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## Funding Opportunities for Research Dietitians from USDA

By Etta Saltos

Perhaps you are new to research – you may have a terrific idea for a research project, but aren't sure how to go about getting it funded. Or, you are an experienced researcher, but are finding it harder and harder to get funding as programs become more and more competitive. If either of these descriptions fits you, you may be interested in learning more about research funding opportunities in the areas of food science and nutrition from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

These are some of the research opportunities from USDA that may be of interest to research dietitians:

- The National Research Initiative offers several programs in the area of nutrition and food science:
- The Human Nutrition and Obesity program funds projects intended to lead to a better understanding of the behavioral and environmental factors that influence obesity and to the development and evaluation of effective interventions to prevent obesity. See: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/humannutritionobesitynri.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/humannutritionobesitynri.html)
- The Bioactive Food Components for Optimal Health program supports research to improve our understanding of the role of foods and their

biologically active components in promoting health. See: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/humannutritionoptimalhealthnri.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/humannutritionoptimalhealthnri.html)

- The Improving Food Quality and Value Program supports research to formulate ingredients based on the knowledge of chemical interactions for better functionality of foods, develop new and improved technologies to produce better foods and produce foods with optimum levels of health components. See: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/foodqualitynri.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/foodqualitynri.html)
- The Food Safety Program supports research efforts which result in a demonstrable reduction in food-borne illness. See: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/foodsafetynri.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/foodsafetynri.html)
- The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program makes grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality, advanced concept research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefit if successful. The Food Science and Nutrition section of the SBIR program includes support for development of new information technology to convey important nutritional information to the public. See:



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[www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.html)

- The National Integrated Food Safety Initiative supports food safety projects that demonstrate an integrated approach to solving problems in applied food safety research, education or extension. See: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/foodsafety/icgp.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/foodsafety/icgp.html)
- The Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Program invites proposals for its Competitive Grants and Cooperative Agreement Program. Priority areas for 2006 include Economic Incentives in Food Assistance Programs, Food Assistance as a Safety Net, Food Choices, Obesity and Human Capital. See: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Briefing/FoodNutritionAssistance/Funding/>

It is now easier for you to get more information about research funding opportunities. All Federal funding agencies, including USDA, list their programs in one place: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). Grants.gov, managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is THE single access point for over 1000 grant programs offered by all Federal grant-making agencies. You can use grants.gov to search for funding opportunities or sign up to have information on programs emailed to you as they become open. (For example, you can register to have all opportunities in foods and nutrition emailed to you).

You can also use grants.gov to download and complete an application package. In order to submit an application, you or your organization must be registered at grants.gov. If you are located at a college or university, this has probably already been done – check with your Sponsored Programs Office to find out how much lead time they will need to submit your application package to meet your deadline. If you are self-employed or work for a small

organization, you will have to register with grants.gov before submitting an application package. This is a one-time process, but can take several weeks, so plan accordingly and allow yourself enough time.

Once you have found an open funding opportunity that appears to be a good fit for your project, read the instructions carefully. Eligibility can vary from program to program – some may be open only to colleges, universities or research foundations, while others may be open only to small businesses. Some programs are now requiring electronic submission through grants.gov, others are still allowing you to submit paper proposals. Also, read the program priorities carefully. If you have questions about your eligibility or whether your project fits the priorities, don't hesitate to get in touch with the contact person listed for the program.

When preparing your proposal, be sure to complete all the required forms – an incomplete proposal will usually be rejected by the funding agency. It's a good idea to have a colleague review the proposal for clarity and logic, including scientific and education methodology. You may also want to contact a colleague who has received funding from the program to which you are applying to see if they are willing to

share a copy of their successful proposal with you to use as a model.

Successful proposals are those that:

- Excite the reviewers
- Are easy to read and understand (remember your reviewers will have to read a number of proposals in their "spare time")
- Include an appropriate (but not too lengthy) literature review
- Have a clear rationale and objectives that fit the program priorities
- Clearly state your hypotheses or research questions
- Justify the importance of the work and potential impact
- Contain a detailed project description – methods, sample selection, analysis, etc.
- Discuss expected outcomes
- Address potential pitfalls, including short-comings of data and amelioration plans
- Include appropriate expertise on the project team

In addition to all of the above, it's important to follow all the submission rules! Now that you've identified appropriate funding opportunities for your project, it's time to start writing. Good luck!

## 2006 FNCE RDPG Events

### Executive Committee Meeting:

Saturday, Sept 16, 7:30-11:00 am  
Sheraton Waikiki, Honolulu Conference

### Membership Business Meeting:

Sunday, Sept 17, 2:30-4:30 pm  
Sheraton Waikiki, Waianae Theater  
Light refreshments will be provided.

