



American Society for Nutrition

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Nutrition Notes

September 2014

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Public Policy Committee

ASN Science Policy Fellowship

ASN is proud to introduce the inaugural Science Policy Fellowship. ASN will offer two one-year Fellowships to advanced graduate students, early professionals, postdoctoral trainees, or medical interns, residents, or fellows interested in the interface of nutrition and public policy in 2015. Science Policy Fellows will have the opportunity to gain an enhanced perspective on public policy issues related to nutrition, and to acquire the skills necessary to become well-informed nutrition policy advocates and leaders. A Science Policy Fellow Selection Committee is being assembled now. Look for the call for applications in October!

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President's Column

Greetings from the President:
Simin Nikbin Meydani, DVM, PhD
Director, Jean Mayer USDA-HNRCA at
Tufts University



The transition team of volunteers who are helping guide ASN's Independent Meeting pilot convened on August 22 to discuss implementation and to generate momentum leading up to 2018. A special thank you to all volunteers who attended. I invite you to read over outcomes from the meeting, which will be available at www.nutrition.org/meetings/asn-independent-meeting.

There are several upcoming international meetings. ASN Executive Officer Dr. John Courtney will present at the International Colleges for Advancement of Nutrition (ICAN) meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil this month. Other meetings taking place this November in India and Iran will have ASN representatives in light of our goal of expanding global partnerships. ASN Past President Dr. Sharon Donovan attended the African Nutrition Society meeting in July in Accra, Ghana, and

oversaw the launch of Nutrition eHub. I am very excited to continue ASN's strong global leadership!

Please read over the many public policy activities highlighted in the committee column this issue. ASN remains dedicated to its advocacy for nutrition research funding, and nutrition education.

Lastly, I want to make sure that members plan for the upcoming ASN conference *Advances and Controversies in Clinical Nutrition*, to be held December 4-6 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD. Details and online registration are available on the ASN website (www.nutrition.org/meetings/clinical).

Simin Nikbin Meydani
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Nutrition Notes

September 2014



Constituent Society of the
Federation of American Societies
for Experimental Biology

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Visit the website at www.nutrition.org/renew to subscribe or email sprice@nutrition.org.

Deadline for submission of all copy: First day of February, May, August, or November.

Committee News

Young Professional Interest Group (YPIG)

YPIG is looking forward to another year of supporting our young professional membership. We recently held elections and are pleased to welcome two new people to the YPIG executive committee: Jennifer Lambert (University of Calgary) as At-Large Delegate and Sarah Nash (National Cancer Institute) as Secretary.

In keeping with our mission of serving the interests of our young professional membership, YPIG has been focused on creating career development content and resources for our members. Along with valuable input from senior ASN members, we have succeeded in publishing quarterly newsletters filled with content including CV/resume-building tips, information on developing oral/poster presentations, and networking primers. We also feature a different young nutrition professional in each issue who shares his/her experience in finding a job and advice on how to succeed in academia, government, industry, and other “non-traditional” career paths as well. So please be sure to read and share our newsletter – past issues can be found here: www.nutrition.org/ypig/.

We are also working on a summary of our session from Experimental Biology 2014 (“Successful Scientists: What’s the Winning Formula?”) which should be published in *Advances in Nutrition*. In the meantime, make sure to read the summary from the 2013 YPIG session, “Navigating the Current Job Market – Grab a Hold of Your Future Now!” which can be found here: <http://advances.nutrition.org/content/4/6/667.long>.

The YPIG executive board is also working hard on additional programs and content which will be coming through the end of the year, so stay tuned for more information. Thank you to all who have contributed to these exciting projects, and we look forward to another year of helping young nutrition scientists excel in their careers.

Submitted by Eric Ciappio, PhD, RD
eric_ciappio@dsm.com

Student Interest Group

As Chair of the Student Interest Group (SIG), I would like to welcome all incoming SIG students, leaders, and advisers for the 2014-2015 academic year. The SIG represents the collective ASN student voice and provides career development and leadership opportunities. This year is an opportune time to boost membership and enhance SIG impact on ASN, reinforcing the importance of student leadership. We encourage all students, mentors, and professionals interested in promoting education and the advancement of nutrition science to participate in opportunities highlighted below.

Each fall, the SIG solicits applications from students interested in serving on the SIG leadership board. The deadline to submit applications for the 2014-15 board has passed, but if you are interested in serving on the 2015-2016 board, applications will be available in summer 2015. In the meantime, the SIG suggests exploring leadership opportunities to determine SIG board positions with responsibilities suited to your skills. We recommend contacting current leaders (2014-2015 members can be found [here](#)) or ASN Staffer Allanna Wallace at awallace@nutrition.org for more information.

If you are looking for a leadership opportunity in your particular field of research, Research Interest Sections (RIS) and ASN Councils always welcome student representatives. RIS range from Community and Public Health Nutrition to Vitamins and Minerals to Nutrient-Gene Interactions. Students who are interested in gaining valuable experience in leadership while contributing to their field of interest are encouraged to visit the [RIS webpage](#) and contact RIS chairs directly. You can also contact the RIS Director, Kevin Schalinke, PhD at kschalin@mail.iastate.edu.

In addition to leadership, students may choose to take advantage of ASN opportunities in nutrition communications. The [ASN blog](#) is an excellent online resource to ASN members and the public for bloggers to showcase writing and communication skills. This year's class of bloggers has begun their terms and are covering diverse topics, from research fraud to food addiction.

At EB, students are welcome to assist SIG leaders with fundraising, the graduate student breakfast and poster competition, and a speed mentoring event. All students attending EB should also [submit an abstract](#) to competitions such as the Graduate Student Research Award Competition, an excellent opportunity to receive recognition for outstanding work. The deadline to submit an abstract is November 6, 2014.

Information about additional SIG events and opportunities will be sent through the SIG Listserv during the upcoming year. If you have any questions about the SIG or suggestions to improve our service to ASN members, please feel free to contact me at kcoakle@emory.edu. Best wishes!

Submitted by Katie Coakley, MS, RD, LD

Minority and Diversity Affairs Committee

The definition of **Mentor** from the Merriam-Webster Dictionary is "a trusted counselor or guide." A mentor or a trusted guide is always needed in the different stages in academia whether we are graduate students, junior faculty navigating through the tenure process, or just in need of support and guidance as we move forward faculty ranks or administrative positions. The MDAC hosted a forum at EB 2014 on Navigating the Tenure and Promotion Track for Young Investigators and Minority Faculty. Following is an abbreviated summary by speaker Dr Maria Luz Fernandes' talk at this forum. Check the next issue of *Nutrition Notes* for a summary by speaker Dr. Denis Medeiros, and subscribe to our listerv to stay updated on all activities!

Graduate Student Mentoring

There is no greater reward than to see your former graduate students thrive in their professional life. To date, I have graduated 30 PhD students and 16 MS students who currently hold fulfilling positions in academia, industry, the private sector or government. Since the time commitment for graduate school can vary from 4-6 years, a main component of the future PhD is the selection of the

major advisor. A major PhD advisor constitutes a central component of future success and a key reference not just for the first job but also for many future professional activities. What are the main considerations for the choice of a major advisor? Common research interests are an important factor to contemplate in the selection of major advisor but not a crucial one. A clear definition of expectations both from the faculty member and the graduate student become very important for developing a relationship of trust and effective mentoring.

The major advisor's role goes beyond supervising a dissertation project. It involves to always being pro-active for the graduate student in terms of finding resources to support the student's goals and future career and to ensure that they are well prepared to present and defend their data to a variety of audiences including lab meetings, departmental seminars, thesis/dissertation defenses and presentations in National and International meetings.

Mentoring for Tenure

A good and knowledgeable mentor can help enormously in mitigating the stressful experience of navigating the tenure process. A key element of success is a good match between mentor and mentee. A good match requires a development of trust and a two-way relationship. It is preferable that the mentor has a clear understanding of the mentee's area of investigation but it is not a requirement as long as the mentor has a basic understanding of the mentee's research. A mentor should be constantly reminding the tenure-track faculty of the major milestones for tenure as they relate to research, teaching and service.

For teaching, a mentor should be aware of teaching evaluations and how to implement a plan to improve them if that should be the case. The mentor should read grant proposals for the junior faculty member and provide adequate input for improvement as well as appropriate advice on new submissions for publication and on rejected manuscripts. A truly good mentor should be a resource for educating the mentee on university procedures and by-laws and to help in choosing the most appropriate committees to serve in order to become involved in university life without jeopardizing the time needed for research.

Mentoring for Overall Success

Some universities have a mentor program for retention of faculty with emphasis on under-represented faculty. For this type of mentoring, the mentor does not have to be in the same area of discipline as the mentee. The mentor should be a major resource to help the faculty member to understand university policies, to support the mentee during difficult moments in their careers and overall provide a structure of support to enhance retention. Other types of mentoring include mentoring for the faculty member to become an administrator in specific areas or in preparing the faculty member to receive awards or recognition associated with scholarship.

*Submitted by Maria Luz Fernandez, PhD
University of Connecticut*

Advances in Nutrition Features

Most Recent Reviews

Could Supplements Derived from Foods Prevent or Treat Symptoms of Neurodegenerative Diseases and Disorders?

As the population continues to age, neurodegenerative diseases and disorders have grown as a cause of both disability and death. The authors of “**Supplemental Substances Derived from Foods as Adjunctive Therapeutic Agents for Treatment of Neurodegenerative Diseases and Disorders**,” Bigford and Del Rossi, published in the July 2014 issue of *Advances in Nutrition*, have analyzed the most recent research findings on dietary and nutritional supplements that have demonstrated encouraging preventive or therapeutic effects on chronic neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Moreover, these authors assessed the results of studies examining the effects of supplements on neurodegeneration resulting from acute events such as traumatic brain injury.

Rosmarinic acid, found in common herbs such as rosemary and sage, was among the supplemental substances reviewed. The authors pointed to a number of studies in which rosmarinic acid proved to ameliorate symptoms of neurodegenerative disease. In one study, for example, daily administration of rosmarinic acid markedly improved cognitive and behavioral function among older adults diagnosed with moderate Alzheimer’s disease. While research is limited, there is also evidence that rosmarinic acid may be beneficial in treating victims of traumatic brain injury by reducing oxidative stress, neuronal cell death, and inflammatory responses.

DHA (docosahexaenoic acid), an omega-3 fatty acid found in cold-water oceanic fish oils, is another promising supplement. Studies have shown that populations with high dietary intake of DHA exhibit a lower risk of cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s disease. Results of clinical studies examining the therapeutic benefits of DHA supplementation, however, have been mixed. Some studies have demonstrated that DHA may delay the onset of age-related cognitive decline, but not in individuals who have already been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease.

Major advancements in our understanding of neurodegenerative diseases and traumatic brain injury have revealed common underlying pathologic features and mechanisms. This suggests that a single therapeutic approach may be used to treat multiple conditions. As a result, the supplements discussed in this review have the potential to prevent or treat a broad range of neurodegenerative diseases and brain injuries.

In summary, the authors noted that “the ability of dietary substances to confer therapeutic effects to neurodegenerative conditions still needs to be critically explored.” In particular, they have called for more research to study the possible therapeutic effects of combining various supplements.

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Journal Links

The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition

The Journal of Nutrition

Advances in Nutrition

Follow ASN on Twitter for scientific studies, nutrition news, and special offers.

Media Requests

To arrange an interview with an **ASN Spokesperson**, please email media@nutrition.org

Archive of Press Releases

Advertise with ASN

Advertising opportunities with ASN include the ASN monthly e-newsletter, medical nutrition e-newsletter, on-site convention newspaper, and job board. Visit our **advertising page** to learn about all available opportunities to reach our membership.



*ASN is the authoritative voice on nutrition and publisher of The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, The Journal of Nutrition, and Advances in Nutrition. Established in 1928, ASN's more than 5,000 members in more than 75 countries work in academia, practice, government and industry. ASN advances excellence in nutrition research and practice through its publications, education, public affairs and **membership** programs. Visit us at www.nutrition.org.*

As part of the Fellowship, ASN members with public policy experience are asked to volunteer to serve as a mentor to a Science Policy Fellow during the one-year Fellowship. Mentors are expected to serve *from March 2015 through February 2016*. Throughout the duration of the Fellowship period, and beyond it if desired, mentors will foster a mentee's nutrition policy research and career. *ASN members interested in serving as a mentor to a Science Policy Fellow should contact sohlhorst@nutrition.org.*

Regulatory Comments

ASN submitted a request for extension for the public comment period related to Food and Drug Administration (FDA)'s proposed rules on the Nutrition Facts panel, which was granted. ASN's Director of Government Relations, Sarah Ohlhorst, provided oral comments at a public meeting on the revised Nutrition Facts label and ASN submitted written comments on the FDA's proposed rule to update the Nutrition Facts label to improve consumer understanding and use of nutrition information on food labels to the docket. ASN also submitted written comments on the US Government Global Nutrition Coordination Plan draft outline and framework. All ASN comments are available on the ASN website.

