Second Century Member Campaign Impact Report

October 2016 – October 2020
About the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (Academy Foundation) is the only charitable organization devoted exclusively to supporting nutrition and dietetics professionals by empowering them to help consumers live healthier lifestyles. The Academy Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the Academy and does not receive any portion of member dues, relying solely on donations to thrive. The success and impact of our programs and services are directly attributed to the generous support of our donors.

The Academy Foundation serves the nutrition and dietetics profession through scholarships, awards, fellowships and research grants, building upon past successes and expanding our role on the global stage while maintaining national education and research efforts. These programs impact the more than 100,000 credential nutrition and dietetics practitioners and students in the priority 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, such as those supported by the Second Century Member Campaign, provides opportunities for nutrition and dietetics professionals throughout the world.

Academy Foundation Mission:
Through philanthropy, empower current and future food and nutrition practitioners to optimize global health.

www.eatrightfoundation.com
Dear Second Century Member Campaign Donors, Funding Recipients, Volunteers and Colleagues:

In honor of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ 100th anniversary, the Academy and Academy Foundation underwent a significant strategic planning process grounded in an extraordinary commitment to collaboration, a focus on service and an emphasis on solving the greatest food and nutrition challenges of the 21st century. A newly shared vision came into focus in 2016, and we kicked off the Second Century Member Campaign to raise $5 million by FNCE® 2020. Over the next four years, Academy and Foundation leaders, volunteers and donors contributed their time, talent and treasure to this effort.

I am excited and proud to announce the Foundation has reached our $5 million-dollar Second Century Member Campaign goal ahead of schedule, making this the Foundation’s most successful fundraising campaign to date. On behalf of our Board of Directors and campaign leaders, thank you to all Academy members and our many other donors for your contributions to this remarkable achievement. We are pleased to share this report with you to celebrate your philanthropy and showcase our shared progress to date.

I also want to recognize the Academy, whose initial $1 million gift launched this campaign and put us on the path toward achieving our goal. We appreciate their leadership and commitment to this effort. We also would not have been able to reach our goal without support from several organizations that continually invest in our profession, our members and the people we serve. Thank you to the Commission on Dietetic Registration, Dietetic Practice Groups, Member Interest Groups and Affiliates, who made significant investments in this campaign. We are extremely grateful.

I would like to thank the Foundation Chairs who came before me during this campaign and the Board members who played an instrumental role in its success. The Foundation relied on a peer-to-peer fundraising strategy to educate stakeholders and invite donations, engaging past and current Academy leadership, major donors, Philanthropy Council and more. Thank you to those who opened your homes for small group gatherings, hosted receptions at local venues and funded student, DPG and Affiliate events. You were creative and you were committed. From the big checks to the jewelry sales, your energy and passion never waned over the years and helped push us to our goal.

I am also excited to share that your Second Century Member Campaign dollars have already been put to work. From research studies to guideline development, collaborations and scholarships, this campaign is funding projects that address the greatest food and nutrition issues of the 21st century. Second Century Member Campaign funded programs aim to expand the role of the nutrition professional and enhance the practice of our members to ultimately improve the health of our communities.

Within these pages, you will find an overview of each project funded by the campaign and a list recognizing our Second Century Member Campaign donors. Collectively, these projects are advancing our vision: A world where all people thrive through the transformative power of food and nutrition.

Sincerely,

Margaret P. Garner, MS, RDN, LD, FAND, CIC
Academy Foundation Chair, 2020-2021
$5,000,000 CAMPAIGN GOAL REACHED

1,367 FOUNDATION DONORS MADE THEIR LARGEST GIFT WHEN CONTRIBUTING TO THE SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN

2,776 INDIVIDUAL DONORS

948 SECOND CENTURY DONORS ARE FIRST-TIME DONORS TO THE FOUNDATION WITH AN AVERAGE GIFT OF $51.40

“I salute the leadership of the Academy and Foundation for their vision to meet the nutrition challenges of the 21st century by improving the quality of people’s lives by preventing disease. I am so grateful for the many opportunities my Academy has given me.”

