Renal Dietitians Practice Group
Annual Report 2018-2019
Overview
Renal Dietitians Practice Group (RPG)

Mission: Empowering members to be the nation’s leaders in nephrology nutrition.

Vision: RPG members are the valued source of expertise in nephrology nutrition.

Strategic Plan 2016-2019
Goals:
1. The public trusts and chooses RPG members as the food and nephrology nutrition experts.
   a. RPG has a strong public presence on a global, national and local level as the premier source of nephrology nutrition.
   b. RPG drives initiatives and influences stakeholders in the nephrology community.
2. RPG members optimize the health of individuals and populations served.
   a. RPG promotes advocacy of nephrology nutrition issues on a global, national and local level.
   b. RPG supports research and resources impacting nephrology nutrition.
   c. RPG develops relationships with organizations to maximize collaborations on nephrology-related concerns.
   d. RPG supports evidence-based nutrition guidelines for nutrition practice and education.
3. Members and prospective members view RPG as vital to professional success.
   a. RPG provides relevant clinical resources, valued initiatives and programs.
   b. RPG supports members’ professional growth and development.
   c. RPG embraces new technologies for communication and education.
   d. RPG actively promotes the opportunities in the nephrology nutrition field.
4. RPG’s Executive Committee manages the practice group resources to carry out its mission, vision and program of work.
   a. Evaluate current practice to enhance member satisfaction while maintaining or reducing costs.
   b. Encourage and mentor a balanced and professional leadership and volunteer pool within RPG and the Academy.
   c. Ensure that RPG has the financial resources to implement plans and programs to align with its mission, vision and program of work.
   d. Review and update Guiding Principles and structure.

Membership
RPG had 2231 members at the end of the fiscal year according to Academy Membership. Our membership breakdown was:

- Active Members - 2031
- International Members – 29
- Associate - 1
- Life Members - 5
- Retired Members - 97
- Staff Members - 8
- Student Members - 60

RPG donated a VISA gift card to the FNCE® Academy Foundation Silent Auction. RPG held a drawing for (3) members to attend the Academy Foundation’s Gala held during FNCE® and Fitbits for (2) members. A third drawing was held for (2) non-members for RPG membership. Folding, reusable tote bags with the RPG logo were provided to dietitians who visited the FNCE® DPG/MIG showcase. Revised Member Benefits Postcards were previewed to platform the Renal Practice Group. Member Services continues to promote communication through e-blasts, surveys, welcoming new members and assisting with questions and concerns that arise among membership.

DPG Representation in Academy House of Delegates
The DPG HOD Representative, Mary Kay Hensley, MS, RDN, participated in the required HOD meetings. Activities and information

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gathering also occurred with respect to the mega-question: Going into the Second Century, how do we design an engaged HOD to best support and advance the Academy’s Strategic Plan? Based on the dialogue, the HOD Evolution Designer Team was formed and utilized outputs from the fall HOD meeting and work of the HOD Culture Team to inform a set of recommendations. Their report included four major areas: Strategic and Professional Issues; Communication; Leadership; and Culture, Structure and Process. The Spring Virtual HOD meeting’s focused on the topic Food Systems and Sustainability: Shaping Dietary Guidance. Mary Kay provided this insight:

1. Delegates communication to their constituents regarding calls to action, updates, and current and future resources on shaping dietary guidance in food systems and sustainability is vital.
2. Nutrition and dietetics practitioners must support evidence-based practice when providing dietary guidance around sustainable food systems with clients, including best practices when there is insufficient evidence.

Mary Kay continues to be a viable resource and active participant in all areas reflective of RPG’s focus.

Public Policy and MNT/Reimbursement:
For the 2018-2019 year the RPG Policy and Advocacy Leader continues to work with the Academy’s Senior Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs, Pepin Tuma Esq, to investigate RDNs diet order writing privileges with CMS in the dialysis setting. Mr. Tuma attended the RPG Executive Committee Fall meeting to discuss this topic at length. RPG was represented at the 2018 Public Policy Workshop. Forum articles continue to remain a priority to maintain member awareness.

RPG showed further support of public policy issues by supporting ANDPAC with a financial donation. RPG appreciates the collaborative efforts of Lois Hill, MS, RD, LD, LDE, FAND, and Donna Gjesvold, RDN, LD, in keeping our members abreast of policy and reimbursement issues and the survey they jointly created for our membership.

Awards & Scholarships
RPG offers educational scholarships, research grants and travel stipends for the advancement of education and an Outstanding Service Award for a practitioner making a significant difference and positive impact in nephology nutrition. These opportunities include attendance at professional conferences.

Student Stipends: There were 6 student stipends awarded for FNCE® attendance from the 2018 Student Stipend Program:
• Jenna Kohler
• Erin Child
• Lauren Peakes
• Jenna Nelson
• Erin Fischer
• Dimitra Thomopoulos
Students were contacted in advance to congratulate and welcome with encouragement to attend the DPG Showcase.