Member Nominations

ASN submitted member nominations for an Institute of Medicine ad hoc consensus committee to review the

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Food Packages and for the US Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) Advisory Board. Thank you to all the ASN members, including Research Interest Sections and Committees, who suggested potential ASN nominees. ASN would also like to congratulate the newest members of the FDA Food Advisory Committee, who also happen to both be ASN members – Charles Santerre and Michael McBurney!

Other Member News

A face-to-face meeting of the Project to Evaluate the Evidence to Support Guidelines for the Nutritional Care of Preterm Infants (Pre-B Project) was held on July 31-August 1, 2014, at the USDA/Agricultural Research Service Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine. The project aims to evaluate the evidence to support guidelines for nutritional care of preterm infants. ASN is proud of the many ASN members who participated. Eighteen of 31 Working Group members are ASN members, including 5 of the 8 Working Group Chairs.

Submitted by Alice Lichtenstein, DSc

alice.lichtenstein@tufts.edu

ASN Journals Mark All-Time High Impact Factors

ASN is pleased to announce that the Impact Factors of all three ASN journals increased in 2013, with *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* and *Advances in Nutrition* achieving all-time high Impact Factors. Reported annually in Journal Citation Reports (JCR) by Thomson Reuters, Impact Factors reflect the average number of citations to recent articles published in a journal. These are widely regarded as the benchmark for assessing the impact and influence of scholarly journals worldwide.

ASN's newest journal, *Advances in Nutrition*, received an Impact Factor of 4.891, an impressive accomplishment for a new journal, having launched in November 2010. This ranks it 8th among all 78 journals in the Nutrition & Dietetics category and places it in the top 8% of all 8,474 journals indexed in the JCR. *The Journal of Nutrition's* Impact Factor increased from 4.196 to 4.227, placing it in the top 10% of all journals indexed and fourth among primary research journals in the Nutrition & Dietetics category. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* continues to be one of the highest-ranked journals,

placing first among primary research journals in the Nutrition & Dietetics category with an Impact Factor of 6.918, a significant increase from 2012.

"Without a doubt, ASN journals are in the upper echelon for the field of nutrition, and their influence reaches worldwide," said ASN President Dr. Simin Nikbin Meydani. "We are especially proud that *Advances in Nutrition*, which launched in 2010, has already reached an impact factor close to 5.0." Read the latest issue of [Advances in Nutrition](#).



Council News

Nutritional Sciences Council



It is my pleasure to announce the results of the Nutritional Sciences Council (NSC) Governing Committee election. Please join me in welcoming the committee for the upcoming year:

Nutritional Sciences Council

Chair: Cindy Davis, PhD (14-16)

Chair-Elect: Sean Adams, PhD (14-16)

Past-Chair: Malcolm Watford, DPhil (10-16)

Secretary-Treasurer: Michelle (Shelley) McGuire, PhD (14-17)

Members-at-Large: David Allison, PhD (13-15)

Forrest Nielsen, PhD (13-15)

Tracy Anthony, PhD (14-16)

Cynthia Ogden, PhD (14-16)

Sarah Johnson, PhD, RD, Postdoc (14-16)

Stacy Blondin, Student (13-15)

Staff: Moira Guenther

I want to send my heartfelt thanks to everyone who volunteered to be on the ballot. It was an excellent group of candidates and an extremely close election. I would also like to extend a big thank you to our outgoing council Chair, Malcolm Watford, for spearheading our activities the past two years.

Another important date is November 6 – the deadline for submission of EB abstracts and for consideration for inclusion in the Graduate Student Research Award competition (GSRA). The GSRA meets multiple goals of the NSC: paramount are fostering communication across disciplines and promoting the career advancement of junior members of the Society. The award is open to all ASN graduate students members of the NSC conducting research in the nutritional sciences (basic molecular, animal, human and population research, translation and education).

Last spring, during the week of EB, we were invited to submit a session for Obesity Week in November 2014. NSC committee member David Allison, together with Obesity RIS leaders, developed the following proposal which was accepted. The symposium will be held at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, November 6.

Important Components of Weight Loss Programs: What Works for One Might Not Work for All

The symposium will feature Drs. Kyle Timmerman, Christopher Gardner, David Allison and James Hill. Their talks will address physiological response to diet and exercise, controversies on diet study outcomes, measurement for individual responses to weight loss, and impact of exercise on fat loss. This year the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) and the Obesity Society are combining their annual meetings for ObesityWeek 2014 in Boston, MA. For more information, visit www.obesityweek.com.

The NSC governing committee holds monthly conference calls and we are always receptive to any suggestions and topics for discussion from the membership. Feel free to contact any member of the committee if you have any questions or suggestions.

Submitted by Cindy Davis, Chair
davisci@mail.nih.gov

Medical Nutrition Council



The Medical Nutrition Council is finalizing plans for the 4th annual Advances & Controversies in Clinical Nutrition (ACCN 14), to be held December 4-6, 2014, in National Harbor, MD. The ACCN conference series has continually grown in popularity since its inception and is unique in bringing together leaders

in the fields of nutrition, medicine, and food science for a comprehensive overview of today's hottest topics in nutrition.

ACCN 14 is designed to communicate cutting-edge advances in nutrition research and stimulate discussion on emerging or controversial issues in nutrition that impact human health. The program includes lectures, controversy sessions, workshops, professional development opportunities, scientific posters, networking events and more.

2014 Program Features

- Today's hottest controversies in clinical nutrition
 - Saturated Fats – As Bad as We Thought?
 - Multivitamins and Health
 - Sugars and Health
- Nutrition and Aging
 - Approaches to Treating Obesity in Older Adults
 - Is Treating Cardiovascular Risk Factors and Preventing Diabetes Worthwhile in Older Adults?
- Updates in hospital-based nutrition
- Latest findings in nutrition and cancer
 - Obesity, Weight Gain and Cancer Survival
 - Micronutrients and Cancer Prevention: Protective or Harmful?
- Pre- and Probiotics and the Potential to Modify the Microbiome

- Nutrigenetics: Implications for Clinical Practice
- Hot Topics in Nutrition and Obesity
- “Clinical Briefs” – Short presentations on timely topics such as nutrition and eye disease

Continuing Education Credit Available

Continuing professional education (CPE) credits will be available for Registered Dietitians and Dietitian Technicians, Registered. Application has been filed for continuing medical education (CME) credits for physicians and ANCC credits for nurses.

Call for Abstracts

Original research abstracts related to clinical nutrition are being accepted for poster presentation. Abstracts are due September 16, 2014. Abstract categories include:

- Variability in Responses to Diet and Food
- Nutrition and Healthy Growth, Development, Reproduction, and Aging
- Preventive Nutrition
- Diet in the Management and/or Treatment of Disease
- Nutrition-Related Behaviors
- Food Supply and Environment
- Vitamins, Minerals and Bioactives
- Energy and Nutrient Metabolism
- Community, Public Health and Global Nutrition
- Nutrition and Health Policy

A select number of travel awards are available for graduate/medical students, trainees and young professionals. For more information, go to www.nutrition.org/meetings/clinical.

Questions?

For the latest conference information, including program details, accreditation, and exhibit and sponsorship opportunities, or to register online visit www.nutrition.org/meetings/clinical.

Submitted by *Connie W. Bales, PhD, RD*
bales001@mc.duke.edu

Global Nutrition Council



The GNC is happy to welcome new members Aryeh D. Stein (Chair-Elect), Nancy Krebs (Member-at-Large), Purnima Menon (Member-at-Large), Sera Yong (Early Career/Young Professional Representative) and Sana Syed (Student Representative). We appreciate all the work that Rafael Perez-Escamilla (Immediate Past Chair), Grace Marquis, Gilberto Kac, Edward Frongillo, Usha Ramakrishnan and Amanda Wendt did during their terms and we hope that we will continue to work with them through their careers and service with ASN.

The GNC is also looking forward to the opening of the abstract submission site for EB 2015, where they will review submissions to 5140- Global Nutrition and all submissions for the Global Nutrition Student Poster Award Competition, as well as the GNC Junior Faculty Travel Award. More information regarding both of these awards and the ASN abstract categories can be found via the website: <http://scientificsessions.nutrition.org/>.

Submitted by *Lynnette Neufeld, PhD, Chair*
lneufeld@gainhealth.org

ASN Honored By Interactive Media Council

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) is pleased to announce that its scientific meeting website, scientificsessions.nutrition.org, has received a “Best in Class” Distinction from the Interactive Media Awards in the Association category for 2014. The “Best in Class” is the highest honor bestowed by the Interactive Media Awards. ASN’s Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting site was judged on criteria including design, content, feature functionality, usability and standards compliance.

This awards program is managed by the Interactive Media Council, Inc. (IMC), a nonprofit organization of leading web designers, developers, and other web-related professionals. According to the IMC, “The Best in Class award represents the very best in planning, execution and overall professionalism.”

“It’s truly an honor to have our website lauded with an Interactive Media Award, and to extend our recognition as a global leader in the not-for-profit community,” said ASN Executive Officer Dr. John E. Courtney. “The millions of monthly visitors to our websites can expect ASN to continue to execute high-quality offerings in digital media.”



Research Interest Section (RIS) News

From the RIS Director



As the new RIS Director as of June 1, I would like to extend a big hello to the ASN membership and the leadership of the many RIS that we currently have in place. I am currently a Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University, and served as the Chair of the Nutrient-gene

Interaction RIS a few years ago. I have a number of teaching responsibilities at Iowa State University and an active research agenda in the area of one-carbon metabolism and disease, as well as serving as the Faculty Senate President this coming year. My other professional practice activities include serving on the NIH INMP Study Section and as an Associate Editor for *The Journal of Nutrition*. In short – busy and sleep-deprived! But I really look forward to serving as the RIS Director for the next 2 years, highlighted by all of the activities we have going on at Experimental Biology – I truly look forward to EB each and every year, and always come away with being energized to get “back in the lab” and start some research projects (easier said than done). As the new RIS Director, please feel free to contact me anytime and by any means – I can promise to be responsive to anything anyone has to say or convey to me regarding the many RIS we have within ASN.

I want to take a few lines of text to thank Frances Coletta for all of her hard work the past few years. She has tirelessly pushed forward changes in how we conduct business at EB and has been an incredibly strong proponent to ensure that all of the essential work that the RIS conduct towards a successful meeting are documented and recognized. I know I will rely on her throughout my tenure for advice and direction! Along these same lines, I need to make sure to recognize Katie Oster – she helped in so many ways throughout the year to make RIS and related EB activities run without a hitch.

Now on to a summary of our meeting back in April. EB 2014 saw many successes. As previously stated (June 2014 issue), the RIS provided 82 awards totaling \$20,000 for students and postdocs this past year at EB! Thank you to all who have provided support to the poster competitions through abstract reviewing, monetary donations or serving as an onsite judge. – this is truly essential, and without your help, we would not have seen the successes that we did! This year we piloted a new award system, which allowed winners to receive VISA gift cards onsite at the meeting. We hope to continue to refine the system to

allow for easy distribution of awards for award winners, RIS Chairs and ASN staff. ASN staff is also working to provide a consolidated approach to help each RIS in soliciting donations to support their EB activities, and this has recently been conveyed to the various RIS Chairs.