Wahida Karmally
DRPH, RDN, CDE

“I salute the leadership of the Academy and Foundation for their vision to meet the nutrition challenges of the 21st century by improving the quality of people’s lives by preventing disease. I was very excited to donate to the Second Century Member Campaign because it sets forth a vision for the future (next 100 years). Programs funded by the Second Century Campaign such as International Research Fellowships, Evidence Analysis Projects and Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics Study are important to promote solutions to challenging global and national food and nutrition issues.”

Karen Lacey
MS, RDN, CD, FAND

“With the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics celebrating 100 years, I was very excited to donate to the Second Century Member Campaign because it sets forth a vision for the future (next 100 years). Programs funded by the Second Century Campaign such as International Research Fellowships, Evidence Analysis Projects and Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics Study are important to promote solutions to challenging global and national food and nutrition issues.”

Sitoya Mansell
MPH, MS, RDN, CHES, FAND

“Second Century Member Campaign efforts are working to expand opportunities and position our profession and members as leading voices in the role that food and nutrition play in health promotion and disease prevention. In practice settings ranging from personalized medical nutrition therapy, hunger relief, wellness programs, culinary nutrition education and sports nutrition to public education through evolving media and the Internet, registered dietitian nutritionists should be at the forefront and actively engaged. Second Century priorities will help us be proactive in taking advantage of these and emerging possibilities.”

Neva Cochran
MS, RDN, LD, FAND
In advance of this major milestone, Academy Foundation donors Susan Finn and Judy Dodd challenged the Academy and Foundation with the question, “How is the Foundation going to celebrate our 100th anniversary and what can we do to change the world?”

Susan C. Finn, RD, FAND
Second Century Member Campaign Co-Chair

Judith L. Dodd, MS, RDN, LDN, FAND
Second Century Member Campaign Co-Chair
“It was an honor and challenge to kick-off our Second Century Member Campaign in 2016 as our Foundation Chair with a big, audacious goal of $5,000,000! When the Academy committed to this campaign by donating the first $1M it demonstrated to membership, and our profession, the significance of this effort. Academy members from every generation got behind it and contributed. The investment in the future of our profession and the impact it will have will be tremendous!”

Jean Ragalie-Carr, RDN, LND, FAND
2016-2017 Foundation Chair

“When we first began the Second Century member campaign, everyone was very excited about it, even without knowing specifics about projects that would be funded. As the campaign continued, several worthy projects were approved by the Foundation Board. They encompass a wide variety of areas of our profession and are in alignment with our mission and vision. Two of these are the Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics & Staffing Study and the Transitions of Care Technical Implementation Guide. These and other projects would not have been able to move forward without the generosity of so many individuals as well as organizational entities. No matter how small, your donation is making an important difference. Thank you!”

Marty Yadrick, MBI, MS, RDN, FAND
2017 – 2019 Foundation Chair

“I’m overwhelmed with gratitude by the $5,000,000 financial commitment of our members toward the Second Century member campaign. Every dollar donated is an investment in our future and propels our profession forward as we navigate the next 100 years. The research, fellowships and initiatives funded through your donations will contribute to the overall health and well-being of those we serve and will secure our position in the field of nutrition of dietetics. I look forward to seeing the impact of our organization’s generosity and commitment. My heartfelt thanks to all.”

Kathy Wilson-Gold, MS, RDN, LD, FAND
2019-2020 Foundation Chair
The Second Century planning process kicked off in 2016 with the Nutrition Impact Summit. This meeting brought together 170 stakeholders including nutrition practitioners, thought leaders and innovators. Over three days, attendees explored opportunities to accelerate progress toward good health and well-being for all people through collaboration across food, wellness and health care systems. This meeting brought focus to Second Century priorities.

The Academy participates in IT standards development by collaborating with organizations such as Health Level Seven International. One of these IT standards is the Transitions of Care Technical Implementation Guide. The purpose of this initiative is to create a technical guidance manual for health IT vendors who develop electronic health records, ensuring a standardized approach when Nutrition Care Process data is exchanged across care settings.

