

Nutrition Science Forum 2026

Food as Medicine: Advancing Research and Integrating Systems for Health

April 14-15, 2026 | TBD

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation's third annual **Nutrition Science Forum* (Forum)** will bring together leading experts in Food as Medicine, along with primary investigators of key projects to present new research findings, identify gaps across the broad range of Food as Medicine programs, and explore connections and opportunities between systems (food production, food access, and health care) to support and accelerate the health of the population.

Current Situation and Need

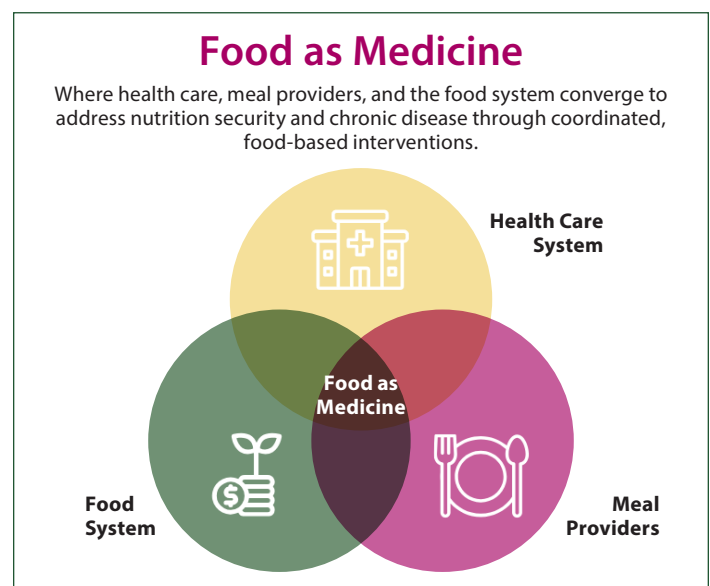
Food as Medicine (FAM) programs are emerging as effective strategies to improve nutrition security in patients with nutrition-related disease or risk-factors. FAM is defined by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy) as **"a philosophy where food and nutrition aids individuals through interventions that support health and wellness."** FAM affirms that food and nutrition play a vital role in sustaining health, preventing disease, and serving as a therapeutic approach for those with conditions or circumstances that respond to dietary changes. Because of this, FAM programs center on **connecting patients with access to nutritious foods to improve health outcomes.** This is only possible with a **food system that ensures healthy foods** for people across all socioeconomic levels.

The Academy has identified four focus areas where FAM programs promote health and prevent disease:

- Food as preventative medicine to encourage health and well-being
- Food as medicine to improve nutrition security
- Food as medicine in disease management and treatment
- Food as medicine to promote food safety

In July 2025, the Academy released a Food as Medicine Strategic Roadmap to guide programming and accelerate progress in leveraging FAM programs to advance public health. The four pillars of this roadmap are:

- **Improve access to RDN services and medical nutrition therapy (MNT).** MNT and services provided by RDNs are an essential part of successful FAM programs.
- **Develop sustainable payment models.** Sustainable funding for FAM programs should ensure ongoing access for participants, including reimbursement for RDN services.
- **Demonstrate effectiveness.** Demonstrating the effectiveness of FAM, including the services of RDNs, improves outcomes and lowers health care costs.
- **Increase interprofessional awareness and education.** The RDN is the integral part of the interprofessional team providing services via FAM programs.



*This meeting does not provide CPE credit.

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About the Academy and Foundation

The Academy is the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, representing more than 112,000 Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RDNs), Dietetic Technicians, Registered (NDTRs), and nutrition and dietetics students. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (Foundation) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that serves as the fundraising and grant-making philanthropic arm of the Academy and is recognized with the highest 4-star rating by Charity Navigator, an independent evaluation service.

Through evidence, Academy and Foundation programs demonstrate the impact that credentialed nutrition and dietetics practitioners make in the areas of prevention and well-being, health care and health systems, and food and nutrition safety and security. Accelerating these efforts through partnerships and collaboration provides opportunities for these professionals throughout the world to accelerate improvements in health outcomes.

