



## A Letter from the RDPG Chair

Mary N.R. Lesser, PhD, RD  
2022-2023 Research DPG Chair

Greetings Research DPG Members:

I am excited and honored to serve as your 2022-2023 Chair! I would first like to take the opportunity to thank our Past Chair, Maria Morgan-Bathke, for all her leadership and guidance, navigating another tumultuous year as the pandemic continued. As well, this group would not function without the many Executive Committee members that dedicate their time and talents to create and facilitate the various opportunities, activities, and programming for our members. For you all, I am eternally thankful!

Although we are well into the Academy year, I feel like it was only recently that I transitioned into this position and have hit the ground running. There has been much “behind the scenes” work occurring as we enter this new phase of the pandemic that is part a gradual return to pre-pandemic operations and part a new normal. For the current year, I would like to highlight a few activities that have occurred and to be on the lookout for!

### **FNCE® 2022**

It was so nice to see and meet many of you in-person in Orlando! We were able to host a successful Membership Reception and Meeting where members were able to network/connect, enjoy some food/drinks, and recognize our Fall Award recipients. The DPG also co-facilitated a session with the Academy’s Legislative & Government Affairs Committee on the importance and process of conducting research to inform food and nutrition policy. The information was very timely considering the recent White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health!

### **Continued Collaborations**

The DPG has continued its collaborations with the American Society of Nutrition and the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS), and we hosted another webinar focused on the gut microbiome. Be on the lookout for future educational webinar opportunities in the coming months! Additionally, the RDPG is working with the Pediatric Nutrition DPG to highlight research efforts in the field of pediatric nutrition.

### **Focus on Diversity in Research**

Our Diversity Liaison, Claudia Follette, was awarded an Academy Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access (IDEA) Mini Grant for the Diversity Research DPG Career Pathway Mentorship Program (DRDMP) she proposed. Two diverse students who are currently attending historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) were recently selected to be recipients of this award. We were able to recognize both students at the FNCE Member Reception and Meeting. Additionally, Claudia is serving on a new Academy Task Force (Supporting Diversity- A Research Mentorship Network) to develop a program for and plan for a pilot research mentorship network that supports diversity. Thank you, Claudia, for leading these efforts!

### **Continued Opportunities for Members**

There is never a dull moment or lack of opportunities for members! Although we just announced the recipients of the Fall Awards, be on the lookout for announcements coming soon for the next cycle of award opportunities .... for researchers in all levels of their careers!

If you have not already done it, consider participating in the Mentorship program. Mentors are always in demand, and we encourage any/all members to sign-up. As a mentor in this program previously, the experience is extremely fulfilling, and the time commitment is very manageable. And the best part is I have kept in contact with my mentee, even years after we were officially in the program.

Our webinars will continue as our Webinar Committee has been planning and confirming many upcoming offerings over the course of this next year on a variety of topics. As always, if you would like to see a specific topic covered and/or know someone (including yourself) who would like to serve as a speaker, please reach out!

And finally, our Social Media Chair, Kendal Burstad, has been working hard to create and share content across all our social media platforms. In fact, she would love your feedback and thoughts on the following questions:

- 1) What is our goal with using social media?
- 2) What is our brand?
- 3) How do we want to portray our goals through our posts?

And if you have not yet, please follow, add yourself, like etc. to the following Research DPG social media platforms:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ResearchDPG](https://www.facebook.com/ResearchDPG)

Instagram: [@researchdpd](https://www.instagram.com/researchdpd/)

Twitter: [@ResearchDPG](https://twitter.com/ResearchDPG)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/research-dpg-180256127](https://www.linkedin.com/in/research-dpg-180256127)

Whew! I know I only touched on a fraction of all that has occurred and is ongoing this year, but I hope it provides a little insight into the accomplishments so far and what to look forward to as a member. As always, the RDPG EC is open to and welcomes any feedback to make your member experience the best it can be. Please do not hesitate to reach out!

I again want to thank all the EC Leaders for the time and effort they put into their positions and all members for the work you do to continue to advance our profession.

I look forward to serving you all during a busy and exciting year ahead!



## Letter from the Editor

**Andrea Lobene, PhD, RD**

*Editor-in-Chief, The Digest*

It is a pleasure to present you the Fall 2022 issue of The Digest and my first issue as your new Editor-in-Chief! This edition includes a wide range of topics which I hope that you will enjoy.

We are currently seeking research articles from researchers working in the area of nutrition and dietetics as well as nutrition students/dietetic interns. If you or any RDPG member(s) you know do not have research findings to publish but would like to write an article

or series of articles on a particular topic (e.g., research methodology or literature review), please let me know.

If you have any questions, feedback, and/or referrals for authors or article topics, please submit them to me at [alobene@udel.edu](mailto:alobene@udel.edu). I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

**Andrea Lobene, PhD, RD**

*Editor-in-Chief, The Digest*