As of June 1, I am excited to work with the new class of RIS Chairs:

RIS	Chair
Aging and Chronic Disease	Carmen Sceppa
CARIG	Zeina Jouni
Community and Public Health Nutrition	Sarah Colby
Diet and Cancer	Zora Djuric
Dietary Bioactive Components	Janet Novotny
Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism	Ann Thalacker-Mercer
Experimental Animal Nutrition	Elizabeth Gilbert
Lactation	Cheryl Lovelady
Nutrition Education & Behavior Science	Jill Kaar
Nutritional Epidemiology	Namanjeet Ahluwalia
Nutrition Translation	Beth Bradley
Nutritional Immunology	Laura Coleman
Nutrient-Gene Interaction	Ron Morrison
Obesity	Mark Cope
Vitamins and Minerals	Sushil Jain

At EB in San Diego, ASN staff and I attempted to try to touch base with each Chair and attend a portion of their respective business meetings to hear how things were progressing and any ideas for the future. We certainly missed a few, but we want to have a very open line of communication amongst all of the RIS Chairs, ASN, and myself as we move through the year. Katie and I will make every attempt to be on the numerous RIS conference calls throughout the year to develop a sense of what is happening in each RIS and provide any input as need be.

We started off this year with an orientation conference call in June that detailed the roles and responsibilities for RIS Chairs. During the call we introduced streamlined fundraising forms to 1. Assist the RIS chairs with reaching out to established contacts and 2. Assist with generating list of potential sponsors to support RIS activities. RIS Chairs are also asked to begin preliminary planning for

EB 2015. With the newly developed list of contacts and planned RIS activities, ASN and RIS Chairs can better target potential supporters.

We are excited to begin planning for the quickly approaching EB 2015! Remember the abstract deadline is November 6, 2014. Beginning last year, abstracts are now being reviewed and scored. ASN will be hosting a webinar for abstract submitters and reviewers in the coming months.

Submitted by Kevin L. Schalinske, PhD
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Aging & Chronic Disease

We had a dynamic 2014 annual meeting full of great science, new investigators and a rewarding exchange of ideas. Many thanks to all who were able to come and contribute, particularly to our EB 2014 event sponsors Abbott and Shaklee!

We featured three oral mini-symposia: 1) Aging: Nutrition and Cognition across the Lifespan (Co-sponsor: Nutritional Epidemiology), chaired by Christy C. Tangney and co-chaired by Lesley Tinker. 2) Aging: Nutrition, Physical Performance and Bone Health, chaired by Shivani Sahni and co-chaired by Dingbo Lin. 3) Aging: Nutrition Interventions for Risk Factor Modification in Chronic Disease, chaired by Carmen Sceppa and co-chaired by Elizabeth J. Reverri. We also featured four poster sessions on Aging and: Nutrition and Cognition across the Lifespan (Co-sponsor: Nutritional Epidemiology RIS), Nutrition Interventions for Risk Factor Modification in Chronic Disease, Nutritional Assessment and Status in Older Populations, and Nutrition Physical Performance & Bone Health.

We held our 3rd Graduate Student Poster Competition. There were two awards given to: 1) Hathairat Sawaengsri, for her poster entitled, *"Reduced IL-10 production contributes to impaired NK cytotoxicity in old mice fed a high folic acid diet"*. 2) Scott Baier for his work entitled, *"MicroRNAs in bovine milk are bioavailable in healthy adults and down-regulate reporter gene activity in human kidney HEK-293 cell cultures"*. We also held our 1st Postdoctoral Poster Competition. The award was given to Kelly Mangano for her poster entitled, *"Individual protein sources are associated with greater bone mineral density among men and women from the Framingham Offspring Study"*. We received 35 posters for this competition (28 from graduate students and 7 from postdoctoral fellows). We thank our 15 poster judges who evaluated 17 posters displayed during the competition at the meeting!

The Aging & Chronic Disease RIS is growing. We currently have 1,559 members. The RIS leadership welcomes your comments and suggestions to getting members more involved throughout the year and at our annual

meeting in Boston between March 28 and April 1, 2015. Mark your calendars!

Don't forget to check out our new RIS website: www.nutrition.org/agingandchronicdisease/. Let us know if you would like other announcements posted. Please do not hesitate to suggest other issues important to our RIS with me directly (c.sceppa@neu.edu) or through our listserv AgeChron@lists.nutrition.org.

Contributed by Carmen C. Sceppa
Chair, Aging Chronic Disease RIS
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CARIG

CARIG continues to promote research into the nutritional roles, functions, and actions of carotenoids and their metabolites. We would like to remind all CARIG members to mark their calendars for several upcoming CARIG sponsored events to be held next spring at Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston. The CARIG 2015 Conference will be held on Friday, March 27, before the Saturday opening of the ASN program. EB 2015 also will feature a CARIG/VARIG trainee poster and award session and business meeting during the annual social following the CARIG conference.

CARIG abstract topics for 2015:

1. ASN CARIG: Carotenoids and Health
2. ASN CARIG: Carotenoids & Retinoids: Molecular Mechanisms of Action
3. ASN CARIG: Bioavailability & Metabolism of Carotenoids & Vitamin A
4. ASN CARIG: Biofortification of Staple Crops with Micronutrients

I would like to thank all the members who have already volunteered to help us in the coming year. Special thanks to our outgoing Chair Loredana Quadro, who did an outstanding job for her service as CARIG RIS chair 2013-2014 and I look forward to her input and advice during our next journey, I also would like to thank our acting Treasurer Jessica Campbell and to our Chair Elect, Sherry Tanumihardjo. If you are interested in contributing as a RIS officer, or if you have ideas for symposia or CARIG Conference topics for EB 2015, please contact the RIS leadership: Loredana Quadro (Past Chair, quadro@AESOP.Rutgers.edu), Zeina Jouni (Chair, zeina.jouni@kellogg.com), Sherry Tanumihardjo (Chair Elect, sherry@nutrisci.wisc.edu) or Jessica Campbell (Treasurer, Jessica.Campbell@genmills.com). Additional information on the upcoming 2015 events will appear through the listserv and in subsequent issues of *Nutrition Notes*.

Submitted by Zeina Jouni, Chair
zeina.jouni@kellogg.com

Dietary Bioactive Components

Election results are in, and the Dietary Bioactive Components RIS welcomes several new officers to the leadership team. The DBC RIS officers for 2014-2015 are the following:

Chair: Janet A. Novotny, USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center

Past-Chair: Taylor Wallace, National Osteoporosis Foundation

Chair-Elect: Joshua Lambert, Pennsylvania State University

Secretary: Maria Stewart, University of Hawaii

Treasurer: Petra 'Peko' Tsuji, Towson University

Student Rep: Benjamin Redan, Purdue University

Member-at-large: Wanida Lewis, General Mills

Member-at-large: Teresa Johnson, Food Synergies

Many thanks to the past officers for their great leadership: Chair Taylor Wallace, Secretary Joshua Lambert, Treasurer LeeCole Legette, and Student Rep Josh Smith!

There are a number of upcoming conferences that may be of interest to the DBC RIS members. One particularly pertinent conference is the 17th International Conference of the Functional Food Center – the conference is entitled Discovery, Utilization, and Control of Bioactive Components and Functional Foods, which will be held in San Diego, November 18-19. Other upcoming conferences of interest to the DBC RIS community include the Cardiometabolic Health Congress (October 22-25, Boston), the Annual Research Conference on Food, Nutrition, Physical Activity & Cancer (October 29-31, Washington DC), Functional Foods, Nutraceuticals, Natural Health Products, and Dietary Supplements (October 14-17, Istanbul), Advances and Controversies in Clinical Nutrition (December 4-6, National Harbor, MD). Also, it's never too early to be thinking about Experimental Biology. The abstract deadline is November 6, 2014. The Dietary Bioactive Components' Categories can be found at www.scientificsessions.nutrition.org/abstract-information.

Submitted by Janet A. Novotny, PhD
Janet.Novotny@ARS.USDA.GOV

Experimental Animal Nutrition

Warm greetings and I hope that everyone has enjoyed a fun-filled and productive summer!

This spring, our 2014-2015 Steering Committee was finalized and currently consists of the following members:

Chair: Elizabeth Gilbert, Virginia Tech

Chair-Elect: Kola Ajuwon, Purdue University

Past-Chair: Kristine Urschel, University of Kentucky

Treasurer: Ryan Dilger, University of Illinois

Secretary: Crystal Levesque, South Dakota State University

Program Coordinator: Barry Bradford, Kansas State University (2nd year of 2 year term)

Industry Representative: Anna Kate Shoveller, P&G Pet Care (2nd year of 2 year term)

Student Representative: Leslie McKnight, University of Guelph (1st year of 2 year term)

Thank you to everyone who voted in the online elections. Many thanks to the outgoing members of our Steering Committee, Kristine Urschel (Past-Chair, University of Kentucky) and Yihang Li (Student Representative, North Carolina State University), for their valuable service. For those of you interested in becoming involved in the planning and implementation of our RIS activities, there are several upcoming opportunities to take note of.

The abstract deadline for EB 2015 in Boston, MA (**March 28 - April 1, 2015**) is **November 6, 2014**. This year we will offer the following abstract categories, with abstracts to be presented as poster sessions and/or minisymposia:

- ASN Exp Animal Nutr: Animal Models of Fetal Nutrition, Programming and Neonatal Development
- ASN Exp Animal Nutr: Comparative Animal Nutrition and Physiology
- ASN Exp Animal Nutr: Animal Models of Nutrition and Disease
- ASN Exp Animal Nutr: Animal Models for Nutrition across Physiological States

If you are interested in serving as a Chair or Co-Chair for one of these activities or in assisting with the abstract review process in November 2014, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Students and advisors, please note that there will be a graduate student poster competition at EB2015. Please encourage your graduate students to submit their abstract for this competition, in addition to submitting to one of our abstract categories, as all abstracts are eligible for inclusion in the competition. Details regarding the poster competition will be disseminated via the listserv in early 2015. If you are interested in judging the poster competition, please contact our Chair-Elect, Dr. Kola Ajuwon (kajuwon@purdue.edu).

Thank you all for your continued support of the Experimental Animal Nutrition RIS and I look forward to serving as your Chair for 2014-2015.

Contributed by Elizabeth Gilbert, Ph.D.
egilbert@vt.edu

Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism (EMM)

The Energy & Macronutrient RIS welcomes ASN members interested in the function and metabolism of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, and amino acids. You may join EMM-RIS by updating your member information within

your “My Account” on the ASN website. Please consider encouraging colleagues with these interests to join as well! Our large and active membership allows us to support a variety of minisymposia and full symposia at Experimental Biology meetings. Abstracts for Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston are due November 6th. The EMM-RIS will be organizing the following abstract categories for EB 2015:

- ASN EMM: Energy balance, macronutrient and weight management
- ASN EMM: Obesity and the metabolic syndrome (co-sponsored with the Obesity RIS)
- ASN EMM: Protein and amino acid metabolism
- ASN EMM: Lipid and fatty acid metabolism and transport
- ASN EMM: Metabolic phenotyping, metabolomics and biomarkers
- ASN EMM: Carbohydrate metabolism
- ASN EMM: Diet and/or exercise in the regulation of food intake (co-sponsored with the Obesity RIS)
- ASN EMM: Protein intake and health implications
- ASN EMM: Energy metabolism and aging (co-sponsored with the Aging RIS)
- ASN EMM: Energy and macronutrient metabolism and gut

We are also pleased to announce another EMM topic: *Dietary fatty acids and health*

Finally, the EMM-RIS would like to welcome its new Steering Committee members: Chair, Anna Thalacker-Mercer; Chair-Elect, Victoria (Vicki) Vieira-Potter; Past-Chair, Jamie Baum; Members-at-Large, Barbara Gower, Stavros Kavouras, Tia Rains, and Phanin Leksrisonpong; Postdoctoral Representative, Emily Lantz; and Graduate Student Representative, Christian Wright.

If you have suggestions for future minisymposia, full symposia or anything regarding EMM please contact Anna, Vicki, or Jamie (contact information below). Also, if you have information you would like to share with the EMM-RIS group, please use the listserv function for the EMM-RIS.

Look for us on social media in the upcoming months. Have a great fall!

Contributed by on behalf of Anna Thalacker-Mercer, Chair (aet74@cornell.edu), Vicki Vieira-Potter, Chair-Elect (vieirapotterv@missouri.edu), and Jamie I. Baum, Past-Chair (baum@uark.edu)

Lactation

As summer begins to wind down, we are getting ready for the 17th International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation conference and are looking for trainee volunteers interested in joining the Lactation RIS leadership team.

Save the Dates

October 23-27, 2014: The International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation is planning its 17th international meeting entitled From Human Milk Molecules to Population Health: Research Advances to be held at the Kiawah Island Golf Resort, in South Carolina. You can find out more and register at www.isrhml.net.

Summer 2015: FASEB has approved a new Science Research Conference on the “Origins and Benefits of Biologically Active Components in Human Milk” which will be held in Big Sky, Montana, July 19-24, 2015. Stay tuned for more information!

