

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 27-28, 2020**

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Following are activity highlights since our September meeting:

Academy at United Nations: International Day of Women and Girls in Science

The Academy and the Foundation took part February 11 in the Fifth International Day of Women and Girls in Science, held at United Nations headquarters in New York City. This is the fourth time we have been invited to participate. This year, we co-organized the conference which “brings together stakeholders from high-level government officials, representatives of international organizations, foundations, private sector, civil society as well as women in science



experts from around the world.” We participated in a panel discussion on “Equality in Agricultural Science, Technology and Innovation for Inclusive Green Growth.” I was joined on the panel by Academy members and RDNs Marie Spiker, the Foundation’s Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Fellow; Tatyana El-Kour, Health and Nutrition Coordinator at Accion contra el Hambre, Action Against Hunger; and Wahida Karmally, special research scientist at Columbia University. I spoke on the Academy’s commitment to sustainable agriculture and to the advancement of women and girls in STEM fields.

The State of Food and Nutrition Series: The Impact of RDNs on Non-communicable Diseases Forum

While nutrition and diet-related factors are a primary cause of non-communicable diseases and studies show that MNT by RDNs is effective in improving outcomes, access to credentialed nutrition practitioners is poor. The Academy is uniquely positioned to assess the connection between diet-related factors, nutrition professional access, and NCD care and outcomes in the U.S. This includes additional research to ensure equitable access to RDNs.

To draw attention to this issue, the Academy Foundation has initiated a multi-year project, The State of Food and Nutrition Series: The Impact of RDNs on Non-communicable Diseases (the Series). The Series was launched in partnership with the Academy to understand the barriers to nutrition care and how to scale up access to RDNs. The Series will showcase the role of the RDN to help improve outcomes for three high-priority NCDs, chronic kidney disease, hypertension and type 2 diabetes. These NCDs were selected due to their high prevalence in the U.S. and across the globe and the high costs and poor outcomes from not treating individuals with these chronic diseases.

A Steering Committee consisting of an independent group of leading experts in the three disease states is providing ongoing input and oversight of the Series. A forum to officially kick off the Series was held in conjunction with Georgetown University on February 19-20. The meeting included an interactive, deep-dive discussion of measures and metrics that will be used to assess the impact of RDNs on NCD care and outcomes. A report from the Series forum will be forthcoming. It is anticipated that the work of the Series will take an additional 18-24 months to execute. The State of Nutrition Report will show the impact of the RDN and provide a call to action and a roadmap for increasing access.



Nasdaq's Closing Bell

With members from the New York area, we rang Nasdaq's closing bell on January 6, as the Academy supported Nasdaq's Wellness Week and the exchange's commitment to motivate their community to lead healthy, happy lives. My remarks emphasized the Academy's commitment to promoting awareness of health, physical activity and wellness.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/news-center/member-updates/events-and-deadlines/academy-president-rings-nasdaq-closing-bell>

Member Appointments Underscore Crucial Relationships

The Academy has made several recent appointments that will further our longstanding relationships and collaborations with other organizations including:

- Academy member and RDN, Elaine Trujillo was appointed as the Academy's representative to the Malnutrition Screening for Outpatient Oncology Patients Systematic Review and Consensus Recommendations project, an inter-organizational, interdisciplinary group led by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) Oncology Section.
- Academy member and RDN, Valerie Duffy was appointed as the Academy's representative to the Institute of Food Technologists Processed Food and Health task force. The task force will focus its efforts on the topic of processed food and health and will examine the role IFT should assume and the activities it should engage in to provide value-added, science-based clarity on this issue. It will also determine the audiences and sectors it should seek to engage and collaborate.
- Academy member and RDN, Linette Dodson chair of School Nutrition Services DPG, was appointed as the Academy's representative to the Culinary Institute of America's Cooking for Healthy Kids Alliance. The alliance is in an exploratory phase to potentially develop a five-day culinary skills training program, *Cooking for Healthy Kids*, to be provided to school nutrition professionals across the nation that serve school meals under the USDA.
- Academy member and RDN, Margaret K. Dittloff, was appointed as the Academy's representative to the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.
- Past President and RDN, Jessie Pavlinac was appointed to a technical expert panel of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services that will develop a quality measure related to delaying patient progression from Stage 4 chronic kidney disease to end-stage renal disease or dialysis initiation. Having an RDN on the TEP ensures visibility for the important role of cost-effective MNT services for this population and helps develop a measure that could positively impact utilization of and payment for RDNs' services.
- Past President and RDN, Marty Yadrick was appointed as the Academy's representative to the American Medical Informatic Association. The Academy and AMIA look forward to continuing our longstanding relationship and collaborations.

Ethics Committee Update

A number of ethics education resources were established, including: a third quiz aimed at testing and tracking member and non-member knowledge of the Code of Ethics; an "Ethics in Practice"

article in the Academy's *Journal* which addressed telehealth; a session proposal for FNCE® 2020; and four self-study continuing professional education activities on eatrightSTORE.

Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative – MQii

Special Journal Supplement on Malnutrition

The September issue of the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* features a special supplement on the prevention and treatment of malnutrition --- **‘Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative Yields Value for Interdisciplinary Patient Care and Clinical Nutrition Practice’**. Articles describe opportunities to improve the overall quality of patient care, enhance quality clinical outcomes and reduce health care costs. Much of the information was provided by the [Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative](#), a project of the Academy, Avalere Health and other stakeholders. [Access the Malnutrition - MQii Supplement](#)

CMS Approves Inclusion of Malnutrition Quality Measures

Once again, the Academy has exciting news to share about the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative (MQii)! We are pleased to announce a significant win for registered dietitian nutritionists and the Academy. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has approved inclusion of the Malnutrition Quality Measures into two Qualified Clinical Data Registries (QCDRs) for RDNs to participate for 2020 in the Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS). Malnutrition Quality Measures included in the Premier Clinician Performance Registry and the U.S. Wound Registry will promote health care team collaboration with measures for physician and RDN reporting.

The measure includes physicians reporting with the referral to an RDN of preoperative patients who are identified to be at risk for malnutrition and appropriate diagnoses of malnutrition; RDNs directly report completed nutrition assessments with recommendations/interventions for patients identified to be at risk for malnutrition.

Increasing the availability of measures that are relevant for RDN reporting in the QCDR MIPS documents standardized malnutrition care tying performance to Medicare payments and recognizes Malnutrition Quality Measures as vital in advancing evidence-based, high-quality care. More information can be found at <https://www.eatrightpro.org/news-center/in-practice/quality-and-coverage/cms-approves-inclusion-of-malnutrition-quality-measures>.

Standardized Malnutrition Screening Tools Position Paper

The Academy published a new position paper on standardized malnutrition screening tools. This position paper is based on an evidence-based systematic review conducted by the Academy's Nutrition Screening for Adults Workgroup. The Academy determined that all adults, regardless of age or health status, can benefit the most from a single validated tool that is used to screen for malnutrition (undernutrition) in all settings where screening occurs.

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/media/press-releases/positions-and-issues/malnutrition-screening-tool-position>

New: The Joint Commission Publication: Recognizes Hospitals, Health Systems for Electronic Clinical Quality Measures (eCQMs) Advancements

The Pioneers in Quality™: Proven Practices Collection 2019– a publication recognizing 25 U.S. hospitals and health systems that have successfully leveraged electronic clinical quality measures (eCQMs) and health information technology (IT) to advance quality improvement is now

available. The publication highlights the organizations' proven practices, offering innovative ideas to help hospitals overcome eCQM and health IT barriers and challenges by learning from peer experiences. In addition to being Pioneers in Quality, some of the health systems recognized actively participate in MQii. [Learn more.](#)

Revisions to Joint Commission Requirements for Complete Medication Order Field Review

The Joint Commission is revising a requirement in the "Medication Management" chapter (MM.04.01.01, EP 2) to further define the minimum required elements of a complete medication order for hospitals, critical access hospitals, ambulatory health care organizations, home health organizations, behavioral health care organizations, and nursing care centers. The proposed minimum required elements will include the medication name, medication dose, medication route, and medication frequency. [Learn More](#)

CMS Discharge Planning Requirements

CMS issued a [final rule](#) requiring hospitals to provide patients access to information about post-acute care (PAC) provider choices, including performance on important quality measures at the time of patient discharge. This final rule empowers patients to be active participants in the discharge planning process including nutritional consultation/supplemental diets and meal services. In addition, the rule also implements requirements from the Improving Medicare Post-Acute Care Transformation Act of 2014 (IMPACT Act). The Quality Management team updated the Academy IMPACT webpage [Learn more.](#)

Meetings

September:

- September 15: Academy Members and RDNs, Constance Brown-Riggs, chair of the Diabetes Care and Education DPG, and Alyce Thomas, past chair, represented the Academy at the annual meeting in Barcelona, Spain, of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes.

October:

- October 3-4: Academy Board member, Kevin Concannon, along with Jeanne Blankenship and Liz Campbell from the Policy and Advocacy Team, attended the 50th Anniversary of the White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health, held in Washington, D.C.
- October 12-16: Academy member and RDN Barbara Wakeen, the Academy's liaison to the National Commission on Correctional Health Care since 2001, attended NCCHC's fall 2019 conference and presented a session on standardized medical diet programs.

November:

- November 3-7: I attended Obesity Week, the conference of The Obesity Society and American Society for Metabolic Surgery's annual conference in Las Vegas, Nev., with Academy members and RDNs Jeanne Blankenship and Hollie Raynor, the Academy's liaison to TOC.
- November 13: Academy member and RDN, Kathrin Eliot represented the Academy at the National Academy of Medicine's Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education member meeting. The Academy is the only nutrition group represented in the Forum.

December:

- December 3: Academy member and RDN, Linette Dodson, the Academy's representative to the Culinary Institute of America's Cooking for Healthy Kids Alliance attended its strategic planning summit in Napa, CA.
- December 6: Academy Board member and RDN, Manju Karkare represented the Academy at the regional meeting of the North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- December 12: Commencement address at Samford University's dietetic internship graduation ceremony.

January:

- January 6: Along with members from the New York area, we rang Nasdaq's closing bell honoring Nasdaq's Wellness Week.

February:

- February 11: The Fifth International Day of Women and Girls in Science was held at United Nations headquarters in New York City.
- February 19-20: The Academy's State of Food and Nutrition Series Forum in Washington, D.C., hosted by Georgetown University.

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