

newsFLASH

Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group

Message from the Chair

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*The pessimist complains about the
wind; the optimist expects it to
change; the realist adjusts the sails.*

~ WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD

We all have indelible memories of personal and historic life events. I remember with clarity where I was on September 11, 2001, who told me about the planes hitting the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, how I felt, and what happened afterward. Another unforgettable memory will be March 11, 2020, when the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, a pandemic. Then, shortly after that, learning that New York was the epicenter of the outbreak in the United States.

As a result of the pandemic, there have been many changes in our professional and personal lives. Most of us know at least one victim, but most of us also know at least one



survivor of COVID-19 too. I hope that you will be able to adjust your sails, accentuate the positive, and appreciate what's really important in life.

Now More Than Ever Diabetes DPG Membership Matters!

Thank you for your Diabetes DPG (DDPG) membership during the 2019-20 membership year. It is because of members like you that DDPG continues to be the second-largest practice group of the Academy. While we navigate this unprecedented time of change due to the COVID-19 pandemic, DDPG remains committed to serving our members.

The Academy recognizes that membership renewal coincides with this challenging time and is offering

Featured Stories

- 5 Medallion Winners 2019
- 10 The Disparities That Impact the Older African American Adults Living with Type 2 Diabetes
- 14 Healthy Eating for Older Adults
- 18 DDPG's Investments in the Academy's Diabetes Research Builds Evidence

several options to help with your renewal:

- The membership renewal deadline has been extended through June 30 with renewal options inclusive of online, by phone, or by mail.
- An option to pay dues in two equal installments is now available. The first installment is due by June 30, and a second installment is due by September 15.
- If financial hardship threatens your ability to maintain Academy membership, you may request an application for a Financial Hardship Dues Reduction.

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newsFLASH

Diabetes Care and Education

eat right. Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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DDPG MISSION

Optimizing the prevention and management of diabetes through person-centered care, including nutrition and collaborative partnerships.

DDPG VISION

A world where all people affected by diabetes thrive.

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Defined goals and strategies help in achieving our mission.

Goals

1. Recruit and train new volunteer leaders.
2. Increase the visibility of DDPG within and outside of the Academy.
3. Empower all RDNs and NDTRs in treating diabetes.
4. Create a Unified DDPG Brand.

Strategies

- Provide the tools, resources, and support to all RDNs and NDTRs to empower them to become competent providers and leaders in diabetes nutrition.
- Work to create and increase confidence in RDNs and NDTRs to assert their knowledge and expertise when working with all people affected by diabetes.
- Develop volunteers to be leaders within the organization and the profession to advance RDNs and NDTRs as the nutrition and dietetics experts when treating pre-diabetes, diabetes, and complications associated with diabetes.
- Focus on collaborative partnerships to further the mission and vision of DDPG through community engagement, public policy, and legislative initiatives, clinical care, and research.

Message from the Chair

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As a reminder, you cannot be a member of DDPG unless you are a member of the Academy.

You can renew your membership with the Academy and the DDPG online or by calling the Academy Member Service Center toll-free at 800/877-1600, ext. 5000.

Team Work Makes the Dream Work!

As I reflect on my term as chair of DDPG, I have a sense of pride in our many accomplishments. You'll be able to read about all of them in our DDPG Annual Report, but I wanted to share a few highlights here.

Last year, during our leadership retreat, I appointed a task force to explore the feasibility of DDPG hosting a diabetes symposium. After surveying the membership and establishing a budget, it was determined that a symposium was feasible. As a result of the task force's dedication and hard work, we will hold our first-ever virtual Diabetes Symposium on February 18- 19, 2021. So, please go ahead and save the date on your calendar.

Thank you to the task force members: Anna Parker, DCN, MS, RD, CDCES, Professional Development Chair; Patricia Davidson, DCN, RDN, CDCES, LDN, FAND, Print Communications Chair; Melissa Dobbins, MS, RDN, CDCES, Marketing/Communications Chair; Cassie Verdi, MPH, RD, Corporate Relations Manager; and Kathy Warwick, RD, LD, CDCES, OTCE Assistant Editor 2020-2021. And thank you to Amy Biedenharn, Director—DPG/MIG/Affiliate

Relations and Linda Flanagan Vahl, DDPG Manager, for your support and assistance with this project.

Although we remain the second-largest practice group of the Academy, our membership numbers have been declining over the past eight years. Developing a marketing plan was one of the goals in our strategic plan aimed at changing the trajectory of our membership body. Together with the Academy Marketing and Strategic Communications Team, we were able to complete a comprehensive marketing plan for DDPG. The marketing plan will be activated over the next year, starting in July.

We could not have come up with such a brilliant marketing plan without the assistance of Georgia Gofis, Director, Marketing and Business Development for the Academy. Thank you, Georgia.

Many meetings and conferences—including our Annual Leadership Retreat—are adjusting their sails and going virtual because of COVID-19. After a full year of planning a face-to-face leadership retreat in Orlando, Florida, we were forced to swiftly transition to a virtual platform. Our leadership retreat is where we orient our new leaders to their new positions and the functioning of DDPG. The primary goals of this year's retreat were to increase our leaders' understanding of DDPG mission and vision, guiding principles, organization chart, functions of the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs, and the relationship between the practice group's strategic plan and each individual committee's strategic plan.

Based on the evaluations and comments after the retreat, our goals were accomplished. But that would not have been possible without a lot of hard work by our Corporate Relations Manager, Cassie, and Linda, our DDPG Manager.

As the Calendar Page Turns

As the calendar page turns to a new fiscal year, let me first say thank you to our outgoing leaders. Diabetes DPG is not only a large DPG, it is a very active DPG. Our leaders devote a large number of volunteer hours to support our practice group's mission and vision. Thank you, Laura Russell, MA, RD, CDCES, Chelsea Schoenfelder, MPH, RD, LD, Jamie Kowatch, MS, RD, CDCES, Daisy Seremba, RD, LD, CDCES, Lisa Herzig, PhD, RDN, CDCES, and Michele Chynoweth, RD, CDCES, for your service to DDPG. Thank you, Alyce Thomas, RDN, for all of your food for thought—aka "I was thinking about..." Over the past two years, we traveled many miles together, had a lot of fun, worked hard, and accomplished a lot.

Along with a new fiscal year comes new leadership, new energy and new ideas. It's been an honor to serve as chair of DDPG and to get to know so many talented experts in diabetes care and education. I am looking forward to assuming my role as Past Chair/Industry Relations Chair of DDPG and supporting Paula Leibovitz during her term as chair of DDPG.

Joy & Gratitude!