Fall 2016: The International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation is beginning to plan for its 18th international meeting to be held in South Africa! Stay tuned for further information.

Trainee Volunteers

Calling all students and post-docs: if you are interested in joining the Lactation RIS Leadership Team, please contact Shannon Kelleher (slk39@psu.edu). Eric Nonneke and Sylvia Ley will be rotating off and we are looking for 2 more trainees.

If you have information you'd like to share with our Lactation RIS community in upcoming Nutrition Notes, please contact me directly at slk39@psu.edu.

*Contributed by Shannon L Kelleher
The Pennsylvania State University
Chair-Elect, Lactation RIS
slk39@psu.edu*

Nutrition Education & Behavioral Science

Welcome to our new RIS executive committee for 2014-2015 which includes:

Past-chair: Carolyn Gunther, PhD

Chair: Jill Landsbaugh Kaar, PhD

Chair-elect: Amy Mobley, PhD, RD

Communication Coordinator: Kimberly Myers, PhD, MHS, RDN

Post-doc Representative: Henna Muzaffar, PhD, RD

Student Representative: Nida Shaikh, MS, RD

Senior Advisory Committee: Alyce Fly, PhD and Kathy Keim, PhD

Professional Development and Mentoring Committee:

Olukemi Oyelola, PhD and David Seres, MD, ScM, PNS

Awards and Recognition Committee: Irene Hatsu, PhD and Majorie Freedman, PhD

Fundraising Committee: Rachel Scherr, PhD

Social Media Committee: Jinan Banna, PhD

Exciting news from our RIS members:

- The Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior's Early Professional Achievement award is presented to recognize an SNEB member who has made notable contributions in the field of nutrition education and to the mission of SNEB during the early stages of their career. This year, SNEB presented **Dr. Suzie Goodell**, Assistant Professor at North Carolina State University, with its Early Professional Achievement award.
- On July 16, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission launched a JRC Science and Policy Report titled "Mapping of National School Food Policies across the EU28 plus Norway and Switzerland" (see press release: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-14-834_en.htm). Key findings are that all countries have a school food policy in place, with half being mandatory and the other half voluntary. Most offer food-based standards for lunch and other mealtimes, but specifications for other aspects such as vending services, food marketing in schools, as well as nutrition education as a mandatory part of the curriculum differ widely. More efforts should go into monitoring and evaluation of these policies. Nutrition Education & Behavior Science RIS member **Dr. Stefan Storcksdieck** and colleagues carried out this research to support the European Commission and its member states (through the EU High Level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity) in their efforts to tackle childhood obesity in Europe. The report is freely available here: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2788/8214>.
- **Drs. Jinan Banna** and **Marie Kainoa Fialkowski** of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and **Dr. Marilyn Townsend** at the University of California, Davis recently had a manuscript entitled 'Misreporting of dietary intake affects estimated nutrient intakes in low-income Spanish-speaking women' accepted for publication in *The Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. This study involved classifying reported energy intakes from 24-hour dietary recalls completed by Mexican-American women in Northern California as biologically plausible or implausible to determine if those with plausibly reported intakes would be more likely to meet dietary guidelines. Findings revealed that plausibility status significantly influenced whether a participant met recommendations for several nutrients. These results support the importance of evaluating plausibility of reported intake when analyzing self-reported dietary data to determine whether a population is meeting recommendations. The topic of validity of self-reported dietary data is a timely one, and was addressed in detail at the recent Experimental Biology session entitled 'Not Everything That Counts Can be Counted and Not Everything That Can be Counted Counts: How Should We Collect Dietary Data for Research?'
- **Dr. Roman Pawlak**, Associate Professor in the Department of Nutrition Science at East Carolina University, and member of the evidence analysis on vegetarian nutrition for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics worked and co-authored a "Vegetarian toolkit" for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
- **Dr. Karina Lora**, Assistant Professor at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center, received an Oklahoma Clinical and Translational Resources grant to conduct a community needs assessment to prevent obesity in Hispanic preschoolers, and received the Outstanding Faculty Member in Service Award in less than five years. Dr. Lora graduate student **Melissa Guzman** received an ASN MARC travel award to attend the ASN Annual Meeting in San Diego, California.
- In July, 28 students completed the "Diplomate in Food Guidance" which is a free course on promoting proper nutrition, held in the premises of the hospital of psychiatry, Dr. Samuel Ramirez Moreno, Ministry of Health of Mexico. This course was taught by **Carlos Alberto Jimenez** in C. Zamarripa, a RIS member.

Submitted by Jill Landsbaugh Kaar, PhD
jill.kaar@ucdenver.edu

Nutritional Epidemiology

It is my pleasure to represent Nutrition Epidemiology RIS as its Chair since this June. I am as much in awe of nutrition science today as I was when I first joined the ASN as a graduate student – perhaps even more so now. With newer assessment methods/tools, and developments in analytical approaches, there is continual learning and opportunities to examine nutrition-health associations from different angles through multidisciplinary epidemiological research. Learning, collaboration, contribution and inspiration keep me going. And there is abundance of that in the ASN and in our RIS. I would like to update you on some of these aspects today.

RIS Leadership

First, a warm welcome to Dr. Niyati Parekh who was elected this summer Chair-Elect, and a big thanks to Lisa Troy (currently Past Chair) and Carol Boushey (recent-Past Chair) for their initiatives and excellent leadership of the RIS. Since June, we have broadened our Steering Committee membership and diversified it even more. Thus, I have the pleasure of welcoming Dr. Nicholas Obberling as a member and Mr Karim Bouga as a student representative. The remaining members will continue their terms; and I am grateful to all members and volunteers for their endless energy, time, and support that keeps the RIS activities going so smoothly.

Communications and RIS Website

Nutrition Epidemiology is about links between nutrition and outcomes (health, wellbeing, disease, intermediates

of disease). In the spirit of connections, as Chair, I have started my activities by focusing on improving networks and communication among our members. In this regard, we have now a website for our RIS to inform and serve our members. The list of current (and past) officers and members of the Steering Committee is now posted www.nutrition.org/about-asn/research-interest-sections/nutritional-epidemiology. We hope to add further highlights from RIS members, as well as important links to resources and events of interest to Nutrition Epidemiology RIS. Please visit this site and contact our steering committee members in the areas that interest you to provide feedback and become more involved.

Highlights and Tips from our First Mentoring Event:

Let's Get Started, which was held following our business meeting at EB 2014 in San Diego. Our sincere thanks go to the mentors who shared their personal paths and journeys on how to navigate careers successfully and made this event so successful. More on our website ([link here](#)). Thanks also to the members of the subcommittee who helped organize this event and to the participants who actually made this event interactive and memorable. This was definitely an activity involving learning, collaboration, contribution and inspiration. We hope to organize similar events and look forward to seeing you there. We welcome your feedback for future events like this; please see details on the mentoring event on our webpage.

Watch, Learn and be Inspired - See Shaping of Nutrition Policy in Action

As Nutrition Monitoring Advisor to the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES), CDC, I have been fortunate to be part of many federal committees on nutrition and health and have the opportunity to contribute to as well as see nutrition policy shape. For instance, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee (DGAC) is currently working on developing the Dietary Guidelines for 2015. For me, this has been an awe-inspiring process and links to this activity and its upcoming public meetings are provided on our site. The talks by members of the DGAC were truly inspiring – I hope you will read more on this, learn and see Nutrition Policy in the US in action. More details can be found on our webpage.

Abstract Categories for EB 2015 and Submissions due Nov. 6.

EB 2015 is around the corner (Boston, March 2015). The abstract deadline (Nov 6) is fast approaching and we hope that you will consider submitting your work to one of the seven categories for Nutrition Epidemiology RIS. These are:

- 5230 – ASN Nutr Epi: Innovation and Validation of Dietary Assessment Tools and Their Applications
- 5231 – ASN Nutr Epi: Epidemiological Research Addressing Diet and Health Outcomes
- 5232 – ASN Nutr Epi: Nutrition and Chronic Disease Epidemiology

- 5233 – ASN Nutr Epi: Research with Dietary Supplements and Bioactive Components
- 5234 – ASN Nutr Epi: Advancing Nutritional Epidemiology with Public Use and Commercial Data Sets
- 5235 – ASN Nutr Epi: Epidemiologic Methods in Examining Health Outcomes in Diverse Populations (Co-sponsor: Minority Affairs Committee)
- 5236 – ASN Nutr Epi: Exploring Geographic Based Methods in Nutrition Epidemiological Research

We have a list of volunteers to help review abstracts and be more actively involved... if you would like to volunteer for this or any other activity please contact the persons identified on our webpage. Also, come join us at the business meeting and the related events (e.g. poster competition, and mentoring) so we can get to know each other more and hear about your interests and ideas for contributing to the RIS.

I hope you will participate in the events and sessions organized by Nutrition Epidemiology RIS at EB 2015, to learn, contribute, inspire and be inspired.

Lastly, for those ASN members who are not yet affiliated with our RIS, please join us via ASN online– we are a fun group who like connecting with and connecting people, and exploring science and policy issues without boundaries. To do this, sign into ASN website and at the link for RIS, choose Nutrition Epidemiology RIS to be part of this group.

Submitted by Namanjeet Ahluwalia
naman123@sfr.fr

Nutrient-Gene Interaction

Greetings to all members of the Nutrient-Gene Interaction (NGI) RIS! It is great news to report that as of April 2014, our membership has grown to over 1,500 members. We hope to keep this number growing, so please get the word out to your colleagues to become part of our RIS. Please also continue to encourage your students and postdocs to take part in our minisymposia and poster competition as their attendance and participation is critical for the success of our RIS and is much appreciated. As a friendly reminder, the deadline for submission of abstracts for Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston is November 8, 2014. We have submitted the following NGI abstract subtopics for EB2015:

1. ASN NGI: Genomics, Proteomics and Metabolomics
2. ASN NGI: Epigenetics
3. ASN NGI: Obesity and Inflammation
4. ASN NGI: Chronic Disease
5. ASN NGI: Exercise
6. ASN NGI: Bioactives
7. ASN NGI: Biomarkers

Much appreciation goes out to the following NGI-RIS advisory board members for their service during the 2014-2015 year. The NGI-RIS welcomes interested senior and junior faculty, postdocs, and graduate students to volunteer and be considered to serve on our advisory board. Please contact the current NGI-RIS chair for more information.

Advisory board members:

Jamie I. Baum (University of Arkansas)
Sang-Woon Choi (Tufts University)
Kate J. Claycombe (USDA ARS)
James F. Collins (University of Florida)
Mazen J. Hamadeh (York University)
Sung Nim Han (Seoul National University)
Melissa Kaczmarczyk (PepsiCo)
Naima Moustaid-Moussa (Texas Tech University)
Matthew Rowling (Iowa State University)
Kevin Schallinske (Iowa State University)
Rita Strakovsky (Secretary, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
Richard Wood (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

If you have any suggestions or comments regarding our RIS that you would like to share, please let us know so we can share it on our listserv. We are also working to increase our visibility and communication through our LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter feeds. All suggestions are welcome and appreciated. Best wishes for a great year.

Contributed by Ron F. Morrison, Chair, NGI-RIS

rfmorrison@uncg.edu

Tom Wang, Chair-Elect, NGI-RIS

Tom.Wang@ars.usda.gov

Nutritional Immunology

Hello Nutritional Immunology RIS members. The steering committee is headed into fall preparing for EB 2015. We hope you are too! We will again be sponsoring the "Nutritional Immunology" and "Nutrition, Infection and Immunity" mini-symposia. We look forward to programming your best research; don't forget to submit your abstracts by November 6.

We'd also like to introduce our RIS steering committee members for 2014-2015. Most of these names will look familiar as we have moved to 2-year terms for most positions in order to facilitate smooth RIS operations.

Chair: Laura Coleman

Chair-elect: Erik Karlsson

Past chair: S. Raza "Raz" Shaikh

Secretary: Sarah Comstock

Trainee Representative: Diana Taft

We'd like to thank our outgoing trainee representative, Ajay Kumar for his help this past year! If you are looking for more Nutritional Immunology RIS community, join

us on Facebook (Nutritional Immunology RIS), Twitter (Nutrition Immune RIS) and LinkedIn. You can also email the Nutritional Immunology RIS at NutImmRIS@gmail.com.