### RDPG Priority Session:

Omega-3 Fats in Health & Disease:  
Implications for Education & Practice  
Monday, Sept 18, 7:00 am

### RDPG Showcase:

Monday, Sept 18, 10:30 am-1:00 pm

# New Executive Officer Bios

## Chair Elect

Dr. Debra Krummel is an Endowed Professor and Millenium Scholar in the Department of Nutritional Sciences. She held clinical dietitian, outpatient manager, consulting dietitian, and research scientist positions prior to her academic appointments. After she completed the Cincinnati General Hospital Dietetic Internship (formerly UC Hospitals DI), she earned her MS degree in Nutrition at Case Western Reserve University, and a PhD in Nutrition from the Pennsylvania State University. For her dissertation, she studied the relationships among endogenous sex hormones, physical activity, diet, and blood lipids in young women, for which she was awarded the Huddleson Award by the ADA. She completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for Cardiovascular Research, Department of Internal Medicine, at Sinai Hospital in Detroit Michigan.

Most recently, Dr. Krummel spent 9 years at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, in the department of Community Medicine. She has published 47 papers and abstracts. She is the co-editor of four books and author of 14 book chapters. Her areas of expertise are women's cardiovascular health, obesity prevention in postpartum women, and fetal origins of cardiovascular disease.

## Secretary

Dr. Kendra Kattelmann is a professor at South Dakota State University. She is a registered dietitian and is the Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics, Nutrition, Food Science & Hospitality Department, South Dakota State University. She obtained her undergraduate degree from South Dakota State University. After completing her undergraduate degree, Kendra completed the dietetic internship from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and then practiced as a registered dietitian for several years before completing her graduate degrees. She has a Masters of Science from University of Arkansas (1984) and Doctorate of Philosophy in Nutrition from University of Missouri (1993). Dr. Kattelmann is active in research that focuses on dietary prevention and control of type 2 diabetes and methods to increase fruit and vegetable consumption of young adults.

## Nominating Committee

Dr. Alice Shapiro is the director of research at the Health Research Program at Park Nicollet Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She serves as a principle investigator for her own grants as well as the Community Clinical Oncology Program at the Park Nicollet Institute in Minneapolis and other cooperative group trials. She is a member of the graduate faculty in the

Department of Food Science and Nutrition, an adjunct member of the University of Minnesota's Cancer Center and an adjunct assistant professor with the U of M's Division of Epidemiology. She also serves on the Minnesota State Board of Dietetics and Nutrition Practice. For the past 10 years, her research has focused on the completion and analysis of the Women's Intervention Nutrition Study (WINS). The results of this successful study are in publication and were presented at the Clinical Oncology meetings in May 2005. Dr. Shapiro completed her BS degree at Simmons College and her dietetic internship at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston. She then earned her MA and PhD at Tufts University. After conducting research as a Research Dietitian for the past 20 years, she has now taken on a larger management role to oversee research at Park Nicollet Institute and continues to conduct her own research. In these changing times, Dr. Shapiro feels Research RDs are in a great position to contribute to the research agendas at our respective institutions.



To subscribe to the NUTRINET list serv, Send a message to [nutrinet-request@list.uiowa.edu](mailto:nutrinet-request@list.uiowa.edu), leave the Subject line blank and type "Subscribe" as your email message.

# Chair's Message

## A New Day

Maya Angelou, in her poem for the inauguration of President Bill Clinton on January 20, 1993, wrote, "Lift up your eyes upon the day breaking for you. Give birth again to the dream.... Mold it into the shape of your most private need. Sculpt it into the image of your most public self. Lift up your hearts; each new hour holds new chances for new beginnings.... The horizon leans forward offering you space to place new steps of change.... Here on the pulse of this new day you may have the grace to look up and out and into your sister's eyes, into your brother's face, your country and say simply, very simply with hope, good morning."

It is with these thoughts that I write my first chair's message and bid you a "good morning." As our dietetic practice group (DPG) embarks upon a new year, I am filled with hope and excitement for the year to come. The American Dietetic Association (ADA) has the mission of "Leading the future of dietetics," with its members being "the most valued source of food and nutrition services." As I continue to learn and hear about the collective expertise of our membership, I am convinced that we play a vital role in achieving ADA's mission. I know that our members are leading the future of dietetics through innovative, cutting-edge research and are looked to as the most valued source of food and nutrition information for

many aspects of our field. To that end, this year our DPG leadership team and membership will be visiting our mission and crafting a strategic plan for the future. We will be making a roadmap of sorts to achieve our mission.

First, however, I must talk about our past, as our future has been built upon a solid foundation laid by strong leaders.

...our members are leading the future of dietetics through innovative, cutting-edge research and are looked to as the most valued source of food and nutrition information for many aspects of our field.

