



Vol.12 Issue 1, 2005

## Announcements

### New Member

We would like to welcome the Chinese Dietetic Society (Taiwan) as a new member of ICDA.

The Chinese Dietetic Society (Taiwan) was established in 1995. The aims of the Society are the promotion of research in dietetics, upgrading training and education of Dietitians and improving the registration examination for Dietitians. Priorities for the future are setting professional practice standards and ethics guidelines, enhancing international collaboration and accreditation of the dietetic internship program. The Society has 103 members.

### Obituary – Alison Dobson

Many National Dietetic Association Representatives will be saddened to hear of the death of Alison Dobson on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2005. Alison represented the British Dietetic Association on ICDA from 1982 – 1992 and was instrumental in securing the bid for the Congress in 2000 on behalf of the BDA. She then worked tirelessly to deliver a highly successful Congress in Edinburgh. Alison made many friends across the world through ICDA and will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

### Information from the Editor

International Renal Dietitians Newsletter  
This newsletter is edited by Marianne Vennegor RD and is very useful for Renal

Dietitians to keep abreast of conferences, reports and publications that are currently available in the renal field. Copies can be obtained from Marianne at [mavennegoor@aol.com](mailto:mavennegoor@aol.com).

Dietetics in United Arab Emirates  
If you are interested in working in the UAE try contacting Paula Davis [pkdavis2@dohms.gov.ae](mailto:pkdavis2@dohms.gov.ae) for information on any opportunities there may be.

Carole Middleton

## Secretary's Report

The 2004-2008 Board of Directors met by teleconference in November and then met in Singapore this past April for three days to refine plans that will allow us to make progress on ICDA objectives:

- ✓ A stronger integrated communications system
- ✓ An enhanced the image for the profession
- ✓ Increased awareness of standards of education, training and practice in dietetics, at the international level

### *ICDA web site*

Dietitians continue to use the ICDA web site to network and to find information about ICDA programs and opportunities and developments in international dietetics. You might have noticed you are not receiving as many messages from Dietitians Networking on the ICDA web site. The Secretariat made a change to the site to respond to concerns

that many dietitians do not want to be notified every time a message is posted in Dietitian's networking. If you want to be notified, please go to <http://www.internationaldietetics.org/chatline.asp> and update your profile.

We have added session handout materials and we have made the abstracts from the XIVth International Congress of Dietetics accessible on the International Congress pages of the site.

Over the past year changes have been made to the web site so that we can post documents related to our study of the work and education of dietitians around the world. Watch for new documents on the Education and Work of Dietitians section of the site by September.

A number of other ideas to further enhance the web site will be explored this year, such as, providing basic information on how to obtain qualifications for various national dietetic associations.

***Increased awareness of standards of education, training and practice in dietetics and an enhanced image for the profession***

A discussion document Ethics and Standards: The underpinning of quality professional practice is being developed from input provided during the last Congress. It is our plan to post the paper after it has been reviewed by national dietetic association members of ICDA. Watch for further announcements in the next issue of Dietetics Around the World.

Over the next two years, the Board will continue to study the work, education and practice of dietetics. Before again collecting data in 2007, the Board will refine the ICDA objectives and information needs. We will form an international email group to work on refining ICDA information needs and the data collection questionnaire. The

information collected will form the basis of another ICDA report related to standards, education and practice of dietetics for the XVth International Congress of Dietetics. The information will also be available through the ICDA web site.

From the information we gather about the variability in roles of dietitians around the world we will further elaborate the definition of a dietitian in order to assist us in developing key messages for "marketing the profession". Input will be sought from participants during the XVth International Congress of Dietetics. ***Be sure to mark September 8-11, 2008 Yokohama Japan in your calendar!*** The preliminary announcement and pre-registration form is available on the Congress page of the ICDA web site.

***For official Representatives***

- ✓ Minutes of Board meetings are available on the private web site. Please ensure contact information on the web site is up to date for your association.
- ✓ Membership dues for national dietetic associations 2005 and 2006 were due March 31, 2005
- ✓ The Board is progressing rapidly on incorporation of ICDA in Canada
- ✓ Material for the next issue of Dietetics Around the World is due in August

**Feature Article**

**Accredited Practicing Dietitian Program Comes of Age**

Back in the early 1990's when the Australian Government decided that Dietetics as a profession did not require registration, many members believed that this would be a great disadvantage to the profession. DAA took up the challenge to develop its own system thereby strengthening both the profession and the Association.

### **APD - The Recognised Credential**

One of the most gratifying developments of 2004 was the acceptance, by the Federal Government, of DAA's Accredited Practising Dietitian credential as the only acceptable criteria for a Dietitian to practice within the scope of the Medicare system – our national universal health cover – and to receive rebates for dietetic services. Dietetics is the only non-registered profession in Australia to have an internally managed accreditation system sufficiently robust and rigorous to gain this recognition. It is ahead of its time in that the most important corner stone of gaining and maintaining the credential is demonstrated commitment to Continuing Professional Development, something that many Registration Boards are only beginning to come to terms with. Federal recognition for Medicare has had a flow on effect with the APD credential rapidly becoming the measure used by other government departments and much of the private health insurance sector. This has in turn led to a significant increase in membership numbers.

