



## Aging and Chronic Diseases RIS Newsletter January 2013 Meet your Chair and Executive Council!



### **Christy C Tangney, Ph.D, CNS, FACN,**

**present Chair** of our RIS. I assumed this leadership role as of June 2012. I am on faculty at Rush University Medical Center, where my primary responsibility is the education of future dietitians and graduate students in clinical nutrition. My research emphases include nutritional risk factors for cognitive decline, role of diet and family history on both cognitive and structural health of the brain, and lifestyle factors in mitigating breast cancer recurrence. One of my goals as chair of our RIS is to get more members engaged in ASN, and to allow our RIS to provide more opportunities for learning and networking with

our members. Consistent with that effort I have invited many of you to help review our submitted abstracts and to co-chair our mini-symposium sessions.

**Denise Houston, Ph.D., RD** is the **immediate past Chair** of our RIS. She is on faculty at the Sticht Center on Aging, Department of Internal Medicine, Section on Gerontology



and Geriatric Medicine, Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem NC. Her research primarily focuses on the role of obesity and age-related changes in body composition, dietary patterns, and micronutrient status on age-related declines in physical function. She was instrumental in initiating the student poster competition for our RIS at last year's EB2012 business meeting.

### **Carmen Castaneda-Sceppa, M.D.,**

**Ph.D.** is the **Chair-elect** of our RIS. Her term as Chair will start in June 2014. She is on faculty at Bouvé College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University. Her research focus is in nutrition, physical activity and healthy aging as well as in implementing and disseminating these lifestyle interventions more broadly to disadvantage older adult populations and those burdened by health disparities.





**Mary Ann Johnson, PhD.** is the Bill and June Flatt Professor in Foods and Nutrition and Faculty of Gerontology at the University of Georgia. Mary Ann has also served as past Chair of the Aging and Chronic Disease RIS, and is currently the Secretary-Treasurer of ASN Medical Nutrition Council, an ASN Spokesperson, and a member of ASN Public Information Committee. Her research interests are in the development, implementation and evaluation of community-based nutrition and physical programs to support healthy aging.



**Connie W. Bales, Ph.D, R.D.,** was the founding chair of the Aging & Chronic Disease RIS and continues to be an active member. She is a Professor in the Department of Medicine at Duke University and Associate Director for Education and Evaluation for the Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Center at the Durham, NC, VA Medical Center. Her research focuses on the role of nutrition in the prevention and management of age-related chronic disease (cardiovascular disease, type 2 diabetes, obesity) and functional decline in older adults.

We are interested in getting our membership more involved. We plan to add one to two new members to our “executive board” to advise us in our future efforts in the next 18 months and beyond. We want a broad base of academics and industry scientists as well as clinicians.

**Update on the EB 2013 meeting.** For our six mini-symposia topics, we received 100 abstracts which have been reviewed and scored using the Abstract Rating Form developed last year by ASN (see [www.nutrition.org/education-and-professional-development/abstract-development/](http://www.nutrition.org/education-and-professional-development/abstract-development/)). Two of the goals of the rating system last year were to provide some benchmark for assessing the quality of abstracts submitted to ASN and to improve consistency in the review process. Another goal not yet put in place is providing feedback to submitters about their abstracts. For the EB 2012 meeting, 19% of submitted ASN abstracts were scored “excellent” with a score of 41 or higher out of a maximum possible score of 45, and 52% were rated “good” with scores between 30 and 40.

When we put out a call for abstract reviewers, we were thrilled with the response from our membership to aid in reviewing these abstracts. Over 30 of our members volunteered! I hope that some of you who offered to help will be willing to assist with student poster judging at EB 2013. I plan to contact you once the date and place of our business and student poster competition has been confirmed for the Boston meeting. Because of space limitations as well as the fewer number of abstracts in certain mini-symposia, we will only have 3 or 4 oral mini-symposia sessions scheduled. The 3 most “popular” mini-symposia with respect to abstracts submitted were as follows:

*5001: Nutrition Interventions for Risk Factor Modification in Chronic Disease;*  
*5004: Nutrition and Cognition Across the Lifespan*  
*(co-sponsored with Nutrition Epidemiology); and*  
*5005: Osteoporosis and Bone Metabolism in Aging*

Maybe alternative topics for mini-symposia would be more interesting to our members' research efforts in the future? We will need this feedback as soon as possible. Please email me directly ([ctangney@rush.edu](mailto:ctangney@rush.edu)) or post your suggestions on our website or listserv to stimulate further discussion.

**Stay Informed! Check our RIS Website.** . All newsletters, business meeting minutes and other announcements will be posted on the website. In addition, we intend to post some selected key presentations from EB 2013 on our website once the presenters have granted us approval. We are also planning at least one webinar in the near future on Meta-Analysis and/or Systematic Reviews . Your ideas about other activities, webinars, or events at our annual business meeting or even topics for our newsletters are welcome!

We will have a student poster session and competition just before our annual business meeting at EB 2013. We decided to continue this activity because the responses from our listserv request in August "*Should we host a student poster competition at EB 2013?*" was overwhelmingly in favor of this event (93.4% said *yes*). This is a great opportunity to recognize our talented students and to expand networking. Please encourage your graduate students to submit their abstracts for this event. Such competitions are invaluable for giving 'soon-to-be' professionals an opportunity to hone their presentation skills.