First, I want to thank Dr. Richard Mattes for effectively leading us this year as chair. He had the foresight and courage to initiate our strategic planning process. His leadership will continue in the past chair position. Second, I am thankful for Dr. Deanna Hoelscher for providing insight and leadership as our past chair. As she continues her role as the awards committee chair, we will continue to look to her for assistance. Third, my special thanks goes to Dr. Linda Massey who has served very aptly as our treasurer and Research Committee Liaison. Linda was very helpful to me as we prepared for this

year – thanks. As we welcome our new DPG officers (see back cover) and greet those who continue, including our headquarters partner, JoAnn Ciatto, I want to thank each one of them for the roles that they have played and will play within the DPG. I believe that our nominating committee has helped us secure the brightest new leaders – thank you. In addition, our newsletter editors and website coordinator are helping to further position us for success. Finally, I want to further communicate my excitement regarding ADA's future as we are led by one of our own, Dr. Judith Gilbride.

As we look forward, this year will be filled with opportunities to help sculpt the DPG. You have already been asked to complete a survey about our DPG, and I want to thank you for taking the time to do that. As our leadership team continues to analyze the data, we are planning for our activities for FNCE in Honolulu. Not only do we have an exciting priority session planned on omega-3 fats, but we also will have our annual business meeting, where we can further discuss our roadmap toward our destination. We hope that many of you will attend FNCE!

Thank you for being a part of our DPG, your DPG. Good morning.

David H. Holben, PhD, RD, LD  
Chair, Research DPG  
Email: holben@ohio.edu

## Letter from the Editors

We hope you are all enjoying the summer season! This issue of The Digest has a great overview of USDA funding resources by Etta Saltos. Table Talk is particularly interesting; it features an interview with Van S. Hubbard, Senior Advisor on Obesity to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Also, make sure to check out the bios of the newly elected RDPG officers.

Since we have begun serving as your RDPG newsletter editors, we have heard from quite a few members about problems receiving The Digest. We have recently switched to a new printer to help alleviate this problem. Our new printer, Kelmscott Press, Inc., was highly recommended by other DPG newsletter editors, and we hope the problem of missed issues will soon be resolved. We would love to hear any other concerns or suggestions you might have. Please don't hesitate to contact us!

The Fall Issue of The Digest will be asking for nominations for new officers, and invite you to socialize with other RDPG members at FNCE. Do you have anything you would like to share through the newsletter? Articles for the Fall issue are due by August 14th.

Enjoy,

*Val Episcopo & Melissa Pflugh*

## Table Talk

Martha McMurry, MS, RD, LD & Phyllis Stumbo, PhD, RD, LD

Research Dietitians have an advocate in high places. Van S. Hubbard is Senior Advisor on Obesity to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and is Director of the National Institutes of Health, Division of Nutrition Research Coordination. He is an honorary member of the American Dietetic Association and a long-time supporter of nutrition research and the expertise provided by dietitians. He is married to a dietitian whom he met when she was a GCRC dietitian years ago. Dr. Hubbard is an MD, PhD, and is trained in pediatrics with an interest in cystic fibrosis that he still maintains by working at the National Naval Medical Center. He is a Rear Admiral in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

We met Dr. Hubbard in October at FNCE in St Louis at the RDPG Business Meeting. We talked with him again in March when he came to the reception for the National Association of GCRC Bionutritionists in Washington DC. Dr. Hubbard talked about his responsibilities to promote the inclusion of nutrition science and practice into planning at every level of the government. To illustrate the breadth of his influence, we heard about his vision for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to incorporate wellness plans within regulations for new housing developments. We thought an interview with Dr. Hubbard would be of interest to members of the RDPG.

We caught up with Dr. Hubbard when he was between meetings. He had just returned from Brussels where he met with European Union officials on the Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health. He was attending an NIH State-of-the-Science Conference on Multivitamin/Mineral Supplements and was about to leave on a trip to Atlanta for a meeting with CDC. This shows his global view of nutrition issues. We discussed the following questions and summarize his answers below.

### **Your role is Senior Advisor to Mike Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS). Is nutrition of interest to Secretary Leavitt?**

Dr. Hubbard answered that obesity prevention is included as one of the nine top health priority activities of HHS. The priorities website, <http://www.hhs.gov/500DayPlan/priorities.html>, describes the HHS vision: "The risk of many diseases and health conditions are reduced through actions that prevent obesity. A culture of wellness deters or diminishes debilitating and costly health events. Individual health care is built on a foundation of responsibility for personal wellness."

### **What is the NIH Division of Nutrition Research Coordination (DNRC)?**

The role of this division is to broker interactions between the various government agencies that deal with nutrition issues. It does not provide funding but helps develop and facilitate nutrition research and policy. It is administratively housed within National Institute of Diabetes & Digestive & Kidney Diseases, but it represents NIH at large and looks at the total picture. The staff consists of eight professionals and additional support staff. It is responsible for the NIH Nutrition Coordinating Committee (NCC) meetings that include representatives from NIH institutes, FDA, USDA, CDC and others. These meetings facilitate a dialogue about research as well as the application and practice of nutrition among these various groups. The minutes can be found on the DNRC website <http://dnrc.nih.gov> under NCC.

