

Following are activity highlights since our May meeting:

### **New York Stock Exchange Opening Bell**

On August 28, the Academy participated for the first time in ringing the Opening Bell at the [New York Stock Exchange](#) to highlight Kids Eat Right Month™. The president of the New York State Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Reyna Franco, along with Academy New York Spokesperson Sandra Arévalo attended the event. They were also joined by Academy members from the New York area. The event was promoted to members via social channels, eatright PRO website and in *Eat Right Weekly*. Click [here](#) to view the recorded NYSE bell ringing ceremony. For multimedia features such as exclusive content, photo postings, status updates and video of bell ceremonies, please visit NYSE's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NYSE/>.

### **Academy Seeks Nutrition and Health Solutions at Southern Border**

The Academy sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Domestic Policy Council, offering professional partnership and collaboration to facilitate solutions to health and nutrition problems at the U.S.-Mexico border. We also requested a meeting with DHS leadership to further discuss these challenges and opportunities. The Academy urges CBP to identify individuals with special health care needs as soon as possible upon entry into care and to provide treatment and nutrition care according to evidence-based guidelines followed by RDs and NDTRs. As next steps, the Academy's Washington, D.C. office will:

- Draft a communication to the Inspector General to ask for more information on the data gathered during site visits related to food service and nutrition care.
- Meet with Congressional offices regarding proposed legislation in both the House and the Senate to advocate for improved nutrition standards.
- Request the opportunity to accompany U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (Texas) on a site visit to the border to observe food and nutrition practices.

### **Advocating for Safe, Nutritious Kids' Meals**

During August's Kids Eat Right Month™, the Academy and the Foundation [focused](#) on the importance of healthful eating and active lifestyles for children and their families. Although throughout the year the Academy advocates for safe and nutritious meals for children, especially in schools, the Academy also joined food advocates in June calling on Congress to pass the School Food Modernization Act of 2019. The Academy, along with FoodCorps and United Fresh Produce Association, commended the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives on the introduction of the bill, which would expand schools' ability to modernize kitchen infrastructure and equipment, as well as strengthen workforce training. Academy members received an action alert encouraging them to contact their members of Congress on this important issue.

### **Academy Recognizes Congressional Policy Leaders**

At the Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. in July, two members of Congress received the Academy's Public Policy Leadership Award: [Alma Adams \(N.C.\)](#) and [Brett Guthrie \(Ky.\)](#).

### **National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel Meeting**

On August 22, Academy member and RDN Liz Friedrich, the Academy's alliance representative to the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel (NPUAP), participated in the advisory panel meeting in Baltimore, MD. The role of our representation is to assure nutrition has a seat at the pressure injury prevention and treatment table and that the new Clinical Practice Guidelines, which are set to be released November 2019, include a nutrition component.

### **IPEC Summer Council Meeting**

Academy member and RDNs Cathy Christie and Kathrin Eliot represented the Academy June 13-14 at the Interprofessional Education Collaborative's meeting in Washington, D.C. Discussions included how IPEC could move forward in bridging the gap between education and practice; successes over IPEC's 10 years of existence; challenges that remain; and how to create the biggest impact.

### **Members Serve on CMS Clinical Subcommittees**

In May, Mary Russell supported the nomination of an Academy member to serve on the next wave of Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services clinical subcommittees being formed to develop episode-based cost measures suitable for potential use in Medicare's new Quality Payment Program. The role of each subcommittee is to work with other stakeholders and experts to provide direction and input to help CMS develop episode-based cost measures, which are a requirement of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015. The Academy's nominee, RDN Livleen Gill, was selected for the Chronic Conditions and Disease Management Subcommittee as well as the resulting Diabetes episode group. In addition, one of our previous appointees, Academy member and RDN Carol Rees Parrish, was selected to serve on the General and Colorectal Surgery Clinical Subcommittee. Independent of any new nominations, CMS reaches into the pool of individuals who already participated in previous waves to identify individuals to serve again. These selections demonstrate the recognition of RDNs and nutrition services as important components of team-based health care.

