

newsFLASH

Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group

Message from the Chair

Paula Kellogg Leibovitz, MS, RDN,
CDN, CDCES
Chair, 2020-2021

John F. Kennedy once said: "Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." As I write my first Chair's message, I am thrilled to highlight some exciting changes and initiatives for our practice group! We are certainly not going to "miss the future."

Welcome to the inaugural digital edition of our great publication *newsFLASH*. If you are reading this, you are experiencing firsthand an exciting transformation: no more paper! We hope you enjoy the new format and appreciate our DPG's desire to be more environmentally friendly. While *newsFLASH* will no longer arrive in your mailbox, you will continue to receive a publication that provides outstanding quality and breadth.

Continuing with the theme of change, we hope you are getting accustomed to our new name and tagline, Diabetes Dietetic Practice



Group (DDPG), "Experts in Diabetes Care and Education." The new name was announced last year at FNCE®. Hopefully, the name change will help dispel the misconception that an expert credential such as CDCES (formerly CDE) or BC-ADM is required to be a member. We are partnering with the Academy marketing team to formally launch our name change and to dispel this misinformation. It is a broad-based campaign that focuses on the themes of how our DPG benefits help members to "Learn, Network and Advance."

Another positive change for our DPG was the transition from our electronic mailing list (EML) to a discussion board format. This format continues to help members stay connected and allows for sharing of ideas while promoting member collaboration. For

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more information please visit our website, www.diabetesdpg.org (another change - a new web address!), click on "**Get Involved**," and then select the **discussion board**.

This year for the first time, we attended a fantastic virtual FNCE with many outstanding sessions. We began FNCE with our fun-filled virtual Diabetes Awards Recognition and Reception. We recognized our awesome DPG award recipients: Distinguished Service Award, Jo Jo Dantone, MS, RDN, LDN, CDCES, FAND; Legislative Award, Jennifer Okemah, MS, BCADM, CDCES, CN, CD

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Message from the Chair

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and Diabetes Educator of the Year, Toby Smithson, MS, RDN, LD, CDCES, FAND. Plus, there was a fun and informative wine tasting led by Jo Jo Dantone and Jennifer Okemah. Our DDPG's spotlight session, *The Unique Challenges of Successful Diabetes Management in Older Adults*, was presented by our Print Communication Chair, Patricia Davidson, DCN, RDN, CDCES, FAND and pharmacist Michael C. Barros, PharmD, BCPS, BCACP, BC-ADM. It was incredibly informative. Hope you also visited our *Member Showcase* which gave us the opportunity to "show off" the benefits of membership.

As I write this, I can proudly say that we are currently the top ranked DPG in total membership. Our 2019 DDPG membership survey found that over 90% of respondents felt that we were an up-to-date organization, and that membership was a good value for dues paid. In fact, over 90% would definitely recommend DDPG membership! Now that is impressive and readily explains why we are currently number one and have always been one of the largest practice groups.

The new leadership team began their terms on June 1, and we are already making many positive changes building on the foundation established by our previous DPG leadership. Our DPG is not afraid to embrace change as we strive to ensure that we are meeting the needs of members. Thank you for not only being a member of our fantastic DPG, but also for the privilege of serving as your chair.

Message from the newsFLASH Editor

Mamie Lausch, MS, RDN, RN, CDCES
Minneapolis, MN



I am very excited to bring you this FIRST electronic edition of *newsFLASH!* I hope you like the new format. Feel free to share thoughts about this change.

On June 1st we welcomed our 2020-2021 DDPG leaders including our new Chair, Paula Kellogg Leibovitz, MS, RDN, CDCES, CDN. See all your leaders' names and contact information on the last page.

What a year 2020 has been! With all the COVID concerns, professional organization meetings have gone virtual. While I miss seeing colleagues face-to-face, I have enjoyed the virtual experience. FNCE will be presented virtually from October 17th through October 20th. I hope that you consider registering this year as there will be many great presentations. Come and support your colleagues and your professional organization. The sessions will be recorded and available for a full 12 months! Check out this web page for more information: <https://eatrightfnce.org/> With this edition we bring you an informative summary of selected presentations from the 2020 American Diabetes Association (ADA) Scientific Sessions. Contributors Melinda Maryniuk, MEd, RDN, CDCES,

Hope Warshaw, MMSc, RD, CDCES, BC-ADM and Alison Evert, MS, RDN, CDCES give you a snapshot of some of the knowledge we gained. We are happy to share this information with you.

Hope Warshaw, MMSc, RD, CDE, BC-ADM provides us with critical insight into the valuable offerings from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. Her article this edition includes *Spotlight on: Karen Goldstein Memorial Grant for Diabetes Medical Nutrition Therapy*. Hope has provided this regular column to keep you updated on how your contribution dollars are used to benefit others.

Dr. Marcia Magnus, Associate Professor of Dietetics and Nutrition, Florida International was kind enough to share some excerpts of her book *Delivering Culturally Sensitive Nutrition Service\$—Responding to Clients' Iceberg Factors* (2020). Her article discusses The Cross-Cultural Nutrition Checklist that can be used evaluate the nutritional services you provide.

I am sure you will enjoy reading the Member Spotlight of Vanita Achar, MS, RD, CDCES, LDN; I know I did! This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know a fellow DDPG member on a more personal level.

For what remains of 2020: stay safe and be well.