### **How can the DNRC help research dietitians?**

Dr. Hubbard said that the NCC minutes might be of interest to those who want to keep abreast of national activities, but there are other resources on the DNRC website which might be even more helpful. There is an up-to-date listing of *Nutrition Conferences*. All *Nutrition Education* materials published by separate government agencies are listed with the appropriate link. And, the *HNRM*, Human Nutrition Research

Information Management system, is a searchable database of nutrition research and research training activities supported by the federal government and maintained by the DNRC. He also recommended that research dietitians check the website, [www.obesityresearch.nih.gov](http://www.obesityresearch.nih.gov). This site includes *Research Funding*, a listing of currently available funding opportunities from NIH targeting obesity and related areas. Another helpful section is *Summaries and Reports Available from Recent Meetings*. This includes materials from meetings on a variety of topics related to obesity. For example, in the archives there are materials from "The Intrauterine Environment: Long-term consequences for obesity and metabolic disease" from September, 2005 and "What Can Communication Science Tell Us about Promoting Optimal Dietary Behavior?" from July, 2005. In some cases there are written summaries about the meetings and copies of presentations.

### **Why is nutrition being treated differently at NIH than other health specialties that have their own centers or institutes?**

Dr. Hubbard thinks that it is an advantage that nutrition research and nutrition projects are funded throughout many institutes and agencies at NIH, as well as in other government agencies. He said that there are more opportunities for funding by having multiple agencies offering grants. Nutrition issues are present throughout NIH. He mentioned that nutrition findings in one institute (such as National Heart, Lung, & Blood Institute) might be particular to the diseases represented in that institute.

### **What is an example of successful coordination to promote nutrition research?**

Dr. Hubbard described the effort by the DNRC several years ago to work with a number of government entities to increase the supply of stable isotopes. Because of conversations and collaborations with the Department of Energy, scientists, public contractors and others,



## 2006 National Election Results

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the outcome of the 2006 national and House of Delegates elections. The following candidates have been elected from among many excellent nominees. RDPG members are in **bold**.

### Board of Directors:

President-elect: Connie B. Diekman, MEd, RD, FADA (MO)

Treasurer-elect: Joyce A. Gilbert, PhD, RD (FL)

Director-at-Large: Christine M. Palumbo, MBA, RD (IL)

### House of Delegates:

Speaker-elect: Ellen Rosa Shanley, MBA, RD (CT)

Directors: Yvonne D. Greer, MPH, RD (WI)

**Kathleen M. Rourke, PhD, RD (PA)**

### Professional Issues Delegates:

Clinical Nutrition: Sandra A. Parker, RD (MI)

Community: Keecha S. Harris, DrPH, RD (AL)

Consultation & Business Practice: Marolyn B. Steffen, RD (IN)

Education: Janet L. Debelius, MA, RD (MD)

Food & Nutrition Management: Linda B. Godfrey, MS, RD (AL)

### **Research: Linda M. Delahanty, MS, RD (MA)**

At-Large Dietetic Technician Delegate: Josie D. Klein, DTR (MN)

30 Years of Age & Under Delegate: Stephen J. Roch Jr., RD (LA)

Retired Delegate: Bernice Perry Perkins, RD (MD)

### Commission on Dietetic Registration:

Specialty Credential Representative (Pediatrics): Robyn L. Wong, MPH, RD, CSP (HI)

Registered Dietitian: Betty A. Krauss, RD (MI)

Dietetic Technician, Registered: Alberta M. Scruggs, DTR (OH)

### Nominating Committee:

Constance Brown-Riggs, MEd, RD (NY)

Kathleen F. Cobb, MS, RD (CT)

Sylvia Escott-Stump, MA, RD (NC)

**Rachel K. Johnson, PhD, MPH, RD (VT)**

Charnette Norton, MS, RD, FADA (TX)

### Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education:

Chair-elect: Nora K. Nyland, PhD, RD (UT)

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there are now ample amounts of O-18 doubly labeled water for total energy expenditure studies. He said that his staff is "there to help."

### **What effects could NIH NCRR Clinical and Translational Science Awards have on nutrition research?**

Dr. Hubbard thinks it is possible that getting professionals from a variety of backgrounds together to work on a clinical nutrition problem may be an advantage. Different perspectives can help in designing better ways to transform ideas into new uses, such as adapting clinical nutrition research findings into the community public health measures.