Several technical implementation guides already exist for EHR vendors, but this is the first guide specific to nutrition. Use of this guide by vendors promotes interoperability of electronic records across care settings and allows reliable sharing of patient data for successful transitions of care, quality measurement, public health reporting, research and reimbursement. Nutrition data documented in the appropriate way sets the stage for continued data use, improving quality of care, patient safety and cost savings.
Global nutrition is faced with many challenges in the
21st century as changing food systems transform the way
people eat. In addition, the current covid-19 pandemic has
had major ramifications for food systems and food security.
Childhood chronic malnutrition, which leads to stunted
growth and diminished cognitive development, remains a
major issue in countries like Guatemala. Finding effective
ways to correct stunting helps children grow up healthy,
realize their full potential and break out of poverty. It is
important for the nutrition profession to make contributions
to these areas of research and practice and to engage with organizations like the Maya Health
Alliance that implement nutrition programs in responsible ways, for example, by providing
services in local languages. The Applied Global Nutrition Research Fellowship accomplishes
these goals while building registered dietitian nutritionists’ skillsets in areas like global health,
research and implementation science. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity
to contribute in a small way to the health of families in rural Guatemala and to the body of
knowledge on childhood stunting through this fellowship.

Stephen Alajajian, RDN
Applied International Research Fellow

GARDENS FOR HEALTH INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Janice Giddens was the first Gardens for Health International Fellow in Rwanda. During her fellowship, she developed and implemented an antenatal nutrition pilot curriculum reaching hundreds of women and families and participated in Ministry of Health Technical Nutrition meetings.

Janice Giddens, MS, RDN

APPLIED INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

In 2018, the Academy began working in collaboration with the Wuqu’ Kawoq/Maya Health Alliance on a research study to evaluate the effects of a family garden intervention in rural Guatemala. The study explored whether family gardens paired with a nutrition intervention program would lead to improvements in maternal and child dietary diversity, child growth and household food insecurity in a rural setting.

This study has been presented to the nutrition community via webinars, newsletter articles and at FNCE®. Final study results will also be disseminated through a series of publications in 2021. This study will add to the body of evidence on garden interventions in rural settings and their impact on nutrition outcomes in countries where malnutrition and stunting are still prevalent.

“Global nutrition is faced with many challenges in the 21st century as changing food systems transform the way people eat. In addition, the current covid-19 pandemic has had major ramifications for food systems and food security. Childhood chronic malnutrition, which leads to stunted growth and diminished cognitive development, remains a major issue in countries like Guatemala. Finding effective ways to correct stunting helps children grow up healthy, realize their full potential and break out of poverty. It is important for the nutrition profession to make contributions to these areas of research and practice and to engage with organizations like the Maya Health Alliance that implement nutrition programs in responsible ways, for example, by providing services in local languages. The Applied Global Nutrition Research Fellowship accomplishes these goals while building registered dietitian nutritionists’ skillsets in areas like global health, research and implementation science. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to contribute in a small way to the health of families in rural Guatemala and to the body of knowledge on childhood stunting through this fellowship.”

Stephen Alajajian, RDN
Applied International Research Fellow

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AAIM – ACADEMY AND ASPEN INDICATORS TO DIAGNOSE MALNUTRITION STUDY

The AAIM – Academy and ASPEN Indicators to Diagnose Malnutrition Study is a landmark research project taking place in 120 pediatric and adult hospital sites in the U.S. The study aims to test the validity of the Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics diagnostic tool and to develop an RDN staffing model that optimizes nutrition care of hospitalized patients. Three Foundation Fellows have been instrumental to conducting this large multisite project with the Academy’s Nutrition Research Network.

This study will provide nutrition and health care professionals with a validated malnutrition diagnostic tool for use in hospitalized adult and pediatric populations. In addition, the staffing model will help clinical nutrition managers determine an optimal RDN-to-patient ratio that promotes improved patient outcomes. Together, these study products will benefit patients of all ages in acute care settings by improving quality of care and health outcomes. Study results will be disseminated to the nutrition community via webinars, DPG newsletters, social media, FNCE® and other conferences and peer-reviewed publications. Funded by the Clinical Nutrition Management DPG, Commission on Dietetic Registration and Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group.