### **Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative Update**

A special June supplement issue of the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics* discusses how prevention and treatment of malnutrition present outstanding opportunities to improve the overall quality of patient acute care, enhance quality clinical outcomes, and reduce costs. The supplement's scope and main themes also includes quality improvement's role in promoting better health outcomes, multidisciplinary engagement and increased visibility for RDNs.

Included in the supplement are an overview of how QI is integral to today's health care environment, a history of the MQii, a description of the evidence-based MQii Toolkit and the process for validating a set of malnutrition electronic clinical quality measures. The supplement also profiles the unique results of MQii projects in two acute care institutions. The supplement further highlights leadership behaviors and innovations of clinical nutrition managers leading MQii programs and concludes with a series of abstracts that share real-world experiences and results of using MQii measures and tools.

### **Spotlight on Malnutrition**

During its September [Spotlight on Malnutrition](#), the Academy raises awareness of malnutrition and promotes the crucial role of RDNs and NDTRs in identifying and treating this serious condition. In addition, the Academy provides educational resources for members and the public. The Academy and its members will emphasize specific aspects of malnutrition to include the strategic plan focus

areas; Prevention and Well-Being, Health Care and Health Systems and Food and Nutrition Safety and Security.

The September issue of the *Journal* features a [special supplement](#) that includes articles about how the prevention and treatment of malnutrition present opportunities to improve the overall quality of patient care, enhance quality clinical outcomes and reduce health care costs. Much of the information for the supplement was provided by the Malnutrition Quality Improvement Initiative. For more information on the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Quality Measures for Malnutrition, see the [September issue of the Journal](#).

### **Evidence Based NCP Training and International Collaborations**

The Academy's Research, International and Scientific Affairs team has developed a Nutrition Care Process train-the-trainer program to maximize capacity and has trained the first cohort members. A comprehensive Evidence Based NCP training will be offered in December to dietitians in Jordan. The RISA team has received a pilot grant to conduct a program evaluation of the Evidence Based NCP training.

The NCP Terminology now exceeds 2,000 terms and has been translated into seven languages. New content includes terms necessary to document care specific to breast-feeding, a major public health area. Also, the dietetic association in Mexico has recently completed the Spanish (Mexico) translation of the NCPT; a much-anticipated translation for Spanish-speaking dietitians and students.

The Academy and nine countries have formed a consortium called INIS (International NCP Implementation Survey) to investigate together the degree of NCP adoption and continued needs. The consortium is studying barriers and enablers of NCP/NCPT implementation. A study has been conducted that demonstrates for the first time that using a standardized terminology within the profession of dietetics improves continuity of care and produces data for the analysis of nutrition care effectiveness. This study, once published, can have major implications for policy decisions. In this report it is shown for the first time that implementation of a standardized terminology can improve health outcomes.

### **Progress in Informatics**

The Academy's Data Science Center has been involved with the SIREN network in the GRAVITY project, a national informatics "accelerator" project on Social Determinants of Health. As content lead, the Academy is spearheading the infrastructure necessary to embed standardized "food insecurity" data elements in electronic health records.

ANDHII – the Academy's Health Informatics Infrastructure – houses the NCPT in a web-based platform and is a unique tool that allows comprehensive electronic documentation of the NCPT. In the past four years Academy members and RDNs Hollie Raynor and Tsz Kiu Chui submitted a quality evaluation of NCP cases in the National Quality Initiative dataset. These data reveal the need for a renewed national NCP strategy. The results will be presented in a FNCE® poster in Philadelphia and a manuscript is in review.

In collaboration with IBM, the first analysis of NCP case data aggregated in ANDHII is in progress to devise a predictive algorithm for resolving nutrition problems. The findings of this progressive project will be shared at FNCE® and in a subsequent manuscript.

ANDHII has been undergoing significant technological improvements to improve data quality and user experience. ANDHII is used in a growing number of seminal research studies that actively support the strategic plan of the Academy. Examples of continuing projects include a study on validating the Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics (MCC study), a study on food insecurity (Food Security Solutions), a study on diabetes and a study on oncology. A new grant by the Pediatric Nutrition DPG is making possible the planning and initiation of a breast-feeding national registry study which will help aggregate data in this major public health area.

Nutrition Informatics at the Academy has seen many changes in the past year. The Nutrition Informatics Committee worked on creating the fourth tri-annual informatics survey, which was distributed to members August. The NIC also conducted an educator's survey to discover how informatics is taught. The Electronic Nutrition Care Process Record System (ENCPRS) functional profile, which describes EHR functions to support the NCP, had its second release published and is now being validated against two EHR implementations – one in the United States and one in Australia – with several other organizations agreeing to potentially validate the functional profile. This is the first time a Health Level 7 functional profile is being validated in this fashion and will help with wide adoption of this Academy EHR nutrition standard. The Interoperability and Standards Committee (ISC) is also working to create a Nutrition Intake FHIR resource which will help to collect and share meal consumption data in EHRs.

A white paper is being developed by the ISC on school health to determine electronic resources to further sharing of data related to meals, allergies, and other health issues for school children. The Nutrition Care Process Research Outcomes Committee participated in the development of the WHO Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2024, and will be presenting the modeling of nutrition terminology in SNOMED (Systematized Nomenclature of Medicine), the largest global terminology for all health professionals, in the upcoming SNOMED International conference in Kuala Lumpur.

### **Consensus Recommendations for Optimization of Electronic Health**

An interagency collaboration of the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition, Association of Clinical Documentation Improvement Specialists and the Academy has resulted in a joint manuscript that describes Consensus Recommendations for Optimization of Electronic Health. This work focuses on the optimal documentation of pediatric and adult malnutrition (undernutrition). The manuscript will be simultaneously launched/published by the three organizations' journals in coming months.

### **Meetings**

#### June:

- June 5-8: Milton Stokes, Marty Yadrack and I attended the Dietitians of Canada's National Meeting in Ottawa, Ont.
- June 7-9: Mary Russell attended the Dietitians in Nutrition Support and Pediatric DPG's 2019 Symposium in Charlotte, N.C.
- June 11-14: Mary Russell attended the Eighth Brazilian Conference of Integrated Nutrition, hosted by the Scientific Committee of Ganepão 2019, in São Paulo, Brazil.

#### July:

- July 13-17: Catherine Christie attended the Florida Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Annual Conference.
- July 30-31: Mary Russell attended the Ninth Annual Transplant Nutrition Conference in Seattle.

August:

- August 21: Sharon Cox, Mary Russell, Pat Babjak, and I were joined by other Academy leaders and staff at Barnes & Thornburg's Celebration of Diversity and Inclusion Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Chicago. I accepted the 10th Annual Celebration of Diversity Award presented by Barnes & Thornburg on behalf of the Academy stating, "The Academy's commitment to diversity and inclusion involves the entire nutrition and dietetics profession. Our members embody the principles of inclusion, education, training, mentorship and support for diverse individuals throughout their careers."
- August 22: Sharon Cox, Aida Miles, Mary Russell, Pat Babjak, Jeanne Blankenship, Barbara Visocan and I participated in the Academy's inaugural Nutrition and Health Equity Summit, held in Chicago. Health and nutrition experts from all backgrounds came together to explore perspectives on the role of nutrition and the untapped power of community engagement, with health equity champions Reps. Danny K. Davis (Ill.) and Robin Kelly (Ill.) providing remarks. The Nutrition and Health Equity Summit is a collaborative effort with the Academy, UI Mile Square Health Center and Congressman Danny K. Davis. In our remarks, Sharon Cox and I highlighted the importance of this event dedicated to nutrition and health equity with attendees from a variety of backgrounds. The conversation on diversity and cultural competency will continue at the FNCE 2019 with [12 sessions](#) dedicated to the topic.
- August 29: Jeanne Blankenship and Alison Steiber presented at the Policy and Nutrition Forum Agenda in Krakow, Poland.
- August 31-September 3: Mary Russell attended the European Congress for Nutrition and Metabolism in Krakow, Poland.

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