### **What advice do you have for research dietitians and PhD, RDs?**

Dr. Hubbard stressed that dietitians should "remember their roots!" He said that dietitians have important knowledge about health issues and can make major contributions to research. He recommended that dietitians who move up the ladder and are given more stature should remember their background and their colleagues. Basic knowledge of food and nutrition is important in many situations, not only in hospital kitchens but also in boardrooms. "We all wear multiple hats." He recommended that dietitians bring nutrition messages into every aspect of their lives, professional as well as the personal and community spheres. If we all do this, the nutrition message will be disseminated much more effectively and powerfully.

### **Conclusion:**

Dr. Hubbard is a sincere example of the advice that he gave us. He stresses the importance of nutrition throughout our government and is an advocate of good nutrition research and its application in many separate situations.

Dr. Stumbo [phyllis-stumbo@uiowa.edu](mailto:phyllis-stumbo@uiowa.edu) is the Bionutrition Manager for the GCRC at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in Iowa City, IA and Ms. [McMurry mcmurym@ohsu.edu](mailto:McMurry mcmurym@ohsu.edu) is the Bionutrition Manager for the GCRC at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, OR.

## Member Spotlight

The spotlight turns to Martha P. McMurry, MS, RD, LD, Bionutrition Manager at the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC), Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) in Portland, Oregon. Martha describes her fortuitous introduction into nutrition research, and the many interesting areas of investigation in which she participates.

My responsibility is to direct the provision of a wide range of nutritional services for GCRC protocols. General Clinical Research Centers, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and located in academic medical centers nationwide, were established to provide clinical researchers with the support needed to carry out their projects. In addition to bionutrition support, GCRCs provide nursing, informatics, laboratory, and biostatistics resources.

I think that accidents, friendships and job openings have guided my career towards research. The first step was in 1967 with an "accident" when I was an undergraduate student at the University of Iowa. I lost a contact lens down the sink. Needing to make some extra money to replace the lens, I found a part-time position as a weekend cook at the GCRC in Iowa City preparing formula diets for feeding studies that were done mostly in prisoner volunteers. I can still remember my first day at work when the GCRC dietitian, Kathy Burkley, told me about protocols being done on the unit. I was amazed as she described the research and possible health advances being studied, and I was so pleased to be in such an interesting place! My enthusiasm has continued.

Because of this part-time job, I was offered a full time position after my dietetic internship. Six years later I was invited to move to Oregon when the Iowa GCRC Director, Dr. William Connor, moved his medical practice and lipid research projects to OHSU in Portland. The invitation was likely due in part to my friendship with his wife, Sonja

Connor. I first met Sonja in the Main University Hospital Kitchen when she was a dietetic intern and I was a senior taking an institutional foods class, and in subsequent years she just happened to marry my boss.

Other changes in my life led me to another GCRC when I moved to Salt Lake City, Utah so my husband could continue his training. After a few years there, I was hired as the GCRC dietitian at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center. Another move back to Portland and a few more years led up to a position opening at the OHSU GCRC, and I have been the Bionutrition Manager here since 1997.

At OHSU GCRC, we are currently collaborating with the Kaiser Center for Health Research to study the effect of very low carbohydrate diets on weight changes in obese volunteers. Protocols have examined the effects of very low carbohydrate diets, given ad lib and using weighed diet methods, on weight changes and energy intakes compared to moderate carbohydrate diets. We are now involved in the study of the long-term effects of these diets in outpatients, and we are measuring body composition, energy expenditure and meal responses regularly in the participants (PI, Njeri Karanja, PhD). We are preparing to begin a new controlled diet research protocol that will look at the effects of different intakes on markers of appetite and satiety (PI, Diane Stadler, PhD, RD). We are also working with the National Center for Naturopathic Medicine in Portland on a new project to study the naturopathic anti-inflammatory diet (PI Pat Elmer, PhD).

GCRC funding by NIH is being phased out and will be replaced by Clinical and Translational Science Awards (CTSA). Large grants will be awarded to institutions willing to develop a new academic department dedicated to clinical and translational research. These grants are expected to devise innovative ways to organize, teach and support clinical research. Basic scientists, clinical researchers and health practitioners will

work together to creatively and efficiently develop and test scientific innovations that benefit human health.

I would advise dietitians interested in a research career to follow CTSA developments. The first CTSA awards will be given in the fall of 2006. NIH predicts that 60 centers will be in operation by 2012. Dietitians could receive training in clinical nutrition research in these institutions and will undoubtedly find research projects with nutrition components supported by this department. Clinical facilities for researchers may no longer be called "GCRC," but will continue to exist in some form at these centers and will include nutrition expertise if warranted by the research programs. For dietitian researchers wanting to teach and to direct their own projects, the CTSA's will provide opportunities for faculty appointments.