“The receipt of the MCC Adult Fellowship means so much to me. I started my career in clinical research with the aspiration to better the way dietitians treat and diagnose patients and make a real impact on nutritional care. I am greatly appreciative to be given the opportunity to support this significant study. I also thank you for giving me the chance to grow my career and expand my knowledge as a dietitian in research.”

Lindsay Woodcock, MS, RDN LDN
Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics Study (now the AAIM – Academy and ASPEN Indicators to Diagnose Malnutrition Study) Adult Fellow

“I want to thank you for establishing fellowship opportunities for your members. I feel that it is a wonderful commitment to further growth of the profession. As dietitians it is imperative that we mentor our colleagues and younger dietitians, and that we participate in knowledge generation and sharing.”

Courtney Bliss, MS, RDN, CNSC
Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group Pediatric Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics Study (now the AAIM – Academy and ASPEN Indicators to Diagnose Malnutrition Study) Fellow

“It is humbling to be given this distinguished opportunity to work with my fellow dietitians who are also passionate about child nutrition.”

Julie Long, MS, MPH, RDN
Malnutrition Clinical Characteristics Study (now the AAIM – Academy and ASPEN Indicators to Diagnose Malnutrition Study) Pediatric Fellow
EVIDENCE ANALYSIS CENTER PROJECTS

The EAC conducts systematic reviews, writes consensus papers and develops nutrition practice guidelines to assist RDNs and other health practitioners in providing evidence-based nutrition care. The EAC’s growing body of publications is housed online within the Academy’s Evidence Analysis Library. Below is a list of projects funded by Second Century Member Campaign support from DPGs. These topics were identified as gap areas where there was need to review the latest research and provide updated practice recommendations.

ADULT WEIGHT MANAGEMENT
The objective of this project is to review research on weight management interventions provided by a registered dietitian nutritionist or international equivalent in adults who are overweight or obese. It will result in a systematic review, as well as evidence-based practice guidelines for effective RDN-led weight management interventions for adult patients.

Funded by the Weight Management DPG

CELIAC DISEASE
This project will result in a systematic review of studies examining nutrition assessment, interventions and measures to monitor gluten-free diet adherence and compliance in patients with celiac disease. A set of evidence-based practice guidelines for RDNs will be formulated from the review for use when working with patients with celiac disease.

Funded by the Dietitians in Medical Nutrition Therapy DPG

ENERGY EXPENDITURE
The outcome of this project will be an update to the EAL’s 2014 Energy Expenditure Guidelines. The updated recommendations will provide health care practitioners with evidence-based guidance for measuring resting metabolic rate in healthy and non-critically ill individuals to promote positive outcomes.

Funded by Dietitians in Nutrition Support DPG

NUTRITIONAL GENOMICS/PERSONALIZED NUTRITION
Completed in 2020, this project resulted in a systematic review on the effects of incorporating genetic information into nutrition care. A consensus report was developed based on the systematic review and was published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. These publications aim to inform practice for those utilizing genetic testing in nutrition care.

Funded by the Dietitians in Integrative and Functional Medicine DPG

TYPE 1 DIABETES IN CHILDREN
This systematic review will explore the effectiveness of medical nutrition therapy and nutrition interventions on health outcomes in children and adolescents with Type 1 diabetes. Evidence-based practice recommendations will be developed from the systematic review to inform health practitioners of the most effective interventions for pediatric patients with Type 1 diabetes.

Funded by the Diabetes DPG

UNINTENDED WEIGHT LOSS IN OLDER ADULTS
This project will result in two systematic reviews focused on assessment of malnutrition in older adults and effective interventions. Evidence-based practice recommendations will be derived from the systematic reviews for RDNs to use in the treatment and prevention of malnutrition for older adults living in the community or at their long-term residence.

Funded by the Dietetics in Healthcare Communities DPG
ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS HEALTH INFORMATICS INFRASTRUCTURE BREAST FEEDING REGISTRY STUDY

The Breast feeding Registry Study, conducted by the Academy’s Data Science Center, aims to better understand the documentation of RDNs who provide breast feeding and lactation support to infants and their mothers. The study is investigating nutrition outcomes and predictors of nutrition problem resolution in this population. RDNs at six to 12 collaborating sites will be recruited and trained to collect registry data using the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Health Informatics Infrastructure (ANDHII).

