



eat
right. Academy of Nutrition
and Dietetics
Foundation

Donor Report



2023-2024

A Message from Susan Laramée, MS, RDN, FADA, FAND

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation Chair, 2023-2024



Dear Foundation Donors, Recipients, Volunteers & Friends,

It has been my honor to serve as
your Academy Foundation Chair!



Throughout my career and involvement with our Foundation as a volunteer leader and donor, I have developed tremendous appreciation for the impact our Foundation has on Academy members and the profession. Our work in 2023-2024 focused on shaping the next generation of food and nutrition professionals through scholarships at all levels of study, advancing research that strengthens the evidence on the impact of nutrition, and reinforcing Registered Dietitians as leading experts in the field. Our dynamic Fellows had opportunities to work and make a difference in nutrition policy and advance as leaders in their respective fields. Here are a few highlights.

Research Commitment

We actively invest in our profession's future by collaborating with the Academy's Research team to secure funding for essential research. Our efforts drive evidence-based practice and improve health outcomes through nutrition and dietetics research.

In April, the Academy's Research team and our Foundation hosted the Nutrition Science Forum on malnutrition and health equity. Researchers shared groundbreaking studies highlighting diverse methods, settings, and populations. This

event fostered meaningful discussions with key stakeholders on research gaps and opportunities.

Fellowships

Our fellows drive progress in research, resource development, and policy. In 2023-2024, we had six fellows, including:

- Two Evidence Analysis Center (EAC) fellows who worked on systematic reviews to strengthen RDN-led nutrition interventions, Sri Lakshmi Devarakonda, RD and Violeta Chacón, PhD
- Grace L. Ostenso Fellow Laura Bain, PhD, MBA, RDN, had the opportunity to work in U.S. Senator Kristen Gillibrand's office on nutrition and other health-related policy.
- Past fellows also had exciting career opportunities, such as Gabriela Montenegro-Bethancourt, PhD, one of our former International Research Fellows, who was sworn in as the new Secretary of Science and Technology for the country of Guatemala in March.

Make It a Million Scholarship Campaign

While we are proud of the tremendous impact, we are able to make each year with our scholarships. Now more than ever, dietetic students and interns are facing a number of challenges while completing their education and internships, including the rising costs of education and the increasing demand for our scholarships.

Additionally, each year, our Foundation receives three times the number of scholarship applications versus the number we can award. In 2023, more than **700** deserving students and interns who applied for a scholarship did not receive a scholarship due to limited funds.

To address this need, our Foundation launched its Make It a Million Scholarship Campaign, an effort to raise **\$1M by 2025** in new dollars, to help us award \$1M in scholarships annually.

We ended our year at **62% of our \$1M goal**. I want to thank everyone who has contributed to this significant campaign and encourage anyone who has yet to do so, to give today!

Finally, thanks to our donors, advocates and volunteers who drive progress in advancing the mission and vision of our Foundation. Our work is made possible through your generosity and passion for our profession.

Sincerely,

**Susan Laramée,
MS, RDN, FADA, FAND**

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Foundation Chair, 2023-2024

The Foundation's Mission

Through philanthropy, empower
current and future food
and nutrition practitioners to
optimize global health.

The Foundation's Vision

A world where all people thrive
through the transformative
power of food and nutrition.



Scholarships

Our Foundation invests in the current and future generation of food and nutrition practitioners as the world's largest provider of dietetic scholarships at all levels of study. This past year, our Foundation awarded \$806,800 in scholarships support to 294 dietetic interns and students for the 2023-2024 academic year. A full list of scholarship recipients can be found [here](#).

While we are proud of the number of scholarships we were able to award, there is a need to do more. Now, more than ever, students are facing a growing number of challenges completing their education, including a significant increase in the cost of tuition. The number of scholarship applications our Academy Foundation now receives outweighs the scholarships we can award by three to one. In 2023, more than 700 deserving students who applied for a scholarship were unable to receive one based on available funds.

To keep pace with this growing demand, the Academy Foundation launched its Make It a Million Scholarship Campaign, asking all Academy leaders, members, students and affiliated organizations to come together and support this effort that will raise \$1 million in reserves over three years to build Foundation resources to allow us to award \$1 million in scholarships annually. Together, we can come together to build the next generation of food and nutrition practitioners. Our Foundation thanks everyone who has contributed to this effort, and if you haven't already contributed to this groundbreaking campaign, please do so today – [donate here](#).

Awards & Research

The Foundation's competitive awards and research grants recognize great work and fund leading research that advances the dietetic profession.

Academy Foundation research grants elevate the registered dietitian nutritionist's profile to the public by continuing to position the Academy and its members

as the nutrition experts. This year, the Foundation awarded \$164,000 for 18 research projects.

Our Foundation provides dietetics awards to Academy members that encourage them to grow as professionals and achieve excellence in new and developing areas of food and nutrition. This year, we awarded over \$115,000 to 51 recipients.

Fellowships

Our Foundation collaborates with the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Research, International, and Scientific Affairs (RISA) team and other stakeholders and partners to create and offer fellowship opportunities for current and future credentialed food and nutrition practitioners at all career levels that advance each fellow's skills, knowledge, and visibility and advance the Foundation's and Academy's strategic plans. \$5.3 million has been invested in our [Fellowship Program](#) through the support of our donors! This year, our fellows included:

- **Laura Bain, PhD, MBA, RDN**, 2023-2024 Grace L. Ostenso Nutrition in Public Policy Fellow, funded by the estate of Dr. Grace L. Ostenso and Ed and Helen Hintz
- **Violeta Chacón, PhD**, 2023 Summer Evidence Analysis Center Fellow, funded by the Academy Foundation Research Endowment
- **Sherry Coleman Collins, MS, RDN, LD**, Communications and Dissemination Fellow, funded by the Academy Foundation Nutrition Education for the Public Fund
- **Sri Lakshmi Devarakonda, RD**, 2023 Summer Evidence Analysis Center Fellow, funded by the Academy Foundation Research Endowment
- **Monique Richard, MS, RDN, LDN, FAND, IFNCP, RYT**, Integrative and Functional Nutrition Microcertification Fellow, funded by the Dietitians in Integrative and Functional Nutrition DPG
- **Nida Shaikh, PhD, RD**, Halal Research Fellow, funded by the Islamic Food and Nutrition Council of America

Disaster Relief Efforts

The Academy Foundation Disaster Relief Fund was established to support the personal and professional life-rebuilding efforts of Academy members and other nutrition and dietetics professionals and students who have been affected by disasters. Over the last several years, \$122,425 has been provided to help 87 nutrition and dietetics practitioners and students during their time of need.

Public Education Programs: Kids Eat Right & Future of Food

Our [Public Education Programs](#) bring the expertise of RDNs and Academy members into schools and throughout communities, creating awareness and delivering education and resources today that will create a better future for all. Our Kids Eat Right program is committed to promoting a healthy today and tomorrow for our children while our Future of Food program works to raise awareness of food and nutrition insecurity and promote access to healthy food and quality nutrition education in food banks. In August 2023, the Academy and our Foundation celebrated Kids Eat Right month with to highlight the role everyone, from registered dietitian nutritionists to parents and educators, plays in ensuring a healthy future for our nation's children. Kids Eat Right Month focuses on the importance of healthy eating and active lifestyles for children and families, featuring expert advice from registered dietitian nutritionists.



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