



A Letter from the RDPG Chair

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Message from the RDPG Chair

The current pandemic has been indelibly etched in each of our lives; for some it is wearing a mask outside, teleworking from home, reduced workload and cancellation of university classes. Over the past few months, so much of what was our normal daily lives has dramatically changed, and I feel I owe you an explanation and an apology for missing my first summer issue message to our DPG members as your Chair.

Many of us may know neighbors or even a few friends who were touched by COVID-19 events. Unfortunately, for my extended family, COVID-19 hit a little too close to our homes. Within minutes of completing my COVID-19 training, a family member called seeking any information that could help his mother-in-law who lay unconscious in a local hospital ICU outside his town. Sadly, while things did not turn out as we had hoped for my sister-in-law who lost her mother, her story was not an isolated case as others also share our COVID-19 pandemic experiences. We experienced the same trepidation a few months later when my sister-in-law contracted the same virus, but thankfully her story ended on a happier note.

While we continue to move forward, we are grateful to the many talented clinical teams who willingly put themselves in harm's way to assist our loved ones, our neighbors, and our friends. Words cannot describe our appreciation to that hospital ICU team who helped care for someone very special to our family. As nutrition professionals, we know research is the foundation of clinical practice; we should not take that for granted. We have a part to play as research teams around the globe still work tirelessly to answer critical health questions for many catastrophic global health issues our communities face today.

Our research touches lives, not just of our study participants or even our patients but also the lives of untold others as well. So as we move forward, let us remember to challenge ourselves daily to acquire new research knowledge that can be applied to our profession to bring about clinically important breakthroughs. Your work as nutrition professionals makes an impact in the health and well-being of others. You never know when it just might become a lifeline to friends or even you, like it did for our family.

Three Ways to Get Involved in Policy

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<https://bit.ly/32hkRq4>

Take action in one click using the Academy's Action Center
<https://bit.ly/2Zp6NIW>

Keep an eye out for emails from the Policy and Advocacy Liaison (pal@researchdpg.com)

- Action alerts, commentary requests and more are sent periodically via email.

Scan the QR on your phone's camera to complete the Research Dietitian Specialty Survey!