ANDHII enables RDNs to track nutrition care outcomes in their practice setting. The knowledge gained through the collection and analysis of information in ANDHII adds to the evidence base for nutrition practice and helps ensure high-quality patient care. Currently, almost no data exists in ANDHII related to mothers who are breast feeding or infants who are breast fed. This research will begin to fill that gap. It will help us understand the current documentation practices of RDNs in this specialty, as well as the resulting outcomes from receiving nutrition care such as infant weight and breast feeding duration.

Funded by the Pediatric Nutrition DPG and the Women’s Health DPG

AUGmeNT STUDY: ASSESSING UPTAKE AND IMPACT OF GUIDELINES FOR CLINICAL PRACTICE IN RENAL NUTRITION

This study aims to evaluate RDN fidelity to the EAC’s Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Guideline at 20-40 outpatient renal dialysis centers. It will test the effectiveness of an implementation toolkit created to support implementation of CKD Guideline recommendations by RDNs. It will also examine the feasibility of estimating the impact of the CKD Guideline on nutrition-related outcomes. Data from this study will help us better understand the adaptation, adoption and acceptability of the CKD Guideline by RDNs working in dialysis centers, which may inform future iterations of the guideline. Results of this study will be disseminated via webinars, DPG newsletters, FNCE® and other conferences and peer-reviewed publications.

Through design of the AUGmeNT study, the Academy’s Nutrition Research Network has developed a model that can be replicated to evaluate the implementation and impact of other evidence-based nutrition guidelines.

Funded by the Renal DPG and Relypsy, a Vifor Pharma Group Company

THE STATE OF FOOD AND NUTRITION SERIES

The purpose of this multiphase initiative is to demonstrate the value of RDN-led nutrition interventions addressing three high-priority non-communicable diseases – Type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease and hypertension – all of which are prevalent issues in the U.S. and globally. Poor nutritional status contributes to onset and progression of these diseases and appropriate medical nutrition therapy can prevent or delay their progression. However, many people with these conditions do not have access to an RDN and do not receive appropriate nutrition care.

Through an expert forum, building of a research strategy and prospective data collection and analysis, this project will build on the evidence to support increased access to and reimbursement for nutrition care delivered by RDNs treating these conditions. Broader access to the RDN expertise will ultimately have a positive impact on health outcomes for individuals with these diseases.

Supported by Abbott Nutrition, the Commission on Dietetic Registration, Georgetown University, Diabetes Dietetic Practice Group, National Kidney Foundation, Nutricia Advanced Medical Nutrition, Relypsy, a Vifor Pharma Group Company, Renal Dietetic Practice Group and Weight Management Dietetic Practice Group.
SECOND CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP IN MEMORY OF CONSTANCE GEIGER

Scholarships were made available in memory of past Foundation Board Member Constance Geiger, PhD, RDN, LD, CD, when she passed away in 2017. Constance had a distinguished career and was nationally and internationally recognized for her expertise in food labeling, health communications and government affairs. In addition to owning her own business, she was a research associate professor at the University of Utah and had a passion for research in the area of public policy and nutrition labeling.

Constance Geiger Memorial Scholarships Recipients:

“Thank you dearly for your scholarship support. I am truly grateful to receive such an honorable award. As a full-time graduate student with a full-time research assistantship, I am unable to work outside of graduate school. This scholarship will provide me with financial assistance as I pursue my doctoral degree. I am very thankful for the opportunity this award will provide me. Additionally, as a first-generation student, I am so encouraged to receive recognition in my capacity to succeed at Colorado State University, but also as I advance in my career in dietetics, nutrition and food science. I cannot express enough how humbling it is to be a Foundation scholarship recipient.”

Nicole S. Litwin, PhD, RDN

“Thank you for selecting me to receive the Foundation’s Second Century Scholarship in Memory of Constance Geiger. I am very honored to have been selected to receive this scholarship. It will be incredibly helpful in funding my doctoral program, and allowing me to achieve both my educational and career goals.”