The Academy and Foundation support its highly regarded Research, International, and Scientific Affairs (RISA) team, which conducts retrospective synthesis data analysis, registry studies, and prospective trials both domestically and internationally, working with partners such as NIH. This data is then used to support evidence-based practice, education, and advocacy for the profession of nutrition and dietetics. The Academy has an advocacy team that has worked closely with government agencies and other organizations to improve access to nutrition care for all individuals.

The Forum*

The Academy and Foundation are hosting the third year of their Nutrition Science Forum: "Food as Medicine: Advancing Research and Integrating Systems for Health," a multi-day event. During this event, primary investigators of key projects will present new and turnkey research and explore system-level connections, gaps, and potential solutions that leverage FAM programs to improve population health.

This forum will highlight the important connection between the health care system and a robust food system with community-based food programs. The event will address evidence across the broad range of FAM program types (community-based meal provision organizations (CBMOs), retail, produce prescriptions, culinary medicine), demonstrate the importance of RDNs within a variety of FAM programs, and introduce the Academy's FAM Strategic Roadmap. Agenda topics will include the linkages between agriculture and health care through FAM programs, policy roles in FAM programs, and a deep dive on FAM program types.

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Forum Goals

- Present turnkey research and evidence gaps across the broad range of FAM program types (community-based meal provision organizations (CBMOs), retail, produce prescriptions, culinary medicine)
- Highlight the crucial connection between agriculture/food systems, health care, and food as medicine programs
- Identify gaps, policy needs, and opportunities for future data and research efforts as well as recommendations related to the food system and community practice for advancing FAM
- Facilitate collaborations to advance FAM programming and access, including conversations among expert attendees to garner key insights
- Introduce the Academy's FAM Strategic Roadmap and demonstrate the importance of RDNs within FAM programs

Audience

This invite-only meeting will include leaders from the Academy's leadership and research teams, government agencies, academia, key partners from organizations leading the FAM movement, Academy Foundation past fellows, private foundations, Forum sponsor representatives, and other key stakeholders. The national Academy Spokespeople, who serve as the media's trusted source for accurate, timely and science-based food and nutrition information, will also attend to ensure they are familiar with the latest FAM research, gaps, and solutions.

Outcomes of the Forum

- Opportunities for research related to the food system and community practice for advancing FAM
- Proceedings paper submitted for publication, including recommendations to address urgent research gaps
- Post-Forum stakeholder webinar to provide updates on progress in advancing FAM programs and objectives

Sponsorship: The Why for Your Business

The Nutrition Science Forum: "Food as Medicine: Advancing Research and Integrating Systems for Health" is an opportunity for organizations focused on FAM programs. Sponsors will have access to results of the Academy's studies, a unique opportunity to network with key stakeholders in the FAM space as well as [Academy Spokespeople](#), and help shape future research priorities for the Academy through facilitated discussion during the event. Sponsors at the top three levels will have the opportunity for a non-commercial session to present research, evidence-based solutions for expanding access to FAM programs, and science-based information focused on FAM.

Contribution Levels/Benefits

Signature Sponsor

\$35,000 (four available)

- One 30-minute session to present non-commercial, science-based research focused on Forum topic, *per Academy review and approval, complemented by a pre-Forum meeting to align on session topic*
- Participation of one sponsor representative as a panelist in scheduled discussion
- A reserved seat at the table with Academy or Foundation leadership at one meal
- Welcome Reception & Networking Showcase** to distribute up to three resources, products or samples
- Four Forum invitations for sponsor representatives plus presenter(s) (*travel expenses responsibility of the sponsor*)
- Sponsor resources, up to three, sent electronically to spokesperson attendees, pre- or post-meeting
- Post-meeting attendee session evaluation with three custom sponsor questions
- Recognized as the highest-level sponsor championing this meeting
- One-time recognition in the Foundation section of Eat Right Weekly
- Listing in Academy/Academy Foundation Annual Report, on corporate and industry Foundation funding page at eatrightfoundation.org, and on Academy Sponsor page at eatrightPRO.org
- Listing in Academy Foundation Supporter Ad in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*
- Specific deliverables associated with the 2026 Academy Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo®, including sign/easel for expo booth showing sponsorship, invitation to the Foundation's donor reception, and recognition as part of a scrolling list of supporters at the Foundation's booth