Awards: For 2018 the RPG Outstanding Service Award recipient was Lois Hill, MS, RD, LD, LDE, FAND. Lois was recognized for her continued work in advancing the field of nephrology nutrition. Lois currently holds the position of Policy Advocacy Leader for the Renal Practice Group. Previously she held the role of Chair for two terms as well as Nominating Committee Chair, Reimbursement Representative, Awards and Scholarship Chair and Newsletter Editor. She has been a powerful resource to the RPG Executive Committee, and to the Academy, since 1972. Her experience with professional, work and volunteer activities have contributed to her wealth of knowledge. She consistently
strives to improve the lives of others through her significant contributions and innovations, presentations and publications. Lois has had a career long interest in legislation and reimbursement for renal nutrition therapy for chronic kidney disease. She has been active in promoting the RDN, including the renal dietitian via policy and certification. Lois was appointed by Kentucky’s governor as the first chair of the Kentucky Board of Licensure and Certification of Dietitians and Nutritionists. She has also served on the Commission on Dietetic Registration Specialty Practice Board and served as a member of the work group which developed the Renal Specialty Certification. Lois has won many awards and recognitions, continues to seek the means of giving back to her community and profession. As stated in one of the letters of recommendation: “As a leader, Lois has provided a lifetime of service to our profession and we are grateful for her presence and her contributions.” Lois was presented the award at the RPG Member Reception during the FNCE® week.

Conference/Meeting Stipends in 2018-2019: There were three stipend recipients to attend conference/meetings. The awardee is required to submit an article reviewing a session attended at the conference for publication in the Renal Nutrition Forum.

- Georgia Stratis-Brown, FNCE® Washington, DC
- Diane Machcinski, FNCE® Washington, DC
- Annabel Biruete, ASN Kidney Week San Diego, CA

Scholarship Awardee in 2018-2019: There were no scholarships applicants.

Leadership
RPG Executive Committee (EC) members continue to review Tasks associated with Goals and Objectives on the 2016 – 2019 Strategic Plan utilizing SWOT analysis to determine growth opportunities. RPG is on track to implement development of Strategic Plan carrying RPG’s Mission and Vision in alignment with the Academy into 2020 through 2023. Executive Committee Job Descriptions/Responsibilities have been fully revised and in alignment with the RPG template. EC members were encouraged to take part in the revision throughout the year initiated at the transition meeting.

Professional Development and Resources
Publications:
Members received the “Renal Nutrition Forum” (RNF), published quarterly. RNF is a peer-reviewed publication and offers the opportunity to earn complimentary CPEUs in each issue. The RNF also includes an up-to-date Patient Education Handout, which members may reproduce for use with their patients.

RPG appreciates the efforts of Desiree DeWaal, MS, RD, CD, FAND, RNF Managing Editor and the editorial team: Hannah Norris, RDN, CSR, Michelle Bump, MS, RD, CSR, LD, Brandon Kistler, PhD, RD, and Lynda March, PhD, RD, LD, for publishing timely topics for members’ education.

Electronic Communications:
Members receive regular e-blasts to help keep them apprised of current events impacting nephrology nutrition. In addition, a monthly electronic newsletter was initiated that highlights important issues, including legislative issues, CPEU opportunities, and RPG member benefits. RPG announcements were sent weekly or monthly dependent on level of importance to help members remain current on issues that impact their practice area. RPG moderates LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook groups to facilitate discussions on key issues and to promote professional networking between members.

Website:
RPGs comprehensive website, https://www.renalnutrition.org offers a detailed calendar of CPEU conferences/events, information regarding nephrology nutrition and

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a members-only portal. This portal allows members' access to complimentary CPEUs offered with current and archived issues of RNF, access to the Professional Resource Center (PRC), webinars, patient education handouts, scholarship and stipend applications, access to EC contact information and so much more. RPG is grateful to our Electronic Media Manager, Melissa Prest, DCN, MS, RD, CSR, for her maintenance of the RPG website.

Social Media:
RPG's Facebook - Renal Dietitians – RPG and Twitter – @RenalRDNs, under the direction of our Social Media Chair, Aimme Biedynski, RD, LDN, has steadily grown. Members are encouraged to “Like” our Facebook page and “Follow” us on Twitter for instant access to the most current information and resources in the field of renal nutrition. RPG’s Facebook community currently has over 800 followers and the RPG Twitter account has over 400 followers.