Jessica Soldavini, MPH, RD, LDN

COMMISSION ON DIETETIC REGISTRATION SECOND CENTURY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING

CDR has shown a longstanding commitment to the Academy Foundation by supporting our diversity and doctoral scholarships. Hundreds of nutrition and dietetics professionals have received educational support through CDR-funded scholarships over the last decade. In response to the economic downturn in 2020 due to COVID-19, CDR provided additional significant support to the Foundation’s General Scholarship Fund. This funding was intended for dietetic interns, with priority given to diverse students and students with significant demonstrated financial need. Adequate scholarship funding ensures the Foundation continues to invest in the future of our profession, grooming a workforce that will positively impact public health in the U.S. and globally.
The Wimpfheimer–Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management exists to support the international exchange of nutrition, dietetics and management information for the benefit of the nutritional health of the world community.

**WIMPFHEIMER-GUGGENHEIM FUND PROJECTS**

Projects Funded Through the Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management

**MIDDLE EAST DIETETICS NEEDS ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES AND DISSEMINATION PLANS: A POLICY PERSPECTIVE**

This project, led by Tatyana El-Kour, MA, MS, RDN, FAND, aims to understand the interlinkages between nutrition and dietetics education, training, credentialing, recognition and policy in support of impactful nutrition advocacy outcomes in the Middle East.

**GLOBAL INFORMATION SHARING EXPERIENCE IN NUTRITION AND DIETETICS AT U.S. UNIVERSITIES**

This pilot project brought a dietetics student, Nathalie Neumann, from Karlsruhe, Germany, to the U.S. in the spring of 2019. She completed a four-week educational opportunity with Iowa State University and Oregon Health and Science University to support collaboration and learning among global nutrition practitioners. There are plans to continue this program given the pilot’s success and its potential for fostering international relationships and the open exchange of information among the global nutrition community.

**WIMPFHEIMER-GUGGENHEIM GLOBAL HUNGER RELIEF GRANT**

This one-time grant provided funding for a program addressing hunger in low-resource settings. The grant was awarded Joanna Cummings, MS, RD, CNSC, for her work addressing hunger in Lao PDR with Gardens for Growth at the Lao-American Nutrition Institute (now the National Institute of Nutrition). Her work directly supported hunger relief efforts and included a detailed a long-term plan for program sustainability.

**INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF DIETETIC ASSOCIATIONS WELCOME FUND**

This initiative provides $500 to support new members of the International Confederation of Dietetic Associations from countries around the world. Funding removes cost as a barrier for participation and collaboration among nutrition practitioners globally.

Alice Figueroa, MPH, RDN
Addressing Malnutrition in Central America Fellow

Funded by the Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management

In collaboration with the Duke Center for International Development (DCID), the Foundation supported a fellow to work on a project addressing chronic malnutrition in Guatemala. A collaborative group named Conéctate Guate was formed among DCID, the Academy Foundation and Academy and two organizations in Guatemala: Wuqu’ Kawoq/Maya Health Alliance and FUNDEGUA. The Conéctate Guate group conducted a survey to map the organizations and interventions targeting chronic malnutrition in Guatemala. This survey and the resulting map-based products have been transitioned to the Guatemalan government for future updates and maintenance. In addition, Alice collaborated with the EAC and Nutrition Research Network to conduct a scoping review examining current literature and gaps in evidence related to pediatric stunting interventions in Guatemala.
Industry–Funded Projects

In addition to Second Century Member Campaign Funded Projects, several organizations partnered with the Academy Foundation to support fellowships and projects within the scope of the priorities identified in the strategic planning process.

*This industry support is above and beyond the $5 million raised by Academy members and has been critical in accelerating our mission to address Second Century priorities. All industry support is recognized on the Second Century Member Campaign’s website.*

HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS FELLOWSHIP
FUNDED BY THE NATIONAL DAIRY COUNCIL

Marie Spiker, PhD, MSPH, RDN
Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Fellow

Amanda Hege, MPH, RD
Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Contributor

The Foundation’s Healthy and Sustainable Food Systems Fellow convened a roundtable of thought leaders within and beyond the profession of nutrition and dietetics. This group created a framework for action focused on how RDNs can leverage their skills to cultivate more sustainable food systems. This project also includes a scoping review with the EAC to explore methodological decisions related to nutrition in research studies that assess the environmental impact of human dietary patterns.

