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**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JULY 31, 2020**

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Following are activity highlights since our June 19, 2020 meeting.

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

Three communications to members have been sent to all members, one on [June 5](#), another on [June 29](#), and a third on [July 23](#) addressing the Academy's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. We are receiving positive comments both on social media and from members. Representatives of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee will provide an update to the Board on its program of work, short and long term.

**Member Resources**

I encourage you to review and access the existing portfolio of Academy diversity and inclusion resources for members on the [website page](#).

**Nutrition and Health Equity Summit**

On August 25, the Academy will host the [Second Annual Nutrition and Health Equity Summit](#). The online conversation will focus on advancing the Academy's advocacy efforts related to health equity, diversity and inclusion and reducing health disparities. This year's event will be held with U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly (Ill.) and the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. The Academy's first Nutrition and Health Equity Summit was held on August 22, 2019, in Chicago, and the summary of outcomes from the summit are available on [eatrightPRO.org](#).

**State of Food and Nutrition Series: Impact of RDNs on Non-Communicable Diseases**

In collaboration with the Academy, the Foundation began a project in 2019 titled the State of Food and Nutrition Series: The Impact of RDNs on Non-Communicable Diseases. The series seeks to demonstrate the value of access to nutrition care by RDNs in three high-priority non-communicable diseases that affect many in the U.S. and globally: hypertension, chronic kidney disease and Type 2 diabetes. The project includes a focus on health inequity and improving access to care for marginalized populations. Results from this multi-phase project will be used to advocate for increased access to nutrition care delivered by RDNs. An interdisciplinary group of experts (RDNs, MDs, Nephrologists, etc.) are working with the Academy's research team to take a retrospective look at data. A report of this effort will be posted on the website and shared through *Eat Right Weekly*.

**FNCE® 2020 Transitions to Virtual Event**

I announced to the Academy's membership the Board's June 19 decision to transition the 2020 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo™ to a virtual event experience. I emphasized that the decision was made as the global COVID-19 pandemic continues to create worldwide challenges: "I know you will agree with me that, especially as an organization of health professionals, we must respect above all else the safety of our members, presenters, guests and employees of the Academy and the convention center and the hotels that would house FNCE® attendees." More information: <https://eatrightfnce.org/fnce-2020-update/>.

### **Malnutrition Quality Measures Included in QCDRs**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has approved inclusion of new Malnutrition Quality Measures into two Qualified Clinical Data Registries for RDNs to participate in the 2020 Merit-based Incentive Payment System. The new Malnutrition Quality Measures included in the Premier Clinician Performance Registry and the U.S. Wound Registry promote health care team collaboration with measures for physician and RDN reporting. These measures are for MIPS reporting via QCDRs and do not replace the previous four malnutrition eCQMs and the Global Malnutrition Composite Score measure.

To assist RDNs with insight on the benefits of MIPS reporting via QCDRs, FAQs have been developed as well as a Microlearning Series (available for 1 CPEU). Plans include surveying RDNs involved with QCDRs reporting on the new malnutrition quality measures, followed by an invitation only webinar to determine engagement interest and support of QCDR initiation. More information is available at

[www.eatrightPRO.org/practice/quality-management/quality-improvement/qualified-clinical-data-registry](http://www.eatrightPRO.org/practice/quality-management/quality-improvement/qualified-clinical-data-registry)

### **New Definition of Terms Website Page**

The Academy's Definition of Terms serve as standardized language for consistent application in practice settings and documents. The Definition of Terms List houses terms, definitions and key considerations to support the profession of nutrition and dietetics. The updated list can be found on the newly created Definition of Terms website <https://www.eatrightPRO.org/practice/quality-management/definition-of-terms>. The page includes the updated and revised list, policy, form, new webinar and recently published *Journal* article.

### **International Confederation of Dietetics Associations (ICDA) Report**

The following update was submitted by former Academy President and RDN Judith Rodriguez, the U.S. representative on the Board of the International Confederation of Dietetics Associations, on recent ICDA actions and initiatives:

- Notice will be sent out to ICDA membership of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General and Special Meeting of Members, to be held September 15 by videoconference.
- A Sustainable Food Systems FS-ICDA virtual workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 1 and 2, 2020.
- ICD2020 in South Africa will soon announce its plans regarding rescheduling the meeting.
- ICDA received an auditor report of a clean audit.
- The upcoming budget was approved, but there was recognition that it will likely require changes, such as unlikely Board travel to South Africa for ICD before March 31, 2021, and the usual support given to representatives for such; tentative changes to the Sustainability Food Systems project which was projected to have a session at ICD2020; and undetermined work regarding accreditation.

- There was discussion about options or actions ICDA may take to support ICD2020 (South Africa) and to provide assistance to Dietitians of Canada (DOC) for ICD2024 if ICD2020 does not generate sufficient funds for DOC.
- New ICDA member countries Haiti, Norway and Greece will use their Welcome Fund for their membership fees. There were no new applications for membership.
- Discussion regarding possible registration of the ICDA logo continues. It may need to be registered in Canada, which could take three years and is very expensive.

### **Ethics Committee**

The three-person Ethics Committee, comprised of members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Commission on Dietetic Registration, handles all relevant ethics matters. These include educating Academy members, CDR-credentialed practitioners, students and the public about the ethical principles contained in the Academy/CDR Code of Ethics for the Nutrition and Dietetics Profession, as well as reviewing, promoting and enforcing the Code.

Since the last Board meeting, five new cases have been discussed and acted upon and several ethics education resources have been promoted, including four modules that are available for continuing professional education in eatrightSTORE.

In addition, two quizzes aimed at tracking outcomes related to awareness and understanding of the Code have been disseminated via email to all Academy members and CDR-credentialed practitioners and two *Ethics in Practice* articles have been published in the *Journal*. One article addresses [the identification and management of conflicts of interest](#) and the other provides [updated guidance relative to the recommendation and sale of dietary supplements](#).

### **Academy Appoints New Spokespeople for 2020-2023**

The Academy has appointed five members to three-year terms as media spokespeople and reappointed eight spokespeople to another term. The Academy's national volunteer spokesperson network consists of 30 registered dietitian nutritionists who conduct thousands of nutrition and healthful eating interviews on behalf of the Academy each year with print, broadcast and online media. The new terms started June 1. More information: <https://www.eatrightpro.org/media/press-releases/leadership-announcements/academy-names-2020-21-spokespeople>

### ***Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics***

The *Journal's* most recent Impact Factor, released July 9, increased from 4.141 to 4.151. The impact factor is a measurement of the “health” of a journal and compares different journals within a certain field. It is published by the *Journal of Citation Reports*, which indexes more than 11,500 science and social science journals. The impact factor calculation shows the number of citations a journal receives in a two-year period compared to the number of available articles in that journal.

While many other journal metrics are gaining traction, the Impact Factor remains the gold standard. Target impact factors depend on the journal's audience, subject matter and type of article. A healthy impact factor for the *Journal* is between 4 and 5.

Top-cited articles included topics of great significance to the Academy, such as:

- Food insecurity
- Malnutrition
- Underserved populations (minority, low-income, older adults)
- Sustainability.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Linda T. Farr, RDN, CSOWM, LD, FAND