A fluke in the history of academic nutrition departments may make the inclusion of dietitians in the CTSA more of a challenge. Many state medical schools are NOT located in land grant universities that house departments of food, nutrition and dietetics. Because of this, important research in food and nutrition is being done separately from a medical center where clinical nutrition research projects are done. Since one of the goals of the CTSA is to promote interaction between scientists and practitioners, this is an opportunity to ensure that links among these departments are better developed.

I have several new opportunities to further nutrition and dietetic research goals. For one, I am honored to be the current president of the National Association of GCRC Bionutritionists (NAGB), an organization of over 100 bionutritionists from around the nation. Since we are heading toward a period of change, I hope to assist this capable group of dietitians to thrive and prosper in the coming environment. I would also like to further the relationship between the RDPG and the NAGB.

# Research Committee Liaison Report: ADA Research Committee

**Linda Massey**

The ADA Research Committee is sponsoring a symposium again at this year's FNCE in Honolulu. The topic this year is epigenetics, the inherited changes that are not due to nucleic acid base changes, but other modifications such as methylation of histones. You probably have heard of epigenetics in the context of how diet during pregnancy affects adult health outcomes, such as hypertension and obesity. Check the latest program on the ADA website for more information.

The ADA Foundation requested ideas for the first research grant for pilot studies that will hopefully lead to future funding with national agencies such as

NIH. In general, the RC would like to see more research that shows the effectiveness and creativity of dietitians in improving health behavior. The committee suggested two ideas. First, research exploring interactions/counseling/education for adolescents with type 2 diabetes. These proposals should incorporate a strong theoretical base regarding the concept of independence in self-care. The proposals could include incorporation of technologies that would appeal to adolescents such as cell phones, iPods, etc. A second idea is to study the effectiveness of interdisciplinary approach to lifestyle management of chronic diseases

associated with obesity in minority populations. Look for a call for proposal announcements from the Foundation on these topics.

The RC has begun a major project to update ADA's Research Priorities. Check out the ADA website for a list of the nine current ones. These are used not only by the RC and Foundation to plan projects, but also to encourage other agencies to focus on research of importance to dietitians. One of the questions in the ADA Researcher's survey coming to you in May is a first attempt to get your feedback. Please respond. Detailed input from ADA members will be requested in an email survey this fall specifically on this topic.

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ADA nurtures a profession that I value highly and that I enjoy intellectually and emotionally. Dietitian education and training includes a wonderful combination of physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and culinary art. Dietitians, in my opinion, tend to be very smart people! I have many dietitian friends, and groups of dietitians that I have worked with, both in paid jobs and in professional volunteer activities, have been friendly, effective and innovative. ADA continues to push dietitians to confront the multiple aspects of our profession as new and challenging issues come to the fore. Recent examples include sustainable agriculture and disaster planning.

The system of practice groups has promoted my career specialty. The Research DPG was one of the first practice groups identified by ADA. GCRC dietitians were involved in the development and early leadership of this group, realizing that our highly specialized

practice by only a few dietitians spread around the country could be improved by structure, communication and sharing. This ADA DPG may be of increasing importance to bionutritionists as the GCRC system changes.

Research is the basis of our profession. Dietetics takes principles of nutrition and food sciences and applies them to

Dietitian education and training includes a wonderful combination of physical sciences, social sciences, medicine and culinary art.

human health. Most people easily understand the applicability and importance of dietetics research. Fortunately, or unfortunately, every individual has the opportunity to perform observations on the relationship between food and health, using himself or herself as the "subject." I believe this leads to a high level of interest in nutrition research yet also promotes

many differences of opinion and difficulties in interpretation. The dietitian is the most qualified individual to interpret food and nutrition research for translation into dietary recommendations and eating plans.

Cellular nutrition is complex, but clinical nutrition may be many times more complex because of the multiple roles food and eating have in human lives. The dietitian is the professional charged with the responsibility to combine these many factors in promoting healthy eating habits for people diverse in health, disease, age, culture, scarcity and abundance. Research into all of these relationships helps practitioners to effectively apply knowledge to practice.

The Member Spotlight is arranged by Sharon M. (Shelly) Nicklos-Richardson, PhD, RD, Associate Professor Department of Human Nutrition, Foods and Exercise at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0430. If you would like to recommend a RDPG member for an upcoming spotlight, contact Shelly at: [snrichar@vt.edu](mailto:snrichar@vt.edu).