Webinars:
Recorded Webinars are offered on the RPG website and provide 1 CPEU each; RPG members are provided a substantial discount. RPG recruited Anna Roh, MS, RD, LDN, to fill the role of the Webinar Chair whose activities coordinate with both the Professional Education Chair and Professional Education CPE Chair. It is determined to revise/update the following webinars to maintain CPEU eligibility:

- Practical Tips – Providing Medical Nutrition Therapy in Chronic Kidney Disease Stages 3 and 4
- Nutrition and Pediatric Renal Disease – Infant/Toddlers
- Nutrition and Pediatric Renal Disease – Adolescents
- MNT & Transplantation
- MNT for In-center Hemodialysis
- Nutrition Support in the Acute Kidney Injury Patient Requiring Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy

PD & Home Therapies
The following recorded webinars are available as a Members Only Exclusive:
- Nutrition and Standardized Language in Nephrology Nutrition
- Directing Patient Conversations Toward Meaningful Behavior Changes
- Directing Patient Conversations Toward Meaningful Behavior Changes, Part 2
- MNT Business Transitioning from ESRD RDN to CKD RDN2

Patient Education:
The Patient Education Committee is tasked with creating and updating patient education materials with a goal of including a new patient education handout in the most recent issue of the Renal Nutrition Forum. The dedicated team, under the direction of Valarie Hannahs, also works to keep the handouts available on the website up-to-date. The peer-reviewed handouts are developed below a 6th grade reading level and both English and Spanish versions are available on the members’ only section of the RPG website.

Patient education handouts developed or updated in 2018-2019 include:

- Snacks & Sweets for People with Kidney Disease
- Snacks & Sweets for People with Kidney Disease (Spanish)
- Achieving a Healthy Weight
- The Power of Potassium
- The Power of Potassium (Spanish)
- Nutrition Facts Label & Chronic Kidney Disease

RPG continues to partner with the Council on Renal Nutrition (CRN) to update the National Kidney Diet series, pending completion following publication of CKD Guidelines. Committee members on the National Kidney Diet series:

- Jennifer Parker, RDN, CSR, LDN – (RPG)
- Rachael Majorowicz, RD, LD, FNKF – (RPG)
- Lynn Munson, MS, RD, LD – (RPG)

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• Judy Kirk, MS, RD, CSR, CDN, FNKF – (CRN)
• Janelle Gonyea, RDN, LD – (CRN)
• Jean Stover, RD, LDN – (CRN)

Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo™ (FNCE®) 2018 Washington, DC, October 20-23, 2018. RPG’s attendance at FNCE® was 197; 149 were early bird registrants.

Spotlight Education Session:
The RPG Spotlight Session entitled “Innovative Approaches to Improve Outcomes in At-Risk Low-Income Renal Populations” was a Level 3 session meeting Learning Codes 5340, 5020 and 4070 and offered 1.5 CPEUs.

Speakers: Victoria Kumar, MD
Kim Prendergast, RD, MPP
Moderator: Sara Erickson, RD, CSR, LDN

Networking:
RPG Member Reception was held on Saturday, October 20th after the opening session of FNCE®. The event was attended by 72 RPG members who enjoyed the dessert bar while networking with fellow members. Lois Hill, MS, RD, LD, LDE, FAND was presented the 2018 RPG Outstanding Service Award during the reception. Additional networking occurred at the RPG booth during the DPG/MIG Showcase.

New Member Benefit: Natural Medicines Database:
RPG members now have free access to the Natural Medicines Database by way of the Resources tab on the RPG website. This database includes evidence-based information on the safety and effectiveness of more than 1,400 natural medicines and 93,000 commercially available products.

Collaboration with Other Organizations
• National Kidney Foundation/Council on Renal Nutrition (CRN)
  o Academy’s Standards of Practice, Standards of Professional Performance (SOP/SOPP) revision

scheduled to begin June 2019. RPG and CRN authors identified.
  o Academy’s Clinical Guide to Nutrition Care in Kidney Disease, Third Edition has 3 co-authors: Stacey Phillips (RPG), Michelle Bump (RPG) and Janelle Gonyea (CRN)
    ▪ The current deadline is a Fall 2020 goal
    ▪ New with this edition will be the option of continuing professional education credits (RDs & RDNs)

• American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP)
  o EC continues to partner with AAKP in the review of the AAKP Delicious! Recipe cards
  o Two complete sets were favorably reviewed during 2018-19

Meetings with RPG Representation:
• RPG Executive Committee Transition Meeting
• Academy House of Delegates
• Council on Renal Nutrition
• National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinical Meeting
• Academy Public Policy Workshop
• Illinois Dietetic Association
• Kentucky Dietetic Association
• National Kidney Foundation Minnesota Regional Symposium

RPG Donations/Support
• Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation
• FNCE® Student Stipends
• ANDPAC
• Second Century Campaign
• Research Funding
  o RPG EC has voted favorably to provide financial support for the Measuring Implementability and Efficacy of Nutrition Focused Evidence Based Practice Guidelines (EBPG) for CKD Project

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**Industry Sponsors**
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**Financial Outcomes**
Revenue: $70,291
Expenses: $122,917
2018 – 2019 Executive Committee

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