Contributed by Sarah S. Comstock

Nutritional Immunology RIS, Secretary

comsto37@msu.edu

Nutrition Translation

We hope everyone is having a great summer and getting ready for EB 2015 in Boston, which will be held March 28-April 1.

The NT-RIS has two new officers and a new advisory board. Thank you for your participation in elections. We are happy to welcome back our former treasurer, Michelle Braun, in her new role, and to have Shellen Goltz join as an officer. Their expertise and enthusiasm will serve the RIS well. *Chair Elect:* Michelle Braun, PhD, RD, DuPont Nutrition and Health

Treasurer: Shellen Goltz, PhD, RD, Tate & Lyle

Our new Advisory Board includes representatives from business and academia who will help the NT-RIS support its three strategic pillars for nutrition translation:

1) Food science and technology, 2) Nutrition, neuroscience and behavior, and 3) Public policy and consumers. Our student and post-doc members have agreed to work to raise awareness of the NT-RIS among more students and young professionals.

- Frances C. Coletta, PhD, RD, Coletta Consulting
- Naiman Khan, PhD, RD, Post-doctoral Research Associate, University of Illinois
- Robert C. Post, PhD, Chief Science Officer, FoodMinds
- Guy Johnson, PhD, Executive Director, McCormick Science Institute
- Erin Glynn, PhD, Post-doctoral Fellow, Duke University
- Shanshan Li, PhD, Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Harvard School of Public Health
- Feon Cheng, MPH, RD, Doctoral Student, Pennsylvania State University

Follow up from EB 2014

Proceedings from the symposium *Neurocognition: The Food-Brain Connection*, which NT-RIS co-sponsored with ILSI North America, the Dairy Research Institute and Kellogg Company, have been accepted to *Advances in Nutrition*, with expected publication in September.

Looking ahead to EB 2015

The NT-RIS is getting ready for a great meeting in Boston. We have endorsed one session, entitled "Is 'when' we eat as important as 'what' we eat? Chronobiological aspects of food." Two additional program proposals are under review, including one on the relationship between

obesity, bone health and weight reduction, and the other on pediatric cognition.

If you would like to review abstracts, judge posters or have symposia topic ideas for EB 2015, please contact Lisa Sanders at lisa.sanders@kellogg.com. The deadline for EB 2015 late-breaking proposals is September 2, 2014.

Keep Up With NT-RIS Online

For more information about the RIS, including past newsletters and materials from the 2014 business meeting, please see the NT-RIS homepage on the ASN website: <http://www.nutrition.org/about-asn/research-interest-sections/nutrition-translation-ris/>.

Submitted by Jill Nichols
Jill.nichols@rosedmi.com

Obesity

The Obesity RIS recently held elections, and officers for the 2014-2015 year are:

Past Chair: Frank Greenway

Chair: Mark Cope

Chair-Elect: David Allison

Secretary-Treasurer: Labros Sidossis

Student Representative: Katie (Paige) Robinson

Post-Doc Representative: Blanche Ip

Associate Representative: Kate Bradford

The ORIS held a student poster competition at the business meeting during Experimental Biology. The competition was sponsored by Herbalife which provided prize money for the winners. The winners were: 1st place (\$500) – Wei Perng and Meshail Okla, 2nd place (\$300) – Phil Karl and Inhae Kang, 3rd place (\$200) – Blanche Ip and Yanping Li.

Mini-symposia/abstract topics for Experimental Biology 2015 in Boston are:

- ASN Obesity: Diet, Devices, Medications and Surgery
- ASN Obesity: Gut Microbiome and Obesity
- ASN Obesity: Chronic Diseases
- ASN Obesity: Macronutrients and Obesity
- ASN Obesity: Body Composition
- ASN Obesity: Childhood Obesity Management

In addition to these 6 mini-symposia, one additional mini-symposium – Nutrition, Neurobiology, Mood and Behavior will be co-sponsored by Aging, Obesity and Nutrition Translation RISs.

Contributed by Mark Cope
mcope@solae.com

ADVANCES & CONTROVERSIES in CLINICAL NUTRITION

**Gaylord National Resort
& Convention Center**
201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD

Program Highlights:

Multivitamins and Health
Sugars and Health
Cancer and Nutrition
Hospital-Based Nutrition
Nutrigenetics: Implications for
Clinical Practice
Effects of Obesity Bias and
Stigma on Health
Nutrition and Aging

New in 2014! Clinical Briefs:
Short presentations on timely topics such as
nutrition and eye disease

Conference Chairs: Joel Mason, MD and
Kelly Tappenden, PhD, RD



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Bold names signify ASN members.

Nutrition Notes seeks additional spotlight editors for various regions. Please email sprice@nutrition.org if you are interested.



Member Spotlight

Latin America/Caribbean

From INCAP:

The Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama was graced by two international visits. **Benjamin Caballero**,

of Johns Hopkins University, spoke on the topic of Determinants of Childhood Obesity. Mario Flores of the Institute for Public Health in Cuernavaca, Mexico spoke on the topic of Vitamin D Deficiency, the Unrecognized Epidemic. Both were part of the workshop program of the INCAP Integrated Center for the Prevention of Chronic Disease (CIIPEC) and introduced by **Manuel Ramirez Zea**. The events were webcast throughout the Central American region.

From CeSSIAM: Noel W. Solomons, Scientific Director of CeSSIAM, attended the High Level Forum on Maternal and Child Health in Wageningen, the Netherlands, where he participated in the working-group on Heterogeneity of Responses in 'Omics. At home in Guatemala, Noel participated in a forum of former awardees of the National Medal of Science and Technology on the topic of Experiences in Investigation in Guatemala and Perspectives for the Future as the closing ceremony of the V Congress of Biochemistry and Microbiology of the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. He accompanied Joe Svedberg of Hormel Foods in a visit to the office of the Vice Minister of Education, Eligio Sic Ixpancoc, to explain the research findings of the school-feeding product, SPAMMY. His colleagues at Hormel, **Melissa Bonorden** and Lori Marco visited Guatemala to support

the training and orientation of a summer undergraduate traveling fellow of the World Food Prize Foundation (Kimberly Shiu). **Rebecca Kanter**, Affiliated Investigator with CeSSIAM, based in London, was coordinating projects with four of the summer-exchange students in diverse projects in the area of the Nutrient Environment Measurement Survey (NEMS).

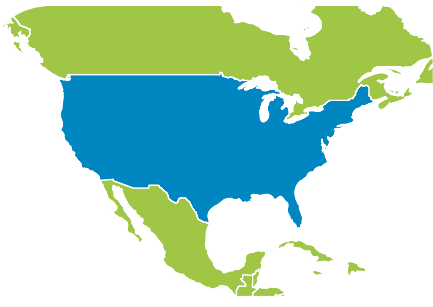
From University of Puerto Rico: Andrea Lopez-Cepero,

graduate student at University of Puerto Rico-MS Nutrition Program, received the FASEB MARC Mentor/Mentee Travel Award 2014 and the RCMI Funds for Graduate Student Development in Research for a summer internship at the University of Massachusetts-Medical School.

Cristina Palacios, Associate Professor in the Nutrition Program at the Graduate School of Public Health, Medical Sciences Campus, University of Puerto Rico, received the FASEB MARC Mentor/Mentee Travel Award 2014. She was also a Fellow in the Dannon Institute's 2014 Academic Mid-Career Nutrition Leadership Institute. She participated in the revision of the Nutritional Recommendations for the Venezuelan population for calcium, vitamin D, magnesium, phosphorus and fluoride, which was recently published in *Archivos Latinoamericanos de Nutricion*. In collaboration with **Connie Weaver** from Purdue University, they recently published a manuscript in *The Journal of Nutrition* entitled "Dietary Calcium Requirements Do Not Differ between Mexican-American Boys and Girls."

Submitted by Cristina Palacios, PhD
cristina.palacios@upr.edu





United States

East

*From the
Graduate
Program in
Nutritional
Sciences at The
Pennsylvania*

State University: Rebecca Corwin has accepted the position of Professor-in-Charge of the Graduate Program in Nutritional Sciences at Penn State University.

Michael H. Green was a visiting professor at the Human Nutrition Research Centre, Newcastle University, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK, in May/June. Mike is collaborating with Dr. Georg Lietz and colleagues in Newcastle, as well as former Penn State students Hyunjin Park (Ph.D. Nutrition, 2011) and Jennifer Lynn Ford (B.S. Nutrition, 2013) to model vitamin A and β -carotene kinetics in humans as well as to develop simple new methods for predicting vitamin A status (i.e. total body stores) and estimating β -carotene bioconversion efficiency. While in England, he presented two seminars on the use of model-based compartmental analysis in nutrition research. Mike also continues to work actively with the International Atomic Energy Agency's Vitamin A Tracer Task Force.

Gordon Jensen in May represented ASN at the Japan Society of Nutrition and Food Science in Sapporo, Japan and gave a presentation on "Etiology Based Definitions for Adult Malnutrition: Role of Inflammation." **Shannon Kelleher** has moved from Nutritional Sciences, Penn State University to Cell & Molecular Physiology and Pharmacology, Penn State Hershey College of Medicine. Kelleher was an invited speaker at the FASEB Summer conference (Trace Elements in Biology and Medicine) in Steamboat Springs, CO and TEMA (Trace Elements in man and Animals) in Orlando, both international conferences.

Barbara Lohse co-presented a plenary session at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior annual meeting in Milwaukee, WI. **Lohse** was awarded the Anita Owen Award for Innovative Nutrition Education for the Public by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation. The Award will be presented at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Exhibition in Atlanta on October 20, 2014.

Catharine Ross visited China Agricultural University and Shanxi Medical University in July, 2014, and presented lectures on Vitamin A and Carotenoid Metabolism and on the Development of Dietary Guidelines and Dietary Reference Intakes.

From NIH Office of Dietary Supplements: June 3-6, ODS offered the **8th Annual Mary Francis Picciano Dietary**

Supplement Research Practicum (DSRP) on the NIH Campus, providing a 4-day educational opportunity to over 65 faculty, students, and practitioners from diverse disciplines, and focusing on fundamental knowledge of dietary supplements. Directed by **Regan Bailey**, the DSRP included a wide range of speakers from ODS and other agencies, organizations, and the supplement industry.

Johanna Dwyer was presented with the 2014 IFT Trailblazer Award and Lectureship, for her "exceptional nutrition knowledge, respect for other cultures, and understanding of food issues" at IFT 2014 in New Orleans in June. She presented the lecture, "Processing: Still a Four Letter Word?" and also the talk, "Micronutrient Intakes in US Diets: Fortification's Contributions, Challenges, and Next Steps." **Dwyer** also presented the talk, "Mysteries of Plant Foods: Flavonoids as a Case Study" in June at the John A. Milner Memorial Symposium, Our Food Our Health, at USDA in Washington, DC.

Drs. Johanna Dwyer, Leila Saldanha, Regan Bailey, Rebecca Costello, Joseph Betz, and others are co-authors on the article, "A free new dietary supplement label database for registered dietitian nutritionists," in the June *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*. **Regan Bailey** and **Johanna Dwyer** are co-authors on the paper, "Fortified foods are major contributors to nutrient intakes in diets of US children and adolescents," published in the July *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

Christine Taylor presented the talk, "Vitamin D Intake: Taking into Account 25-Hydroxyvitamin D in Foods;" **Christopher Sempos** presented "Standardizing Vitamin D Assays: The Way Forward;" and **Johanna Dwyer** chaired a session on Fortification and spoke on "Fortification Possibilities" at the 3rd International Vitamin Conference in May in Washington, DC. **Paul Coates, Patsy Brannon,** and **Christine Taylor** are co-authors of the *Annual Review of Nutrition* article, "Use and applications of systematic reviews in public health nutrition," e-published in April. **Christopher Sempos** is a co-author on two articles, "The estimation of calibration equations for variables with heteroscedastic measurement errors," in the June *Statistics in Medicine*, and "Standardizing vitamin D assays: the way forward," in the April *Journal of Bone and Mineral Research*.

Christopher Sempos spoke on, "Ensuring Comparable Vitamin D Measurements with Different Assays" at the 22nd International Congress of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and the 26th National Congress of the Turkish Biochemical Society in Istanbul, Turkey in June. **Christopher Sempos, Joyce Merkel, and Claudia Faigen** are co-authors on the poster, "Standardizing Vitamin D Assays: The Way Forward" presented at the 17th Workshop on Vitamin D in Chicago in June.