# Upcoming Conferences

Organization	2006/2007 meeting date	Deadline for 2006/2007 abstract submission
International Society for Behavioral Nutrition and Physical Activity <a href="http://www.isbnpa.org/meeting.cfm">http://www.isbnpa.org/meeting.cfm</a>	July 13-16, 2006 Boston, MA	Closed
Society for Nutrition Education <a href="http://www.sne.org/conference/call4abstracts.htm">http://www.sne.org/conference/call4abstracts.htm</a>	July 15-18, 2006 San Francisco, CA	Closed
School Nutrition Association <a href="http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Index.aspx?id=1991">http://www.schoolnutrition.org/Index.aspx?id=1991</a>	July 16-19, 2006 Los Angeles, CA	Closed
American Dietetic Association <a href="http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/7539_ENU_H_TML.htm">http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/7539_ENU_H_TML.htm</a>	Sept 16-19, 2006 Honolulu, HI	Closed. Call for 2007 Educational Sessions August 16, 2006.
American College of Nutrition <a href="http://www.amcollnutr.org/AnnualMeeting.html">http://www.amcollnutr.org/AnnualMeeting.html</a>	October 5-8, 2006 Reno, NV	Closed
NAASO, The Obesity Society <a href="http://www.naaso.org/">http://www.naaso.org/</a>	October 20-24, 2006 Boston, MA	Closed
American Public Health Association <a href="http://www.apha.org/meetings/">http://www.apha.org/meetings/</a>	Nov 4-8, 2006 Boston, MA	Closed
Society of Behavioral Medicine <a href="http://www.sbm.org/#">http://www.sbm.org/#</a>	March 21-24, 2007 Washington, DC	September 13, 2006
FASEB - Experimental Biology <a href="http://www.faseb.org/meetings/default.htm">http://www.faseb.org/meetings/default.htm</a>	April 28-May 2, 2007 Washington, DC	November 8, 2006
American College of Sports Medicine <a href="http://www.acsm.org">http://www.acsm.org</a>	May 30-June 2, 2007 New Orleans, LA	Closed

# Professional Issues: HOD Spring 2006 Meeting Update

Delores James

The House of Delegates met in Chicago, IL on April 28-30, 2006. Participants included PID delegates, Affiliate delegates, DPG Chairs and Co-chairs, interested members, ADA Board members, and ADA staff. Two mega issues were addressed.

## Mega Issue 1: Adequate and Safe Food and Water Supply

With events of the last five years, such as terrorism attacks in New York and hurricanes in the Southeast, as well as announcements by the federal government, the House of Delegates Leadership Team (HLT) felt that the profession of dietetics and the American Dietetic Association should examine the issue of threats to the safety and adequacy of our food and water supply in the event of a disaster.

The following concerns were expressed by members participating in the electronic dialogue and by delegates affected by major disasters prior to the HOD meeting.

- Adequate training of dietetics professionals
- Roles and use of dietetics professionals pre/during/post disaster
- Power shortages
- Unintentional contamination (human or natural causes)
- Inoperable energy and water plants

**Mega Issue Question:** How do dietetics professionals and ADA apply what we have learned over the past year about ensuring a safe and adequate food and water supply in the event of a disaster in the U.S.?

**Expected Outcome:** A series of recommendations will be developed to: 1) enable individual dietetics professionals to prepare themselves and respond to those they serve to ensure a safe and adequate food and water supply in the event of a disaster;

2) position ADA as a resource for members and the public in the event of a disaster; and, 3) inform ADA's public policy agenda and priorities based on this dialogue.

The discussion focused on the roles of dietetics professionals pre/during/post disasters. Suggestions made by delegates included: the need for dietetics professionals to know their local resources; the need for dietetics professionals to be members of state disaster planning boards; the need for dietetics professionals to have disaster training by local agencies; and the importance of considering evacuees with special dietary needs in shelters. The summary of the dialogue session has been posted on the HOD electronic community. A motion approved by HOD requests the HOD Leadership Team to develop a plan to address key issues. This plan will be presented to the HOD in advance of the fall meeting for approval.

## Mega Issue 2: Strategic Direction for the Profession of Dietetics

As of June 2006, ADA will be in its final year of the current strategic plan. This plan has been a success for ADA, as a road map for developing programs, as a statement of priorities and in its role in improving the health and nutrition of the public. The process for developing the next strategic plan began in Spring 2006 for implementation in June 2007.

ADA surpassed last year's membership numbers and membership continued to grow as new and reinstated members join throughout the membership year which ended May 31, 2006. The membership turnaround that ADA is presently enjoying may be related to no dues increase for FY06, coupled with the multitude of enhancements to the overall member benefits package (free CPE, Evidence Analysis Library, ADA Times, the Journal Online, ADA Career Link, and the Daily News).

**Dialogue Questions:** As the organization begins to review its strategic direction for the next 3-5 years, where should ADA focus to add value for members and the profession? How do strategic efforts initiated over the past 3 years support the profession and what will be needed going forward?

**Expected Outcomes:** 1) Provide strategic counsel to the Board of Directors for future planning; 2) Increase the understanding of new products and services that result from both past dues increases and organizational efficiencies; and, 3) Assess the impact of the dues increases of 2003 and 2004 on the achievement of the strategic plan.

The discussion was focused on recruiting more student members, being proactive about our role as food and nutrition experts, identifying professional organizations with which to partner, and building alliances. The discussion comments were captured and will be forwarded to the ADA Board of Directors for use in developing the next strategic plan.

