

This monthly news bulletin is designed to keep Maine Dietetic Association members informed about issues affecting our profession. We hope you find this resource helpful in staying up-to-date and in touch. Please send comments to [MDA Communications Coordinator](#).

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Spring Conference Highlights

Many thanks to all who made the MDA Spring Conference a success! The program had something for everyone. The theme was “Facing Challenges, Finding Opportunities.” A pre-conference wine and cheese reception was held at President Patsy Catsos’s home, and a delicious buffet lunch was provided by SMCC culinary students of Chef Will Beriau. It was a great opportunity to socialize and reconnect with friends, board members and the conference speakers.

A few highlights in pictures:

Jean Caton, one of our dynamic conference speakers, held a career-coaching workshop after the conference.



MDA President Patsy Catsos, UMaine Dietetic Intern Anh Thu Truong, and Kitty Broihier, MDA President-Elect and Conference Chair.

Melissa Frye, MDA By-Laws Chair was presented a special thanks by Marcy Kyle, MDA State Policy Representative and the MDA Board for her ongoing work to update the MDA Job Descriptions (now available on the MDA website.)



Go to www.eatrightmaine.org to view one of the presentations by John S. White, Ph.D. President, White Technical Research on **Sweetener Savvy: A Look at the Science Behind High Fructose Corn Syrup.**

Send a student to PPW

Remember to use the Amazon link on the front page of the MDA website www.eatrightmaine.org every time you shop online to help MDA earn a percentage of sales in the fundraising efforts to send a dietetic student to the American Dietetic Association Public Policy Workshop in Washington DC.

New Public Policy Initiative Link Launched

Go to the front page of www.eatrightmaine.org and click on the Our Public Policy Initiative link to stay abreast of MDA's public policy efforts. MDA is often asked to take a position on bills being considered by the Maine Legislature or on regulations being developed by state agencies. The MDA Public Policy Panel, with the approval of the MDA Board of Directors, developed the Legislation Review Procedure and Legislation Review Letter to establish a standardized method and guidelines for ADA/MDA members or groups to use when requesting MDA review of new or previously unsupported proposed legislation or bills. This will ensure uniformity and equitability in the way review of issues new to MDA are completed.

MDA President Patsy Catsos presents testimony in support of LD505

With the increased importance of the states role in health care, this is a crucial time for MDA members to get involved! Go to the Our Public Policy Initiative link <http://eatrightmaine.org/id97.html> to read MDA testimony presented in support of LD505 - An Act to Align state Standards Pertaining to Food and Beverages Outside of the School Lunch Program to Federal standards

To get involved in this or future initiatives contact:

Pat Watson, MDA Public Policy Coordinator -- watsonp@wmhcc.org

Dona Forke, MDA State Regulatory Specialist -- dona@fairpoint.net

Marcia Kyle, MDA State Policy Representative -- bkyle@roadrunner.com

And don't forget to respond to MDA member alerts to help with this important work of our members in promoting the future of the RD/DTR.

Online Training in Restaurant Menu Labeling

Nutritional labeling for restaurant meals is mandated across the United States as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act. To prepare members in this area, ADA's Center for Professional Development presents Restaurant Menu Labeling: The Impact on the Environment of Nutrition and Dietetics, a new certificate of training program.

The program consists of four modules that build on each other: ADA members enjoy a reduced rate of \$19 for each module, or may complete all four modules and earn 8 hours of CPEUs for \$76. The course was developed in cooperation with the National Restaurant Association and the ADA Restaurant Labeling Work Group. <http://www.eatright.org/HealthProfessionals/content.aspx?id=8628>

New Resources from ADA Council on Future Practice

Dietetics Career Development Guide and related definitions for focus area, specialist and advanced practice. The Guide and definitions can be found on the Council on Future Practice web page at <http://www.eatright.org/Members/content.aspx?id=7665> . The Dietetics Career Development Guide illustrates how a practitioner, regardless of focus area, can attain increasing levels of knowledge and skill throughout a career. Through life-long learning and professional development, practitioners acquire and develop skills that lead to increased competencies and levels of practice.

The Visioning Report which projects future practice for the DTR, entry-level RD, specialist RD and advanced practice RD. We encourage you to review and consider this report as it relates to your career. This report can be found at <http://www.eatright.org/Members/content.aspx?id=6442463224>

The Council on Future Practice works in collaboration with the Commission on Dietetic Registration and Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education to project the future practice needs for the profession of dietetics. Check out the work of the Council by visiting its web page at <http://www.eatright.org/futurepractice/> . Please take the time to share these exciting new resources with members.

If you should have further questions related to the petition process, please contact the Future Practice mailbox at futurepractice@eatright.org .

ADAF Announces \$35,000 Research Grant

Interested in slowing the progression of obesity in children? A one-year grant of up to \$35,000 is available for a research project that explores lifestyle interventions to reduce the risk of childhood obesity. Strategies should focus on nutrition and physical activity and be culturally and developmentally appropriate for children. The ADA Foundation Research Endowment was established by the contributions of ADA members and friends to support food and nutrition research by ADA members.

ADAF encourages submission of applications that support formative work or a pilot study that can be used in a much larger grant that would explore lifestyle interventions which can reduce the risk of development of childhood overweight and obesity by focusing on nutrition and physical activity.

The preferred research is formative work or a pilot study for the preliminary development or testing of the feasibility of a lifestyle intervention including focus groups to obtain input on the intervention components, or the testing of data collection instruments and methodology. This formative work or the pilot study could serve as the basis for a future grant proposal focused on conducting a larger study in a randomized controlled trial. Interventions proposed through this RFP should be based on a theoretical framework that could include behavioral and counseling theories and strategies. Preferred target population – Children in preschool through high school.

The RFP can be found at www.eatright.org/foundation/research. For more information, please contact Beth Labrador, Senior Development Manager, blabrador@eatright.org or [312/899-4821](tel:3128994821).