
**PRESIDENT REPORT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS VIRTUAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2023**

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right. and Dietetics

Following are activity highlights since our January meeting.

Advocacy in Connecticut: Medicaid MNT Bill Championed by RDN Lawmaker

With colleagues from Connecticut, I was proud to provide testimony February 14 in support of a bill in the Connecticut legislature that would expand coverage of MNT for Medicaid. State Rep. (and Academy member) Jaime Foster, PhD, RD, reintroduced the bill in the current legislative session and previously worked with the Academy in developing the bill's language. As I said in my testimony:

Now is the time to focus on prevention and wellness as well as the management of chronic illnesses, achieve quality care and decrease Connecticut's total costs by including certified, registered dietitian nutritionist-provided medical nutrition therapy services in Connecticut's services that may be provided in independent practice to Medicaid recipients.

Honored by NAFEM

Earlier this month in Orlando, Fla., I was honored to receive the [Doctorate of Foodservice Award](#) at the NAFEM Show, the biannual meeting of the North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers. Founded in 1948, NAFEM is a trade association of 500 commercial foodservice equipment and supplies manufacturers.

Academy Supports Proposed USDA School Meal Standards

In late January, I met with USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack as part of a group of executives and leaders from stakeholder organizations regarding the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed rule changes to the school meal nutrition standards. The revised standards were announced on February 3. The standards are slated to begin for the 2024-2025 school year and will be phased in allowing school nutrition professionals, food companies and children time to adjust. The Academy plans to submit a formal response to the USDA's proposed rule supporting the alignment of meal standards with the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education

Academy member Stephanie Nelson-Petrosky, DCN, MHA, RDN, FAND, was appointed as the Academy's alternate representative to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education (IHPE Forum). Stephanie will serve alongside fellow Academy member Katie Eliot, PhD, RDN, LDN, in her role as the primary IHPE Forum representative. The IHPE Forum brings together stakeholders from multiple nations and professions to network and discuss issues within health professional education. The Forum's principles emphasize "engaging students, being patient- and person-centered, and creating an environment of learning with and from partners outside of the United States."

Academy Members Selected for 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee

Six Academy members were [selected](#) in January to serve on the 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee:

- Aline Andres, PhD, RD
- Carol Byrd-Bredbenner, PhD, RD, FAND
- Teresa Fung, ScD, RD

- Deanna Hoelscher, PhD, RDN, LD, CNS, FISBNPA
- Hollie Raynor, PhD, RD, LDN
- Christopher Taylor, PhD, RDN, LD, FAND

Appointed by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services, the committee is comprised of 20 members who are highly qualified nutrition scientists with demonstrated expertise. The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee provides independent, science-based advice and recommendations to be considered by HHS and USDA, along with federal agency input and public comments, as the departments develop the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2025-2030*. The committee's [first meeting](#) was held on February 9 and 10. More information on the development process for the 2025-30 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* is [available](#). Information on providing input throughout the development process is available on the [Dietary Guidelines for Americans website](#). Academy members interested in adding their support to the Academy's recommendations for the guidelines are encouraged to join the [Dietary Guidelines Affinity Group](#).

Announcement of Consensus Statement on Obesity

In January, the Academy and five other organizations dedicated to the prevention and treatment of obesity announced the development of our joint [consensus statement](#) on obesity. (See my [January President Report](#) for more details on the statement.) The other organizations joining the Academy in this effort are The Obesity Society; American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery; Obesity Action Coalition; Obesity Medicine Association; and the Strategies to Overcome and Prevent Obesity Alliance.

Academy Welcomes 118th U.S. Congress

The 118th U.S. Congress convened on January 3 and will continue through January 3, 2025. The Policy Initiatives and Advocacy team is ready to work closely with members of Congress to advocate for the profession and America's health.

Registration Open for 2023 Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit

As an Academy member leader, you are invited to [attend](#) the virtual Nutrition and Dietetics Advocacy Summit, March 28 to 30, **at no cost using registration code NDASVIP23**. *Please do not share this code with anyone else.* The summit will focus on two of the Academy's top policy and advocacy efforts: medical nutrition therapy expansion and child nutrition. Attendees will receive training during the first two days to ensure they are prepared for congressional meetings on March 30, which will be conducted in small groups with a designated leader. Registration questions: email rmchale@eatright.org. Email ekranias@eatright.org with other summit-related questions.

Town Hall Takeaways: 117th Congress and What's on the Horizon for the 118th

Each quarter, the Academy's Legislative Public Policy Committee hosts a town hall to foster dialogue between policy leaders and the LPPC. These events showcase current policy initiatives, solicit feedback from DPGs and affiliates and provides guidance for advocacy efforts. The January 31 town hall focused on policy priorities in the 118th U.S. Congress and a recap of the 117th Congress.

Join the Academy's Affinity Groups

Connect with fellow Academy members to advocate for top policy priorities impacting our profession by joining the Academy's affinity groups. The Academy's [affinity groups](#) meet once a month and are a forum-based event where staff, policy leaders and members discuss Academy advocacy priorities and strategies, share their experience and determine how they can become involved in advocating.

Meetings are available only to Academy members. The Payment and Reimbursement Affinity Group officially launched in January.

Weekly Office Hours: Licensure and Payment and Reimbursement

Each week, the PIA team hosts weekly office hours to answer members' questions. Licensure office hours are held on Wednesdays from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Central time. Office hours on payment, reimbursement or coverage for nutrition services are held on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Central time. Registration is not required.

Meetings

January

- January 31 – February 3: Kevin Sauer and I represented the Academy at the North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM) Show in Orlando, Fla.

February

- February 1: Lauri Wright presented *The Academy in Action* to the Michigan state affiliate.
- February 8: Kevin Sauer presented *The Academy in Action* to the Oklahoma state affiliate.

SUBMITTED BY: Ellen R. Shanley, MBA, RDN, CDN, FAND