## Other Issues Discussed or Reports Presented

- Update on Dietetics Education Task Force Report. The HLT recommended creating a Phase II Task force of 7 members. Delegates recommended a larger task force with better representation from DTRs and employers. The request to form a larger Phase 2 Task Force was approved by HOD.
- Release of the final version of the Industry Relations Guidelines based on feedback from the delegates.
- The list of mega issues to be considered at future HOD meetings was prioritized.
- HOD approved development of a new Position Paper on Obesity, Reproduction and Pregnancy.
- 20 ADA committees and task force reports were posted electronically to HOD.

## News and Notables

- **The Hot Topics on DNA and Diet...** is up on the ADA Website:

[http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/nutrition\\_8177\\_ENU\\_HTML.ht](http://www.eatright.org/cps/rde/xchg/ada/hs.xsl/nutrition_8177_ENU_HTML.ht)

Hot Topics was designed to respond to member's request for current scientific-based information on popular consumer and media driven nutrition concerns. The Association Positions Committee (APC), the committee that oversees the position development process, along with ADA staff is overseeing the Hot Topics process.

- **ADA's Issues Management**

**Committee...** continues to respond to members. The five member Issues Management Committee was formed in 2001 to address member issues. Prior to that, issues were submitted twice yearly at House of Delegates meetings or to ADA staff. There was not a formal mechanism for ensuring that the issue was received by the appropriate team and a response provided. You can find out more information about the Issues Management Committee by visiting [www.eatright.org/issues](http://www.eatright.org/issues). Contact information, the issues management process, and summaries of past issues submitted are all available to members.

- **Ethics Committee...** has resources for members to use to increase their knowledge of the ADA/CDR Code of Ethics. These resources are available on the ADA Web site

([www.eatright.org/codeofethics](http://www.eatright.org/codeofethics)).

Support of the Code of Ethics by members and credentialed practitioners is vital to guiding the profession's actions and to strengthening its credibility.

- **Update Your Address and Contact**

**Information.** ADA wants to make it as easy as possible for you to keep your address, e-mail, and telephone

information as current as possible. Your Association offers four convenient methods for you to submit this information:

- **Web:** Go to [www.eatright.org](http://www.eatright.org) and click on "Edit Profile" in the lower left hand column under MY ADA once you are logged in. Click on the Update Contact Information button at the top left.

It takes a slightly different process to change your affiliate (state) association. From your Profile screen, click the "ADA Member Payment" button at the top left. In the State Affiliate section, use the pull down menu to choose your affiliate. Scroll down to the bottom

(past the DPG listing) and click on PAY BY CREDIT CARD button. There is NO payment required. You will then see a new screen showing your new affiliate. Click "Submit."

All of your changes will be made within 24 hours.

- **Email:** E-mail any address or contact information changes to [membership@eatright.org](mailto:membership@eatright.org).
- **Fax:** Fax changes to us at 312-899-4812.
- **Phone:** Call the Member Service Center at 800-877-1600, ext. 5000 from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Central time, Monday through Friday.

ADA wants to ensure that you receive all of the benefits, services, and communications that your membership provides. So, no matter which method you choose to notify ADA of changes to your contact information, please do this as quickly as possible so you don't miss out!

## New Peer-Reviewed Journal

The *Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition* (JHEN) is the premier peer-reviewed journal among professionals interested in nutrition, hunger and food insecurity, food and water security, health, agriculture and the environment. This journal studies the growing connection and interdependence between the environment, food, nutrition, and health. It comprehensively examines local, national and international hunger and environmental nutrition issues—specifically food access, food security, food production, agriculture, and the interconnectedness on nutrition and health.

JHEN is currently accepting manuscripts for consideration of publication. Papers are sought on any topic related to hunger, poverty, food security, water security, health, agriculture and the environment, food, society, and human values, including but not limited to the following:

- Poverty, Hunger, and Food Insecurity; Paradox of Poverty, Food Insecurity, and Obesity; Sustainable Agriculture and Community Food Security; Food Choices, Health and Global Food Security; Fair Trade; Women and Food Security; Agroecology and sustainable food systems; Societal

implications of agricultural & food technologies & practices; Politics, policies and perspectives pertaining to sustainable agriculture, food & nutrition.

**KINDS OF PAPERS:** Original Research; Research Briefs, Reports on successful programs and practices; and Reviews of current knowledge and research needs.

**Manuscript submissions are accepted on a continuous basis.** Information

about submission requirements is available at: [www.HaworthPress.com/](http://www.HaworthPress.com/) or from Editor, Marie Boyle Struble, PhD, RD at [mstruble@maine.rr.com](mailto:mstruble@maine.rr.com).

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**June 1, 2006 - May 31, 2007**

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