

---

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING  
MAY 27, 2022**

---

**eat  
right.** Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics

Following are activity highlights since our February meeting.

**White House Conference on Food, Nutrition and Health**

The White House's May 4 announcement that it will host a conference on hunger, nutrition and health in September is an imperative investment in addressing national issues. This important conference will be a crucial step in addressing the high numbers of Americans with diet-related chronic disease, the ever-growing numbers of families experiencing food insecurity, as well as health inequities in the United States.

The Academy has supported holding this event and we will provide input to the White House throughout the process. The Academy will be participating, addressing and highlighting national issues it strongly supports ... nutrition security, health equity and prevention of diet-related chronic diseases.

**President's Strategic Advancement Groups**

The President's Strategic Advancement Groups (PSAG) will provide new member engagement opportunities, create a pipeline for a diverse pool of members to partake in new corridors to volunteer leadership, and offer more flexible, focused, shorter terms of service. The groups will develop official statements and rationales, supported by a summary of the scientific evidence emphasizing the impact of the nutrition and dietetics profession on each of the four focus areas of the Strategic Plan: Well-Being and Prevention; Nutrition Care and Health Systems; Nutrition Security and Food Safety; and Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access.

The Research, International and Scientific Affairs team will perform literature reviews and the Policy Initiatives and Advocacy team will lead the PSAGs through a process to summarize the data and reach conclusions, with support from a professional scientific writer. Once the rationales and statements are drafted, feedback will be solicited from individuals who expressed interest in participating in this process but were not selected. Finally, the statements will be reviewed and approved by the Board. The final approved statements will be communicated to the Academy's internal and external stakeholders and to the public.

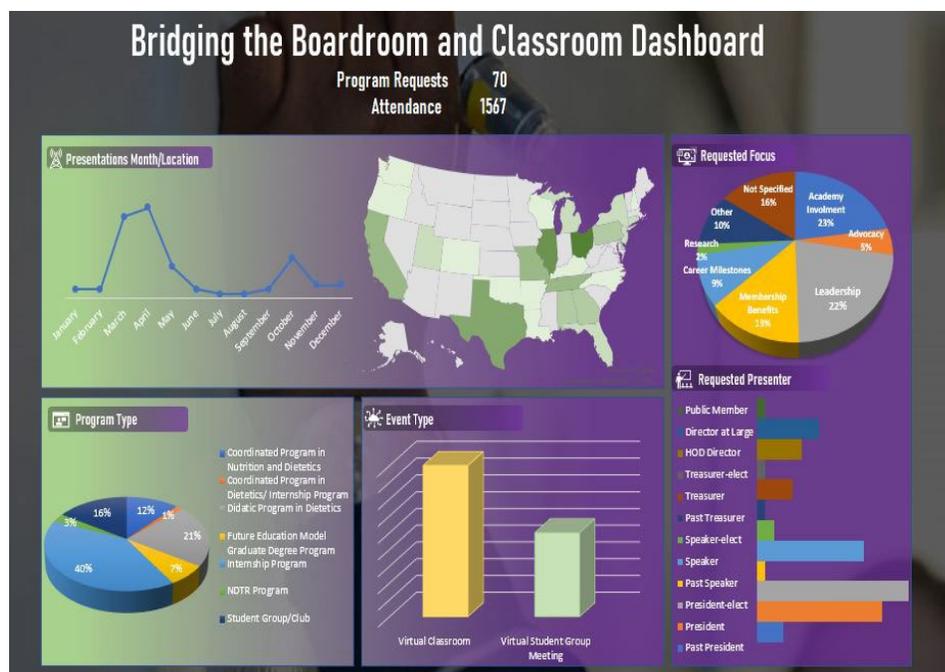
A call for nominations to the groups was sent to all members on March 16. Over 90 individuals expressed an initial interest in serving and were reminded to submit their full materials to be considered. A total of 67 completed nominations were received.

Co-chairs for each group were identified from a list of content experts and an initial call occurred on May 12. At this meeting, they were oriented to the PSAG project, and discussed criteria to be used to appoint a diverse set of members to each of the four focus groups. Co-chairs have been given all completed nomination packets for their respective focus area and a review of candidates is currently underway.

The first focus group (Nutrition Care and Health Systems) is anticipated to begin its work in June. The work of each group is anticipated to take approximately two months and groups will be staggered throughout the summer and fall.

## Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom (B2C) Events

To date, we have received 70 B2C program requests. Of the 70 requests, 63 were unique (first time) requests. Of the 63 programs that participated five programs submitted two requests (participated twice) and one program submitted three requests (participated three times). One program request was canceled due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict. As estimated by the program directors, approximately 1567 students will have participated in the B2C program between February 2021 and July 2022.



## Graduates of Internship at Vanderbilt Medical Center

I was fortunate to present a *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* session to the dietetic interns at Vanderbilt Medical Center in April. The interns sent a graduation photo of their program.



## NQF's Virtual Health Care Quality Issue Brief

The Academy participated as part of the National Quality Forum (NQF) [Action Team on Virtual Healthcare Quality](#). As a culmination of the Action Teamwork, NQF hosted a January 26 capstone webinar to overview the final Issue Brief and highlight how diverse health care stakeholders can evaluate, improve and sustain virtual health care quality beyond the current public health emergency.

## Participation with Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute

The Academy's Quality Management Committee participated in the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute's 2022 Clinician Convening, which provides an opportunity for clinicians to engage and network with health care partners in research on patient-centered care options to help close the gap on health care concerns.

## RDN Representation on NCQA Panel

Academy member and RDN Hope Barkoukis represented the Academy last year at a National Committee for Quality Assurance roundtable on Improving Quality of Care for Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis Disease. "One of the areas we are lacking a voice is nutrition and would be very interested in having a registered dietitian on the panel since diet and nutrition are so important with NASH and associated diseases," according to NCQA. A white paper released in April titled [A Rallying Cry: Improving Coordinated Care for People With Nonalcoholic Steatohepatitis](#) summarized the discussion and outlined recommendations for increasing awareness and optimizing care for patients with NASH. The paper specifically notes: "Ideal care should include education and counseling from registered dietitians/nutritionists" and recommends expanded

coverage for nutrition counseling. NCQA plans to post a website blog and disseminate the link to the white paper via its newsletters and to feature the paper and topic on its podcast.

### **American Medical Association (AMA) Coding Activities**

On behalf of the Academy, I recently endorsed the nomination of Livleen Gill to serve as our Alternate Advisor to the AMA Relative Value System Healthcare Professionals Advisory Committee (RUC HCPAC) following the completion of Academy member and RDN Jane White's distinguished term of service. Livleen will serve with Academy member Karen Smith to represent RDNs' interests as codes for services are valued. Thanks to Academy member and RDN Eileen Myers for her service in this role for the past five years.

### **American Medical Association Procedural Terminology Advisory Committee Advisors**

I endorsed the nominations of Academy members and RDNs Keith Ayoob and Jessie Pavlinac to serve another term as the Academy's primary and alternate advisors to the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology Advisory Committee. They represent RDNs' interests as codes for services are developed and revised.

### **Meetings**

#### ***March:***

- March 1: Linda Farr presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to the University of Utah
- March 2: Ellen Shanley presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to Pennsylvania State University
- March 7: Linda Farr presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to the St. Louis VA dietetic internship program
- March 8: Linda Farr spoke at the St. Louis VA virtual Grand Rounds
- March 9: I spoke at the Illinois Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics virtual conference
- March 9: Deanne Brandstetter presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to the Bluffton University ISPP
- March 26: I spoke at the Nevada Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics virtual conference
- March 31: I presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to Texas A&M University
- March 31: Livleen Gill presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* at Sodexo

#### ***April:***

- April 1: Linda Farr spoke at the Arkansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics virtual conference
- April 4: Livleen Gill spoke to the Maryland Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
- April 7: Ainsley Malone presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to the University of Rhode Island
- April 21: I gave a pre-recorded presentation at the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics virtual conference
- April 22: Ellen Shanley spoke at the West Virginia Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics annual conference
- April 22: I presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* to Vanderbilt University
- April 22: I spoke at the Kansas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics virtual annual conference
- April 27 to 29: Ellen Shanley and I attended the Academy's virtual 2022 Nutrition Trends Forum
- April 28: Ellen Shanley spoke at the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics annual conference

#### ***May:***

- May 2: Tammy Randall presented *Bridging the Boardroom and Classroom* at Life University.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kevin L. Sauer, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND