

Member Spotlight

Jami Boccella, R.D.

Written by Erin Gaffney-Stomberg MS, RD,
Doctoral Candidate



Jami Boccella, R.D., is currently a Clinical Communication Specialist in Medical Scientific and Regulatory Affairs for Nestlé Nutrition. She began her career as a pediatric clinical dietitian. In her current position, Ms. Boccella is able to use her background in pediatric nutrition to investigate and communicate the importance of nutrition for the prevention of such childhood maladies as allergies and obesity.

In my current position at Nestlé Nutrition, I build relationships in the medical community and share the science and evidence behind our products and services. I received dual degrees in Biology and Chemistry prior to receiving my degree in Nutritional Sciences from Texas A&M University. While at Texas A&M, I conducted Nutritional and Biochemical research for the Poultry Science Department in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, which sparked my desire to learn more about dietetics and the research behind it. I went on to complete a dietetic internship at the University of Houston, and then became a Clinical Dietitian, specializing in Pediatrics. My love of pediatrics, research and nutrition led me down the career path I am currently on – working for Nestlé Nutrition, USA; starting as a Pediatric Nutrition Representative and now as a Clinical Communication Specialist.

I have been a Registered Dietitian for 10 years, and I have been with Nestlé Nutrition now for over 5 years. While I do not currently conduct primary research, it is crucial to my every day practice as a Clinical Communication Specialist. I am constantly reading, reviewing and adapting relevant research to our practices and

products by substantiating claims, discussing relevant research with the medical community, educating the medical sales and marketing associates, and developing didactic materials.

I am very passionate about both nutrition and pediatrics and the prevention of disease. In my career as a Registered Dietitian, I have been able to help educate others on some of the nutrition research that is related to disease prevention, allergy, immunity and obesity.

Over the past several years I have become ardent about reading and collecting research related to pro and prebiotics, especially as it relates to pediatrics and immune system support. The advice I would give to a young researcher who is looking to develop a successful line of research is to research what you are passionate about, and what will help to make a difference in the lives of others.

I have worked hard to reach my professional goals and feel that I am on a path to achieving what I want to do long-term in my career as a Registered Dietitian. I continue to learn every day which helps me to educate others about the research

behind pediatric nutrition. Being a member of ADA has impacted my career progression by showing me that there are such a plethora of career options and needs for Registered Dietitians. Membership to dietetic practice groups, such as the RDPG, has been especially important in guiding my career. I feel that research is important to the field of dietetics because it is always changing; research adds to our knowledge and improves our practice to meet the evolving nutritional needs of all. Because of nutrition research we will be able to help prevent diseases such as obesity and allergies, and also help to improve health and immunity.

Save the Date!

34th National Nutrient Databank Conference - Prairie to Plate: Exploring Food and Nutrient Database Frontiers

When: Monday-Wednesday,
July 12-July 14, 2010

Where: Alerus Center, Grand Forks ND
[Hotel: Canad Inns Destination
Center Grand Forks]

Call for Abstracts

We invite the submission of original abstracts to be considered for both oral and/or poster presentations. Abstracts concerning all topics related to food composition data and databases are welcome, and abstracts related to the conference theme are particularly encouraged. Abstracts are to be submitted using our on-line system which will be available in December 2009.

Abstract Deadline: February 15, 2010.

For more information, contact Rachel Fisher at Rachel.Fisher@nih.hhs.gov. Additional information will be posted at <http://www.nutrientdataconf.org/>. Check back often for updates. Proceedings from past conferences can be found there, as well.