Leila Saldanha presented a poster, co-authored by **Johanna Dwyer**, "The Dietary Supplement Label Database (DSLDD)," and gave two talks, "Challenges in Estimating Intakes from Non-daily Value Ingredients in Dietary Supplements (DS) Using Label Information: Case Study Energy Products" and "Demonstration of The Dietary Supplement Label Database (DSLDD)" at the 38th National Nutrient Databank Conference: Food Composition Data: Bridging the Gaps, and at the USDA post-conference workshop in May in Portland, OR.

Joseph Betz is a co-author of the article, "Semi-automated separation of the epimeric dehydropyrrolizidine alkaloids lycopsamine and intermedine: preparation of their N-oxides and NMR comparison with diastereoisomeric rinderine and echinatine," published in the May *Phytochemical Analysis*. **Cindy Davis** co-authored the article, "The emerging role of microRNAs and nutrition in modulating health and disease," in the July *Annual Review of Nutrition*.

The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center is pleased to announce the John A. Milner Fellowship Program. This is a joint venture of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center and the Office of Dietary Supplements at the National Institutes of Health. The purpose of the **John A. Milner Fellowship Program** is to create opportunities for early-career nutrition scientists to strengthen their skills through two years of postdoctoral research. We feel this is an exciting new opportunity for postdoctoral fellows to develop experience and skill at the crossroads of science and policy.

The Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center recognized Milner's contributions to the discipline of nutrition by establishing the John A. Milner Lectureship. To inaugurate this Lectureship, a one-day symposium attended by more than 200 was held June 12 in Washington, DC. Special recognition of John Milner's scientific research contributions was presented by **Catherine Woteki**, Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics and USDA's Chief Scientist. Noted scientists **Penny Kris-Etherton**, Pennsylvania State University; **Elizabeth Jeffery**, University of Illinois; **Janet Novotny**, Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center; **Patrick Stover**, Cornell University; **Johanna Dwyer**, NIH Office of Dietary Supplements; and **Richard Black**, PepsiCo gave presentations that focused on scientific areas important to John Milner's ideas of nutrition research today and his vision for the future. The symposium concluded with a reception compliments of the International Life Sciences Institute, Global and North American Branches.

The Food Patterns Equivalents Database 2005-06 (FPED) was released in April. The FPEDs for 2005-06 and for 2007-08 and 2009-10 are available on the Food Surveys Research Group Web site www.ars.usda.gov/ba/bhnrc/

fsrg. FPED serves as a unique research tool to evaluate food and beverage intakes of Americans compared to recommendations of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans.

In May, 2014 several scientists presented at the 38th National Nutrient Databank Conference in Portland, Oregon. **Carrie Martin** presented "USDA Food and Nutrient Database for Dietary Studies 2011-2012," **Rhonda Sebastian** presented "Development and Application of a Database for Assessing Flavonoid Intakes in the U.S. Population," **Alanna Moshfegh** presented "The Building Blocks for Using What We Eat in America, NHANES Dietary Data," **Donna Rhodes** presented "What Foods and Beverages Do We Eat in America", and **Elizabeth Parker** presented "Beverage Intakes of U.S. Adults and Their Influence on Diet Quality." In June, **Shanthy Bowman** gave two poster presentations at the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists in New Orleans on "Fruit and Vegetable Intakes of American Adults 2007-2010: Contribution of Meals and Snacks" and "Protein Foods Consumption by Adults at Meals: WWEIA, NHANES 2007-2010."

From the University of Connecticut: Maria Luz

Fernandez, PhD, was invited to give a short course on Lipid Metabolism in Health and Disease to faculty and graduate students in the University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia from July 21-August 1. She also presented 3 seminars: "Dietary strategies to reduce metabolic syndrome" in two separate occasions, one to the School of Nutrition and Food Science on July 22nd and the other to the School of Public Health on July 29th. The third seminar was on Egg benefits on overweight individuals, patients with metabolic syndrome and type 2 diabetes on July 25th to the School of Microbiology and Clinical Biochemistry. **Jiyoung Lee**, PhD presented a keynote lecture titled "Natural products for the prevention of inflammatory diseases: Mechanistic Insight" at the World Congress on the Role of Inflammation in Exercise, Health and Disease, American College for Sports Medicine in Orlando, FL in May 2014.

From Yale University: Rafael Pérez-Escamilla delivered the webinar "Measurement and Governance: The Case of Food Insecurity." Social Medicine Institute, State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, March 25. He gave the talk "Does Breastfeeding Prevent Childhood Obesity?" 9th International Breastfeeding and Lactation Medela Symposium, Madrid, Spain, April 4. He delivered the keynote "Beyond the Baby-Friendly Hospital: Scaling Up and Baby Friendly Communities." Maternity Care and Infant feeding in Indian Country Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 1. He was invited to speak about "Maternal and Child Nutrition: New Learnings and Implications for Development Agencies." USAID Food Security Bureau Brown Bag, Washington DC, June 2. He co-chaired with **Emorn Wasantwisut**

the working group “Framework and methods to identify and compare characteristics of successful scaling up and to optimize models for maternal and child nutrition interventions.” High-Level Forum: Activating a Global Research Agenda for Nutrition Science. Wageningen University, The Netherlands, June 17-18. He spoke about “Impact of the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative on Breastfeeding and Child Health Outcomes: A Narrative Systematic Review. World Health Organization (WHO) Nutrition Guidelines Working Group. Geneva, Switzerland, June 25. He spoke about “Childhood Obesity Prevention: A maternal-Child Life Course Approach.” Forum on Promoting Healthy Weight and Preventing Obesity among Connecticut’s Children. Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut. Farmington, Connecticut, July 8. Rafael was an invited visiting professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Brazil where he participated during July-August in academic activities, was the opening keynote speaker at a high level forum on setting a research agenda for breastfeeding research in Brazil, and conducted research on inequities on the introduction of prelacteal feeds in seven Latin American and Caribbean countries. His host and collaborator at the UERJ was Assistant Professor Cristiano Boccolini. He was invited by UNICEF, The National Institute of Public Health, the Mexican Legislature and the NGO ‘Un Kilo De Ayuda’ to speak about “Effective National Breastfeeding Programs: Essential Ingredients” at the 2nd National Breastfeeding Forum, Legislative Palace, San Lazaro, Mexico City, August 5.

Susan Mayne recently completed a six-year term on the U.S. Food and Nutrition Board. Dr. Mayne served as Program Committee Chair for the 2014 annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) in San Diego, CA in April. She is also currently a member of the scientific program committee for the 13th Annual AACR International Scientific Conference on Frontiers in Cancer Prevention Research, which will be held in New Orleans late September, 2014. Recent talks were given at the City of Hope Cancer Center, in Duarte, CA, and Union College in Schenectady, NY, discussing her work on UV radiation (promoted as a source of vitamin D) in relation to skin cancer risk. She was also recognized at the Society for Epidemiologic Research Annual Meeting with the inaugural “Excellence in Education Award” for substantial contributions to the field of epidemiology as an educator and mentor, and delivered a workshop on “Lessons in Mentoring: What I Have Learned from my Mentors and Mentees,” at the meeting in Seattle in June.

From Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging: **Alice Lichtenstein** was quoted by WebMD in an article titled “Is Butter Back? The Truth About Saturated Fats.” **Jose Ordovas** noted that the best way to combat obesity is through education while speaking to a Spanish language radio outlet. **Jeffrey Blumberg** was quoted in “Organic Fruits and Vegetables Have More

Antioxidants, According to New Study,” published online by New Times Phoenix, Chow Bella blog.

Nicola McKeown will present on “Health Benefits of Whole Grains and the Role of Intact Grains” at the conference of the Oldways Whole Grains Council. **Roger Fielding**, director of the Nutrition, Exercise Physiology and Sarcopenia Laboratory at the USDA HNRCA, has been named a fellow of The Gerontological Society of America.

A study by researchers at Washington State and Tufts found that regular consumption of cranberry juice may result in healthier/more consistent levels of blood sugar, as well as better HDL (good) cholesterol.

Submitted by Bob Jackson

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Rocky Mountains/Great Plains

From the Department of Nutrition and Exercise Physiology at the University of Missouri, Columbia

Catherine Peterson was awarded a Distinguished Teaching Award from the College of Environment College. Jaime Padilla has been awarded an AHA Scientist Development Grant entitled, “Vascular Insulin Resistance in Obesity: Role of Endoplasmic Reticulum Stress.” The Fiscal Year 2014 marks the 20th year anniversary of the SNAP-Ed program in Missouri. This program now reaches over 350,000 low-income individuals in the State. John Thyfault received a VA Merit grant to investigate the role of mitochondrial in the development and treatment of NAFLD and a Thyfault Lab Fellow, Matt Morris, received an AHA Postdoctoral Award to study the role of PGC-1 α in lipid secretion. An NIH R01 Diversity Supplement has been awarded to support Christian Luck and Miss Kelly Lum-Naihe to work in lab of faculty member Lakshmi Pulakat.

Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa

State University: Matt Rowling, Associate Professor, will receive the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and the Board on Human Sciences Human Sciences Undergraduate Research Mentor Award at the APLU annual meeting in November, 2014. Samantha K. Jones is the recipient of a predoctoral fellowship from the Egg Nutrition Center for \$76,000 to support her research proposal titled “Dietary intervention strategies to manage inflammatory bowel disease: Impact of whole egg consumption and maintenance of micronutrient balance.” Samantha’s research is sponsored by her co-major professors, Kevin Schalinske and Matthew Rowling. Murray Kaplan, FSHN Professor Emeritus, passed away on June 26, 2014 at his home in Florida. Dr. Kaplan was an academic and research leader in the department for many years and served as an interim director of the Center for Designing Foods to Improve Nutrition. Graduate student

Hong You gave an oral presentation of his thesis research at The 17th International Carotenoid Symposium in Park City, Utah. You is a student working with Wendy White. Sarah Francis, Assistant Professor, presented research and moderated a session at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior Annual Conference. Eunice Bassler also attended the conference.

The Department of Nutritional Sciences at Oklahoma State University:

Deana Hildebrand, PhD, RD, has been appointed an Associate Professorship in Obesity Prevention at the community level and started this position July 1, 2014. Winyoo Chohanadisai, PhD, is a new Assistant Professor in the department beginning August 11, 2014. Dr. Chohanadisai's research area is in micronutrient deficiencies. Effective March 1, Lu Ann Soliah, PhD, RD, has the title of Clinical Professor. Two department undergraduates were recognized at this year's Wentz Scholars annual symposium, a program to award outstanding nutrition research.

The Department of Nutrition and Health Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln:

Julie Albrecht received a resolution of Appreciation at the 2014 Conference for Food Protection Biennial Meeting. Juan Cui from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering has joined the Leadership Team of the Nebraska Gateway to Nutrigenomics (NGN). The NGN hosted its annual retreat on June 9, which featured presentations by Eric Alm from the Johns Hopkins University, and Melvin Reichman from the Lankenau Institute for Medical Research in Pennsylvania. The retreat's theme was "Nutrigenomics meets computational science." Daniel Camara Teixeira was selected as one of three winners of the student poster competition held in conjunction with the retreat. Janos Zemleni presented a talk at the W-3002 multistate group meeting at Purdue University.

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Colorado State University:

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition held the 35th Annual Lillian Fountain Smith Conference for Nutrition Educators on June 5-6, 2014. Sessions included: "Understanding Consumer Food Choices," with invited speakers, Angela Odoms-Young from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Daniel Graham, Colorado State University, and Christina Roberto, Harvard School of Public Health; "Improving Gut Health" with invited speakers, Tiffany Weir, Colorado State University and Rob Knight, University of Colorado, Boulder; and "Fueling the Active Lifestyle," with invited speakers, Nanna Meyer, University of Colorado and Susie Parker-Simmons, United States Olympic Committee. The featured Alumni presentation "Maternal and Infant Nutrition and Health" was given by Laura Caulfield, The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Kansas State Department of Human Nutrition: Ric Rosenkranz was an inaugural recipient of the University's Oz to Oz Australia Initiative to support his collaboration with Tony Okely at the University of Wollongong. Ric Rosenkranz and Brian Lindshield were both promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Mary Meck Higgins is on sabbatical as a visiting scholar at the University of Arizona's College of Public Health in the Health Promotion Sciences Division. Weiqun (George) Wang gave multiple invited talks in China including "Application of Lipidomics for Exercise-induced Cancer Preventive Mechanisms" at Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Science; "Cancer Prevention by Dietary Means in Rodent Models" at Nanjing University of Finance & Economics; "Introduction of the Wang lab on Nutrition and Cancer" at Nanjing Normal University; "Enhancement of Phytochemical Biosynthesis via Transgenic Technology" at Shanghai Academy of Agricultural Sciences. He also chaired a session and gave a talk entitled "Mechanisms of Cancer Prevention by Weight Control via Dietary Calorie Restriction or Physical Activity" at the BIT Annual World Cancer Congress 2014. Sara Rosekranz presented an invited lecture at the School of Medicine at the University of Western Sydney titled "Physical activity, sedentary behavior, diet, and health outcomes: where do we stand?" Mark Haub participated in the 2014 Emerging and New Administrators Workshop in Tulsa, OK, organized by the Council of Administrators for Family & Consumer Sciences.

