Following are activity highlights since our February meeting.

Membership Recruitment
To foster robust renewal and recruitment, the Membership Team, in collaboration with the Marketing, Accounting and Social Media teams, has moved up launch dates of several campaigns. Many of the campaigns have already launched or are forthcoming, including special pricing for membership through May 31, 2024; WIC outreach; and collaborative affiliate/DPG/MIG recruitment offers. The group created a new Salary and Negotiation Toolkit, collating existing Academy resources into a single resource. The toolkit is scheduled to be finalized soon and will be available to members in late April on eatrightPRO.

Sign-On Letter to Support the Physician Practice Information Survey
The Academy joined a broad range of state medical associations, national medical specialty societies and health care organizations in support of the American Medical Association (AMA) and Mathematica 2023-2024 Physician Practice Information Survey. The survey is designed to collect practice cost information for use in AMA advocacy to support physicians. The data collected will also be shared with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in late 2024 to update the Medicare Economic Index and the Resource-Based Relative Value Scale.

Organization Business Model
The Finance and Audit Committee submitted a recommendation to the Board in September 2022 to evaluate the Academy’s organization business model, both short and long-term. In response, the Board passed a motion “to evaluate the business structure to ensure it meets the future needs of the nutrition and dietetics profession and to secure the financial health of the organization.” I recommended that the E-Team initiate the dialogue and prepare recommendations for Board consideration. The E-Team recently held its fifth meeting with consultant Sandra Gill, PhD to facilitate the strategic thinking. The assessment of business models has been completed and data analytics are being addressed at the April Board meeting. The final report, including structure changes will be presented to the Board at its May meeting.

Capacity and Infrastructure Building Initiative
In February, the Board gave me its support to explore the advantages and challenges of using a lobbying firm to focus on the Academy’s public policy and advocacy priorities. I signed an agreement with Academy member and RD, Angie Tagtow, founder of Äkta Strategies, to develop and implement a multi-dimensional capacity building plan to strengthen our policy initiatives and advocacy efforts. Key deliverables include an outline of the adaptive challenges, strategic issues, and barriers that inhibit the Policy Initiatives and Advocacy team from achieving performance goals; a database of food and nutrition policy experts available for time-limited food and nutrition policy initiatives; and a cost benefit analysis of hiring a government relations firm to support Academy policy initiatives. Angie will present the scope of the plan at the April Board meeting.

Innovation in Health Profession Education Meeting
Academy member and RDN Stephanie N. Petrosky represented the Academy at the March 15-16 meeting of the National Academy of Medicine Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education. Stephanie has noted, “This was a meaningful and critical opportunity to showcase the interprofessional role and impact of nutrition and dietetics in the future education models of health professions education. Nutrition in medicine came up indirectly through many conversations, especially about the aging population and the use of artificial intelligence in health care. This is a critical role for the Academy to demonstrate engagement and leadership in collaborative practice. I was requested to lead one of the breakout meetings on aging populations, setting the Academy in a key driver role at this proceeding.”
Agriculture and Diet: Value Added for Nutrition, Translation, and Adaptation in a Global Ecology (ADVANTAGE) Virtual Meeting Series
The National Institute of Health will be hosting a five series virtual workshop related to its ADVANTAGE project. The aim of the series is to better understand the intersection of food systems, diet, nutrition, and health in a changing environment by addressing how the current realities of climate/environmental change are affecting dietary choices, patterns, and relevant aspects of the food system, as well as implications for specific public health outcomes of interest. This work is being done adjacent to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Academy is part of the secretariate team leading the project. The event is open to the public. Follow the link here for more information on the project, dates, and topics of each of the five webinars.

Competency Tracking: ACEND Partners with Education Management Solutions
The Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics has entered into a five-year partnership with Education Management Solutions to track nutrition and dietetics competencies. EMS is a leading provider of education and competency management software solutions for health care. ACEND will leverage the EMS Competency.AI core capabilities of clinical management, competency management and learner progression tracking to track student competency advancement and in-field evaluations for more than 600 ACEND member programs.

Evidence Analysis Center
The Evidence Analysis Center has published the Nutrition and Physical Activity: General Population Evidence-Based Nutrition Practice Guideline and the Disorders of Lipid Metabolism: Saturated Fat Evidence-Based Nutrition Practice Guideline. Board member Lauri Wright is a contributing author of the article published in Frontiers in Nutrition entitled, “Documentation of the Evidence-Diagnosis Link Predicts Nutrition Diagnosis Resolution in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ Diabetes Mellitus Registry Study: A Secondary Analysis of Nutrition Care Process Outcomes.”

New Publications
The Academy’s Publications Team is proud to announce the release of two highly anticipated resources.

Effective Leadership & Management in Nutrition & Dietetics
This publication provides comprehensive coverage of topics vital to the development of leadership and management skills and is applicable to students, interns, practitioners, and both new and experienced managers. This resource is co-edited by Board member Susan Roberts and was reviewed by experienced nutrition and dietetics leaders from a variety of practice settings.

This edition provides a fresh update and new format. Written and reviewed by RDNs in joint collaboration between the National Kidney Foundation Council on Renal Nutrition and the Renal Dietitians Dietetic Practice Group, the guide is also accompanied by eight downloadable patient handouts available in both English and Spanish.

Both the Effective Leadership & Management in Nutrition & Dietetics eBook and the National Kidney Diet Professional Guide, Third Edition eBook are now available for purchase on the eatrightSTORE and the print editions will be released in May 2023.

SUBMITTED BY: Patricia M. Babjak