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. Mary and Pat met with Pat Anthony, ASPEN's senior director of organizational growth, to discuss collaborative opportunities.
- January 25: Jeanne Blankenship attended the conference Further with Food: The Center for Food Loss and Waste Solutions in Washington, D.C.

February

- February 8: Pat Babjak met with David Donnan, senior partner at A.T. Kearney, a global management consulting firm that focuses on strategic and operational CEO-agenda issues, to discuss potential collaborations.

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