The Department of Nutrition and Food Science at

Texas A&M University: The Department of Nutrition and Food Science announces the selection of Boon Chew, PhD, as the new Head of the Department. Dr. Chew, previously of Washington State University, is an expert in the benefits of food bioactives such as carotenoids and polyphenolics to reduce inflammation-induced chronic diseases. Chew is a member of the ASN, IFT, American Society of Animal Science, and American Dairy Science Association. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the International Roche Research Prize for Animal Nutrition, American Society of Animal Science Jim Corbin Award in Companion Animal Biology and an Excellence in Research Award from Washington State. Robb Chapkin presented an invited talk entitled "Nutritional chemoprevention – the missing ingredient" at the 11th Annual Nutrition & Health Conference, Dallas TX, May 4-5, 2014. He also presented a talk entitled "Diet and epigenetics: Is this the key to personalized cancer prevention" and "Diet and stem cells: A new possibility in cancer prevention", at the VI Brazilian Conference on Nutrition & Cancer, Gaepao, and IV International Conference on Nutritional Oncology (ICNO), Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 12-15, 2014. This summer, Chaodong Wu traveled to Shenzheng, Guangzhou and Wuhan, China to give invited talks on the topic of circadian rhythm and liver metabolism. Nancy Turner gave an invited talk at the World Cancer Congress in Nanjing China entitled

“Colon Cancer Chemoprevention by Polyphenol-Enriched Sorghum Grains Occurs through Multiple Mechanisms” on May 17, 2014. She also gave an invited seminar at China Agricultural University on May 22 entitled Dietary Components that Support Intestinal and Systemic Health.

From the University of Texas Medical Branch

at Galveston: In April 2014 Springer published a book entitled *Bone Drugs in Pediatrics: Efficacy and Challenges*, edited by **Gordon Klein, MD, MPH**, Clinical Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery and Director of Bone Health. Klein completed a trip to Europe where he gave invited lectures for the British Paediatric and Adolescent Bone Group at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London (26 June), the 6th International Workshop on the Molecular Pharmacology and Therapeutics of Bone Disease at St Catherine's College, Oxford (28 June-2 July), and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Osteologie, Vienna (7 July). In October he will participate in a bone symposium at the International Society for Burn Injuries meeting in Sydney.

Submitted by Elizabeth Parks
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North

From Ohio State University: Ouliana Ziouzenkova is PI on a National Institutes of Health, National Center for Resources, R21 grant titled, “Developing models for identification of therapeutic cell populations.” The goal is to develop new animal models, in which subset of microencapsulated cells will be engrafted in existing animal models for identification of cell subset effects on the host tissue, systemic pathogenesis, and discovery of bioactive molecules with therapeutic properties.

Richard Bruno was selected to participate in the Dannon Institute Academic Mid-Career Nutrition Leadership Institute.

Earl Harrison gave a plenary lecture at the 17th International Symposium on Carotenoids in Park City, UT in early July titled, “Carotenoid Metabolism in Animals Including Humans.” He also gave an invited talk titled, “Mechanisms of formation and action of apocarotenoids, modulators of retinoid signaling” at the FASEB 2nd International Conference on Retinoids in Itasca, IL in early June.

Susan Finn, RD, was appointed to the National Commission on Hunger by Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, John Boehner.

From Division of Nutritional Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: As President of the PsychoNeuroImmunology Research Society (PNIRS),

Rod Johnson organized and hosted the Presidential Symposium on “Nutrition: Implications for PNI,” at the 2014 PNIRS meeting, May 28-31, Philadelphia, PA. Rod was an invited speaker at a workshop co-sponsored by the American Society of Animal Science and ASN, his talk focused on “Techniques for imaging and correlating functional and physical early brain development influenced by nutrition.” The workshop occurred just prior to the ADSA-ASAS-CSAS Joint Annual Meeting, July 20-24, Kansas City, MO. Rod was also an invited speaker at the USDA Children's Nutrition Research Center, Baylor college of Medicine. He presented “Developmental origins of changes in stress resilience or vulnerability.”

The importance of nutrition in human and animal health is featured this entire year in Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, reports the journal's Editor-in-Chief Keith Kelley. The named series is entitled “Obesity, Inflammation and Behavior,” and is guest-edited by **Teresa Reyes**, Department of Pharmacology and the Institute of Translational Medicine and Therapeutics at the Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on the role of diet and nutrition during critical developmental periods on brain development and behavior. Each 2014 issue of the journal contains at least two articles with original data on the interaction of nutrition, obesity, and inflammation on brain function and development.

Kelly Swanson gave the following invited presentations: “Microbiome applications in animals,” as part of the ASN-ASAS Conference entitled “Next step from innovate 2013: Feed bunk to bedside to bench: Current analytical platforms in nutrition,” Kansas City, MO, July 20, 2014; “Future aspects and perceptions of companion animal nutrition and sustainability,” at the Joint Annual ADSA-ASAS meeting, Kansas City, MO, July 22, 2014; and he gave two talks at the June, 2014 International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics Meeting in Aberdeen, Scotland: “Probiotic and prebiotic applications in dogs and cats” and “Promising endpoints for prebiotic/probiotic interventions to modulate the microbiome of the canine and feline species to enhance health.”

From Iowa State University: **Matthew Rowling** is the 2014 recipient of the Board on Human Sciences Undergraduate Research Mentor Award for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU). Olivia Genter, PhD student of **Stephanie Hansen**, received the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Research Excellence Award for 2014. **Stephanie Hansen** received the 2014 Early Career Teaching Award of the ISU College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. **Hansen** gave an invited seminar on trace mineral metabolism in animals in South Africa in June and was a plenary speaker at the 15th Annual International Trace Elements in Man and Animals meeting in Florida in June.

From Michigan State University: Adam Lock was selected as a 2014 Academy for Global Engagement Fellow, a program for early to mid-career faculty.

Submitted by Darlene Berryman
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Southeast

Georgia State University: Huanbiao Mo joined the department as Professor and Chair, and **Megan McCrory** joined as Associate Professor on July 1, 2014. Nomeli Nunez joined the department as Assistant Professor on August 1, 2014. Megan McCrory became a member of the Editorial Board of *Frontiers in Nutrition* in May. **Dan Benardot**, professor in the Depts. of Nutrition and Kinesiology and Health, presented on "Sports Nutrition" at the FIFA Sports Nutrition Certification Workshop in Mexico City, Mexico on Aug 1-2, 2014. Benardot and his wife, Robin Benardot, who are both registered dietitians, were featured in the June/July 2014 issue of *Skating Magazine* about their work with the US Figure Skating team for the past 10 years.

Pennington Biomedical Research Center: Pennington Biomedical Research Center's 'Translational Research Clinic for Children' (TReCC) which is dedicated to the study of pediatric obesity and diabetes is beginning to finish its inaugural studies. **Steven Heymsfield** developed an international group exploring BMI and other shape indices as phenotypic markers of obesity and health risks. Also, Dr. Heymsfield was appointed Visiting Professor at Harvard Medical School with a focus on providing input on nutrition and obesity research programs. **John Apolzan** was recently promoted to Assistant Professor.

University of Georgia: Louise Wicker, Professor in Food Science and Technology, and the UGA Obesity Initiative hosted the second meeting of the Food Industry-Academia Consortium in March 2014. The 40 attendees and speakers were from industry, government and academia. In May, several faculty updated our new Provost, Pam Whitten, about UGA's Obesity Initiative (Cliff Baile), the Food Industry-Academia Consortium (Louise Wicker, Food Science and Technology), community health, outreach, and obesity (Deborah Murray, Associate Dean for Extension and Outreach, College of Family and Consumer Sciences), and obesity-related instruction (**Mary Ann Johnson**, Foods and Nutrition). Several faculty were overseas in summer 2014 for Study Abroad in Ghana (Alex Anderson), Study Abroad in Australia (Silvia Giraudo), and as invited speakers at the International Centenarian Consortium in Osaka, Japan (Mary Ann Johnson). On campus, Tracey Brigman led another successful series of School Nutrition Culinary Institutes to help employees of school foodservice to enhance food quality and food choices for school age children.

Two new graduate programs will begin in fall 2014. **Rick Lewis** is the director of "Nutrition for Sport and Exercise." Coursework and internships can be tailored to meet diverse interests, such as for clinical, community, and athletic settings, research skills in sport and exercise, or preparing for the Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics (CSSD) Examination for registered dietitians. **Leann Birch** is the director of the "Certificate in Obesity and Weight Management," which prepares students from diverse disciplines to address the obesity epidemic in clinical, community, school, workplace and research settings. Coursework includes nutrition, food science, kinesiology, counseling, behavior modification, public policy, and public health.

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Samantha Attard (mentor: Penny Gordon-Larson) received a one-year predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association for her dissertation research, "Pathways from environmental changes to CVD risk factors: mediating effects of diet, physical activity, and BMI." **Daniel Cooper** (mentor: **Rosalind Coleman**) was selected to present a short talk, "GPAT4 limits thermogenesis in brown adipose tissue," at the 2014 FASEB Summer Conference on Lipid Droplets and Metabolic Consequences of Neutral Lipid Storage.

University of North Carolina at Greensboro: **Cheryl Lovelady** has become an Associate Dean for Research for the School of Health and Human Sciences housing four programs and eight departments including the nutrition department. Kathryn Towery, MS student (Mentor: Lauren Haldeman), received the 2014 SNEB Student Research Award. The award sponsored by the SNEB Division of Higher Education recognizes masters and doctoral level students' research in nutrition education.

Submitted by Debbie Kipp
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Anita Sama, Editor-in-Chief of CEO Update, visited ASN headquarters in August, getting an insider's look at ASN and interviewing Dr. Courtney.

NEW SPOTLIGHT



Greece

Ioannis Arkadianos, MD,

is a Certified Physician in General Medicine and vice President of "European

Society of Lifestyle Medicine" (www.eslm.eu). He is a SCOPE Certified (Specialist Certification of Obesity Professional Education) from "World Obesity Federation." He was also a Member of Organizing Committee of the "10th Panhellenic Medical Congress for Obesity" (Athens 19-22 February 2014) and president in two Satellite Lectures in the same Congress.

Paraskevi Detopoulou, PhD, clinical dietitian nutritionist at General Hospital Korgialenio Benakio, spoke at the summer school of the Hellenic Atherosclerosis Society (endorsed by the European Atherosclerosis Society) on the role of omega-3 fatty acids on secondary and tertiary prevention of cardiovascular disease (June 2014). Dr. Detopoulou became a member of the editorial board of the *Annals of Nutritional Disorders and Therapy* and founder member of the European Society of Lifestyle Medicine. She is also a member of the local program committee for the

EFAD conference (European Federation of the Association of Dieticians), which will be held on 9-12 October 2014 in Athens, Greece.

Theodora Psaltopoulou, MD, PhD, is the Principal Investigator of the project "Identifying the role of nutrition, physical activity and body size in hematological malignancies through systematic reviews and meta-analyses," which is funded by Werend Kanker Onderzoek Fonds (WCRF NL) and administered by WCRF International as part of the WCRF International programme. Assistant Professor Psaltopoulou is a Principal Investigator of the EKGARDIA project, a cardiovascular screening and intervention program in Attica, which aims to encompass about 10,000 people belonging to vulnerable populations in the era of economic crisis. She is also a member of the National Action Plan for Public Health: Assessment, Prevention and Management of Childhood Obesity, undertaking the analyses and evaluation of a sizable nationwide cohort. Recent achievements and publications have pertained to the field of the association between Mediterranean diet, stroke, depression and cognitive impairment; bariatric operations; meal patterns; the molecular basis of gastrointestinal system tumors, among many others.

