

# History of the Research Dietetics Practice Group

within the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Timeline of events significant to our history as a DPG

## The Early Years - 1980's

1964

Research Dietitians Group (RDG) established at ADA's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (Portland, OR).

### Did you know?

Clinical Research Center (CRC) Dietitians served as the founders of the Dietetic Practice Group (DPG). RDG leaders proposed a vision for the future practice group that still stays true to the framework we know today:

1. Connect and meet with fellow research dietitians
2. Sponsor more scientific sessions at the annual meetings
3. Support various types of collaborations

1968

Production and dissemination of first RDG newsletter coined "The Digest" by editor, Ronni Chernoff.

1971

First RDG sponsored session at the American Dietetic Association (ADA)'s Annual meeting in Philadelphia; now known as Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE).

1975

Members of the Nutrition Research Dietitians Group (NRDG) attended an ADA sponsored meeting to discuss the inclusion of a specialty practice group for Research Dietitians within the ADA at their headquarters in Chicago, IL.

1977

First NRDG board was established with nominated president, Janis Swain, MS, RD

1981

Nutrition Research DPG (NRDPG) founded and became one of the first ADA Practice Groups with first President, Barbara Lipinski, and Treasurer, Laura Sampson; followed by the second DPG President, Phyllis Stumbo.

1985

NRDPG group integrated with Community Nutrition Research DPG to form Research Dietitians Practice Group (RDPG) as it exists today. The merge between the two practice groups was initiated by an ADA requirement for practice groups to have at least 300 members.

### Did you know?

Our previous chair members were dedicated! While chair of the RDPG, Gail Frank stopped on the side of the road for a telephone board meetings while driving from New Orleans to Los Angeles. Relocated to Los Angeles for a new job, Gail stored meeting notes of the monthly check-ins with the RDPG in the backseat of her car next to her sons.

## 2000 - 2010

2006

New strategic plan developed for the RDPG that included recognizing undergraduate students in research and awarding Undergraduate Research Awards

2007

Recognized undergraduate students for research achievements for the first time

2009

Publication of the first electronic newsletter of the The Digest

2008

Changes to the DPG were driven by the desire to increase RDPG involvement and opportunities for collaboration with other researchers. New changes included:

1. Starting a Mentoring Program for students
2. Restructuring of The Digest newsletter. The format shifted from a seasonal bulletin to a stronger focus on research tools and showcasing of important research projects conducted by its members.

2010

- With a push to improve member involvement the RDPG incorporated self-check quizzes for Continued Professional Education Units (CPEU) in The Digest on the content of primary research articles. The RDPG hoped this new idea would further engage members.
- Jeanene Fogli, Award Committee Chair, made streamlined the award process to further encourage member involvement.

## 2011 - 2020

2014-2016

- RDPG constructed a more user-friendly webpage within the AND website
- RDPG recognized by AND at Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo (FNCE) for winning the Academy's competition of the DPG with most voting members three consecutive years in a row
- RDPG maintained many active student members within research during these years
- RDPG compiles a set of criteria to evaluate Sponsorship Grants for emerging researchers within the DPG

2011

Seed Grants to support research awarded for the first time to members of the RDPG



RDPG members at the 2014 Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo (FNCE) in Atlanta, Georgia. Photo compliments of Karin Pennington MS, RD (back row, third from the left).

2016 Executive Committee Meeting. Photo compliments of Lauri Byerley, PhD (front row, first from the right)

2018

Nominated by the RDPG, Nancy Lewis and Linda Snetselaar were awarded the ADA Medallion for their contributions to the Academy and the profession of nutrition and dietetics

2019

50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the first publication of The Digest

### Did you know?

SARS-COV-2 (COVID19), a severe upper respiratory virus, causes a worldwide pandemic that started in mainland China. Unprecedented social distancing, mask wearing, and shelter-in-place mandates affecting every aspect of life as we knew it pre-COVID. ☹️