The framework for action, published in August 2020, serves as a roadmap that nutrition practitioners, educators and researchers can use to develop new opportunities in sustainable food systems for nutrition students and practicing professionals. The scoping review, which will be published in 2021, will be an important catalyst for strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration at the intersection of dietary patterns and sustainability. Additionally, the project includes advancement of the Foundation’s Sustainable, Resilient and Healthy Food and Water Systems: A Curriculum for Dietetic Students and Interns.

These efforts, focused on sustainability and dietary patterns, will amplify the expertise of nutrition and dietetics professionals within the larger conversation about how to nourish a growing global population in a way that promotes stewardship of our collective resources.
Prioritizing Food Security Solutions (formerly Hunger Free Communities) was a multiphase project funded by the General Mills Foundation. The project included development of a food security and nutrition guide, related assessment tool and a decision-making process to assist communities in selecting food security interventions tailored to their community’s needs and capacity. Funding supported a pilot study of the assessment tool and decision-making process in three communities (two in the U.S. and one international), as well as development of supporting materials and dissemination of the guide to the public health community.

This project, launched in 2016, resulted in a comprehensive toolkit and related resources, which are available on the Foundation’s website and free to nutrition professionals working in food security. This toolkit allows communities to identify the best food security solutions for their specific needs and helps them allocate resources appropriately to maximize their impact on ameliorating hunger.
SAQMOLØ’ STUDY
FUNDED BY THE EGG NUTRITION CENTER

The Saqmolo’ study is a randomized controlled trial funded by the Egg Nutrition Center. The Foundation fellow is collaborating with the local primary health care organization Wuqu’Kawoq/Maya Health Alliance and the Academy’s Nutrition Research Network. The fellow is serving as the study coordinator and assisting in study planning and implementation. The study will assess the growth and development impact of adding one egg per day to the local standard of nutrition care, versus standard nutrition care alone, in 1,200 infants age 6 to 9 months.

This study will provide evidence of the impact of egg consumption on infant development and growth and may offer a viable intervention as a solution to combat malnutrition in Guatemala. This study may also be replicated in other settings as a possible nutrition intervention for child undernutrition, a world-wide public health concern.

**NUTRITION IN FOOD RETAIL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIP FUNDED BY WALMART, INC.**

This multiphase project aims to increase understanding of the role that RDNs play in the food retail setting to improve public health. One full-time Foundation fellow is overseeing this comprehensive initiative. The first phase of this project, through funding from Walmart, Inc., launched in 2019 and was titled, “Leveraging RDNs in the Food Retail Environment to Improve Public Health.” Phase 1 included assembly of an expert advisory group, data gathering through internal and external qualitative interviews and a scoping review and creation of a food as medicine retail nutrition framework. In November 2019, the Foundation convened a roundtable of experts within retail, business, technology, community, health care, research and education. The resulting framework defines the concept of food as medicine, identifies focus areas and priorities for RDNs’ services and highlights opportunities for future programming, partnerships and professional development.

Phase 2 is in progress and may include an analysis of the food retail environment, a marketing communications campaign, creation of a Food as Medicine programming toolkit, an in-store pilot study, expanded educational opportunities for RDNs in food retail, development of a curriculum for dietetic interns and more.

This work will inform future research in retail food and nutrition, building the body of evidence and strengthening the importance of the RDN in this setting. It will help retailers will see the value of the RDN from a business and public health standpoint. In addition, more educational opportunities and resources will be available for RDNs in food retail, enabling them to expand their skill set and develop successful programs and promotions.

Allison Yoder, MA, RDN, LD
Nutrition in Food Retail Program Development Fellow

Gabriela Montenegro-Bethancourt, PhD, MS, RDN
Saqmolo’ Study Academy Foundation Fellow
A gift to the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation is an investment in our profession and empowers food and nutrition practitioners to optimize global health. Donate today!

Donate