Submitted by Paraskevi Detopoulou
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The Transition Team guiding ASN's Independent Meeting, which starts in 2018, met in Denver to brainstorm programmatic changes and address members' needs. While at the University of Colorado Denver Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, they visited with personal trainer Chris Powell from TV's Extreme Weight Loss. Pictured at right: Bruce Pitcher of EWL, Gwen Twillman, Powell, Jim Hill, and John Courtney. "I could feel the excitement during this planning meeting on our journey to hosting an independent scientific sessions and annual meeting," said Executive Officer Dr. John Courtney. "I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed their ideas, energy, and passion." Below: Team members participate in a visioning session about the new ASN meeting design. Learn more at www.nutrition.org/meetings/asn-independent-meeting/





ASN's Annual Compilation Returns!

ASN's yearly compendium features the most influential articles published within the past year in our selective, highly ranked journals: *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, *The Journal of Nutrition*, and *Advances in Nutrition*.

THE BEST OF CLINICAL NUTRITION

Highlights from the American Society for Nutrition's Scholarly Journals

We have seen general interest in nutrition reach record levels; never before has science-based information about nutrition and wellness been more important. The research within supports clinicians when considering individualized treatments for nutrition-related health concerns such as obesity, cancer, and chronic disease. Educators and policy makers will also find the compendium useful in staying abreast of critical discoveries.



Summaries of each research report provide added value and analysis of what the study means in practical terms. A scientific abstract and references for each research report assist in discerning useful takeaways.

The 2014 edition of *The Best of Clinical Nutrition* features studies on:

- Low vitamin D concentration exacerbates adult brain dysfunction
- Dietary fats and health: dietary recommendations in the context of scientific evidence
- Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) supplementation and memory/reaction time in young adults
- Usefulness of fat and lean body mass index (BMI) reference curves in children and adolescents
- Amount of protein intake required for body weight loss and weight maintenance
- Fruit and vegetable intakes and lower risk of bladder cancer among women



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Advances in Nutrition

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What is a Sustainable Diet?

An article published in the July 2014 issue of *Advances in Nutrition*, “**Understanding Sustainable Diets: A Descriptive Analysis of the Determinants and Processes that Influence Diets and Their Impact on Health, Food Security, and Environmental Sustainability**,” underscores the need for the development and implementation of sustainable diets around the world. The concept of sustainable diets presents an opportunity to not only advance environmentally friendly development, but also the elimination or reduction of poverty, hunger, and many chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes.

Global dietary patterns have changed dramatically in the past 50 years, presenting both a boom and a threat to the health and well-being of populations everywhere. Increased incomes, particularly in the developing world of late, have been accompanied by increased consumption of diets high in meat, dairy, oil, salt and processed foods, leading to a rise in obesity and other diet-related diseases. Yet, at the same time that obesity has reached epidemic proportions, 868 million people around the world suffer from hunger, with another 2 billion suffering from micronutrient deficiencies.

The globalization of our food system has enabled our current dietary patterns by generally lowering food prices; however, the focus has been on facilitating high caloric diets that are low in variety and important nutrients. Moreover, our current food production system has greatly contributed to environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.

According to the article’s authors, “[T]he alarming pace of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation concomitant with their negative impact on farming systems, livelihoods, and health make a compelling case for re-examining food systems and diets from a sustainability and public health perspective.”

The *Advances in Nutrition* article examines the complex interrelationships and stakeholders among the five major determinants of sustainable diets: agriculture, health, sociocultural factors, environment, and socioeconomics. While there has been much discussion of sustainable diets in the past several years, the authors note that there has been little progress in implementing food production systems that are environmentally sustainable and ensure access to a healthy food supply to the world’s population.

Most notably, there is no general agreement on what a sustainable or unsustainable diet translates to in practice. The authors therefore have called for the need to develop a set of guidelines to clearly define what a sustainable diet is as well as measurement tools to assess progress.

ASN Archives: Did You Know?

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) Archives are housed at the Annette and Irwin Eskind Biomedical Library (EBL), at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, TN. The Archives were originated at

EBL through the efforts of William J. Darby, MD, PhD, American Institute of Nutrition President (1958-1959) and AIN Fellow (1984). Additional honorary curators and/or volunteer archivists since the creation of the Archives include E. Neige Todhunter, PhD (AIN Fellow, 1983) and Patricia B. Swan, PhD (ASNS Fellow, 2003).

The ASN inventory is available on the [EBL website](#). Much of the collection relates to the history of nutrition science, just as much as the history of AIN, ASCN, ASNS, SINR and/or ASN. For example, an extensive assembly of rare books was willed by Dr. Darby (see image below), and includes an edition of William Wadd’s 1829 **Comments on Corpulency**, annotated with period illustrations and texts by A.M. Broadley.

ASN’s History of Nutrition Committee, chaired by Forrest Nielsen, PhD, liaises to the ASN Archives. This committee supports the preservation of historical information about ASN and its role in the development of nutrition science, and facilitates the interpretation of the history of nutrition science and practice. Don’t miss the committee’s 2014 Symposium summary in *Advances in Nutrition*: “**History and Impact of Nutritional**

Epidemiology.” You can email Dr. Nielsen and the ASN staff with suggestions for history programs: Forrest.Nielsen@ars.usda.gov and sprice@nutrition.org.

Contributed by Paula Eichenbrenner, CAE



Darby Rare Books Collection

A Conversation with ACCN 2014 Program Committee Co-Chair Dr. Joel Mason

ASN's 2014 **Advances and Controversies in Clinical Nutrition** conference, December 4-6 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, provides a unique opportunity for nutrition researchers and clinical practitioners to confer on the latest advancements and best practices in clinical nutrition. The meeting is co-chaired by Joel Mason, MD, of the USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University. In this interview, Dr. Mason discusses what makes ACCN different from other scholarly conferences and what attendees can expect from this year's meeting.

Interviewer: *What makes this different from other conferences? What are its particular advantages?*

Dr. Mason: First of all, one of our major intents in holding this meeting is to specifically focus on topics that will be immediately relevant to health care professionals. That is different from a meeting like Experimental Biology (EB) which has scattered sessions that include practical information for those of us in the field who see patients. This conference will be highly useful for any health care professional interested in incorporating nutritional principles into the management of their patients. In addition to covering topics that are relevant to patient care, we try to pick topics that generate a lot of interest, and frankly, a lot of controversy. For many of these issues, we do not have a definitive answer, so we gather experts from around the world to discuss where the state of our knowledge is currently- what we do know and what we don't know. In fact, we have constructed some of our symposia to bring together experts that have different opinions, providing health care professionals with several perspectives on each issue.

Interviewer: *What is the theme of the conference this year?*

Dr. Mason: That is one thing that makes ACCN unique: we do not restrict ourselves to a theme. Instead we try to cast our net very broadly for these meetings, covering a number of topics in which the research is advancing very quickly. The focus for this meeting is then dictated by those topics that will be of most use for healthcare practitioners in patient care settings.

Interviewer: *What lectures are you most excited about?*

Dr. Mason: I think that it is fair to say that I'm excited about many of the sessions. I am personally chairing a

session "Nutrition in the Prevention and Management of Cancer" on applying nutritional principles to cancer prevention and cancer treatment. While I have a great personal investment in that session, I am equally interested in hearing from our other speakers on topics such as "Malnutrition: New Criteria for Diagnosis and Impact of the Affordable Care Act."

Interviewer: *Are there any new elements to the conference?*

Dr. Mason: As we have begun to build the program for this year's meeting, we are looking extensively at the agendas for the last several years. Our goal, of course, is to ensure we are not just repeating topics we have already covered. Those that have been touched on in past years are in the minority. They have been included because of significant advances in the research on that issue over the past year. For that reason, I think that even attendees who may have already been to this meeting will find that the vast majority of what they hear will be new.

In 2014, we are also introducing Clinical Briefs, abbreviated presentations on topics such as nutrition and eye disease.

Interviewer: *What do you hope attendees learn and take away from it?*

Dr. Mason: My biggest hope for this conference is that it will have an exciting enough agenda that we will attract health care professionals who have not historically incorporated nutrition into their practice. I also hope that those individuals will walk away from this conference convinced that they have a lot to gain from cultivating their knowledge of nutritional principles and making those principles a part of their practice. I sincerely hope we can demonstrate to them how much their patients have to gain from those efforts.

For the attendees who already consider themselves part of the field and are already convinced of nutrition's role in delivering expert health care, I hope we can impress upon them how quickly the research in the field is advancing and keep them abreast of those changes. You can't just rely on what you learned five or three or only a year ago, so I hope they will use this meeting as an opportunity to update their knowledge base.

Food Security in Puerto Rico: Vulnerable Food Supply

By Mayra S. Crespo Bellido, ASN blogger

In 1942, Dr. Lydia J. Roberts was asked by Dr. M. L. Wilson of the US Food and Nutrition Board to visit Puerto Rico under the pretenses that “there was a problem in [the island], which ordinarily imported much of its food.” After all, the island only produced 65% of the food the habitants needed, 35% was being imported at the time. Dr. Roberts was assigned to study the food and nutrition situation in order to report back to Washington, DC. Out of her collaboration with the University of Puerto Rico as a visiting professor, a clear picture of the living situation for the islanders during the 1940s was portrayed in her book *Patterns of Living in Puerto Rican Families*. This classic one-of-a-kind report depicts explicitly the poor health conditions and severe food insecurity in most households, mostly due to lack of educational and monetary resources. During this period infectious diseases were ranked #1 among the most common causes of mortality for all ages.

In the twenty-first century, a changing landscape of health problems troubles Puerto Rico. Following nutrition transition patterns of developing countries, the leading causes of death of our time are all from complications of chronic conditions associated with the increasing prevalence of obesity in the island. In 2013, 35% of Puerto Ricans living in the island benefited from the Nutrition Assistance Program, and the majority of the population benefits from other programs such as WIC and Child Nutrition Programs. Nonetheless, Puerto Rico deals with serious food security issues as the island produces only 17.65% of the food it consumes, importing 82% from over 10 different countries.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four dimensions of food security as defined by the FAO are: food availability, food access, proper utilization and stability. A recent study established that food security is not distributed equally as people living in rural areas of the island are disproportionately affected unemployment rate, greater proportion of habitants below the poverty level and lower education levels all of which may create barriers to food access and proper utilization. However for the Puerto Rican population it becomes a little more complicated than that.

Dr. Myrna Comas, Puerto Rico Secretary of Agriculture, has made it her lifework to bring awareness of the vulnerability of the food chain supply in Puerto Rico. As

stated by Dr. Comas, the high dependence on imported foodstuff, constant decreases in local agricultural production, the fact that there is only one functioning seaport that receives all merchandise imported, the great distances food has to travel to get to the island, and a lack of policy to ensure food security are some of the many reasons the food chain supply to the island is susceptible to external influences. Some identified risk factors that could interfere with the supply of food are: global climate change, food and water contamination, reduction of terrains devoted to agriculture in the island, accidents, and free trade agreements, among others.

Under the direction of Dr. Comas, the PR Department of Agriculture has systematically addressed these issues for the past couple of years. Part of this plan to counterattack the risk of having a food crisis includes an educational campaign to bring awareness to the matter of food security, and initiatives to conserve agricultural lands and to promote local agricultural production of staple foods. There is evidently a long way to go until this matter is resolved. Hopefully with increased knowledge and understanding of the repercussions of letting this problem remain unaddressed will encourage the proper authorities to create local and international food policy that avoids an impending food crisis in the island.

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Upcoming Deadlines

September 15 ASN Award nominations
September 16 ACCN abstract submission
September 26 ACCN blogger applications
October 1 ASN Fellows nominations

October 3 ACCN early registration
October 31 EB 2015 sponsored satellite proposals
November 6 EB 2015 abstract submission

Upcoming Events

October 18-21 AND Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo. Atlanta, GA. Visit ASN at Booth 1335!
November 2-7 Obesity Week. Boston, MA. On Nov. 6: *Important Components of Weight Loss Programs: What Works for One Might Not Work for All (ASN symposium)*
November 12-15 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students. San Antonio, TX. Visit ASN at Booth 229!
December 4-6 ASN Advances & Controversies in Clinical Nutrition. National Harbor, MD.
March 28-April 1 ASN Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting at EB 2015. Boston, MA.