Premier Sponsor

\$27,500 (five available)

- One 25-minute session to present non-commercial, science-based research focused on Forum topic, *per Academy review and approval, complemented by a pre-Forum meeting to align on session topic*
- Welcome Reception & Networking Showcase** to distribute up to two resources, products, or samples
- Three Forum invitations for sponsor representatives plus presenter(s) (*travel expenses responsibility of the sponsor*)

- Post-meeting attendee session evaluation with two custom sponsor questions
- One-time recognition in the Foundation section of Eat Right Weekly
- Listing in Academy/Academy Foundation Annual Report, on corporate and industry Foundation funding page at eatrightfoundation.org, and on Academy Sponsor page at eatrightPRO.org
- Listing in Academy Foundation Supporter Ad in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*
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Spotlight Sponsor

\$20,000 (three available)

- One 20-minute session to present non-commercial, science-based research focused on Forum topic, *per Academy review and approval, complemented by a pre-Forum meeting to align on session topic*
- Welcome Reception & Networking Showcase** to distribute up to one resource, product, or sample
- Two Forum invitations for sponsor representatives plus presenter(s) (*travel expenses responsibility of the sponsor*)
- Post-meeting attendee session evaluation with one custom sponsor question
- One-time recognition in the Foundation section of Eat Right Weekly
- Listing in Academy/Academy Foundation Annual Report, on corporate and industry Foundation funding page at eatrightfoundation.org, and on Academy Sponsor page at eatrightPRO.org
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**Corkage fees would be the responsibility of the sponsor (standard fee to cover costs to receive, store, serve, and clean up any outside food or beverage products brought in for sampling).

***An additional fee may apply to cover preparation, handling, and service costs, ensuring the product or ingredient is safely integrated into the recipe. This fee is the responsibility of the sponsor.

Contribution Levels/Benefits

Network Sponsor

\$15,000

- Welcome Reception & Networking Showcase** to distribute up to two resources, products, or samples
- One Forum invitation for sponsor representative (*travel expenses responsibility of the sponsor*)
- One-time recognition in the Foundation section of Eat Right Weekly
- Listing on corporate and industry foundation funding page at eatrightfoundation.org, and on Academy Sponsor page at eatrightPRO.org
- Specific deliverables associated with the Academy Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo® including sign/easel for expo booth showing sponsorship, invitation to the Foundation's donor reception, and recognition as part of a scrolling list of supporters at the Foundation's booth

Breakfast and Lunch Sponsor

\$10,000 (three available)

- Opportunity to incorporate your product or ingredients into one recipe within the planned menu***
- Opportunity to distribute up to two resources and one product sample during the meal**
- Opportunity to deliver a brief 2-minute welcome address during the sponsored meal (optional)
- One Forum invitation for sponsor representative (*travel expenses responsibility of the sponsor*)
- Listing on corporate and industry foundation funding page at eatrightfoundation.org, and on Academy Sponsor page at eatrightPRO.org
- Specific deliverables associated with the Academy Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo® including sign/easel for expo booth showing sponsorship, invitation to the Foundation's do-nor reception, and recognition as part of a scrolling list of supporters at the Foundation's booth

Participation Sponsor

\$5,000

- One Forum invitation for sponsor representative (*travel expenses responsibility of the sponsor*)

Additional sponsorships or add-ons for consideration:

Academy Spokesperson Lunch + Learn Sponsorship (Wednesday, April 15)

Contact [Daun Longshore](#) for more information.

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