### **Advanced Practitioners and Fellows**

Further development and strengthening of the APD program has occurred with the introduction of the Advanced APD and Fellow of DAA credentials. This is a very important development and has taken several years and much careful consideration. Previously an APD could be *Provisional* (entry level, safe to practice and undertaking mentoring) or *Full* which indicated competence and ability to practice independently. This has served DAA well for the first 10 years of the program but it was clear that there needed to be a method of recognising higher level skills which could then be used by other Dietitians to identify potential mentors, by employers to identify level of practice and by the APD to

use for benchmarking against employment awards and to seek career advancement.

### **Specialist or Generalist – the dilemma**

One of the most important decisions in developing the new higher levels of recognition was whether to base them on specialisation or to develop a set of broad competencies against which any Dietitian could measure themselves whether they had worked in a specialised areas for years and were considered an expert or whether they practised at an advanced level as a generalist. DAA opted for the latter to ensure there was equitable access for all APDs and that the new levels of recognition were not seen as entry to an elitist 'club' to which some members could never aspire. This also removed the idea that just because you had worked in a particular specialty for years you could be considered to be an advanced practitioner in that area. The onus is on the APD to demonstrate that level of practice. The new APD levels now provide a framework against which APDs can develop their CPD goals and activities to progressively achieve higher levels of competence and be recognised for it.

### **Fellows First**

The highest level of recognition, Fellow, is in fact considered to be an honour rather than a credential. However one must be an APD of long and continuous standing to be considered. A Fellow will have demonstrated practice against the same competency standards as an advanced practitioner but at a much broader and higher level. DAA does not expect to honour a large number of Fellows but once they are chosen (by a panel comprising both internal and external reviewers) they will form the panel that assess applications for Advanced Practice recognition. DAA plans to announce its first Fellows at the AGM in May this year and to begin assessing advanced practice applications shortly thereafter. The post-nominals FDAA

and AdvAPD will soon start to appear against the names of Dietitians in Australia.

### **How Hours Become Minutes: American Dietetic Association Launches New Evidence Analysis Library**

Locating high-quality research studies is seldom easy and requires sifting through large amounts of material that is not always well organized and is generally written in highly technical language. It takes reviewing numerous factors to discern which are the best studies, and even the slightest difference in methodology or focus can result in conflicting results. What to do?

While dietetics professionals recognize the importance of advanced research for practice, they do not always have the extensive time it takes to gain a thorough understanding of the technical research available on a given topic. Additionally, individuals have different technical capabilities, varying degrees of access to the literature and no central database of information.

*Until now.*

ADA has developed the Evidence Analysis Library – an online compilation of the best, most relevant research on important dietetics practice subjects.

“To me the Evidence Analysis Library is one of ADA’s most exciting projects in the 25 years that I have been a member,” said Jamie Erskine, PhD, RD, associate professor at the University of Northern Colorado and a volunteer research analyst for the Library.

“It saves hours of time in conducting individual searches and evaluation of the literature for topics that are posted in the Library. And one can feel confident in the summaries and conclusions presented because an objective, systematic method of

selection of articles and evaluation of those studies has been conducted,” Erskine said.

The Evidence Analysis Library provides many valuable resources for practitioners:

- **Bibliographies** list the highest-quality research on a variety of topics.
- **Conclusion statements** provide concise statements of the sum of research on a given question.
- **Grades** designate degrees of relevance based on the quality and extensiveness of the research.
- **Evidence summaries** provide brief, narrative overviews that synthesize the major research findings on a given topic.
- **Worksheets** on every research study analyzed provide detailed information on the major findings, methodology and quality of each study.

Currently the topics in this online Library include Childhood Overweight, Hyperlipidemia and Critical Illness, as well as nutrition assessment issues such as Indirect Calorimetry, with many more topics planned for addition to the Library.

Adding a new topic to the Library takes between six and 12 months using ADA’s renowned evidence analysis process, which has been recognized by Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations as exemplary and adopted by the Food and Drug Administration for health claim assessment.

The Library allows users the flexibility to locate whatever level of detail they need on a particular topic. In some cases, familiarizing themselves with a conclusion statement and grade may suffice, where in other instances, users may want to drill down to the detail on specific studies.

The evidence analysis process is carried out by multiple teams and committees of member volunteers with advanced degrees, strong backgrounds in research and a variety of specialties.

Several such volunteers who recently attended an analyst training workshop at ADA headquarters shared why they feel the hundreds of hours they will spend reviewing research is a contribution worth making.

“All will benefit from the Library,” said Joan Pleuss, RD, MS, CDE, CD, program manager at the Bionutrition Core General Clinical Research Center at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. “It will help clinical dietitians and researchers make nutrition care decisions and respond to questions from clients and the public. Educators can locate current evidence for various medical diagnoses when teaching dietetics majors. Industry can use the information when formulating specifications for food products and dietary supplements.”

Beth Mills, MS, RD, CNSD, LDN, Dietitian in the Nutrition Services Department at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., pointed out that the Evidence Analysis Library will help bring to light which areas of dietetics need additional targeted research.

“The answers to clinical questions carry a grade for the strength of the evidence supporting the answer. If the strength of the evidence is lacking for a clinical question, researchers and industry will have clear ideas of what areas or topics need to be researched more comprehensively. I would have loved such a site to access when I was a student,” Mills said.

Michigan State University senior Jen Spilotro clearly agrees; she spent her mid-semester winter break at ADA headquarters

to assist with the Evidence Analysis Library project.

“While volunteering at ADA, I was able to observe each step in the evidence analysis process, from formulating questions to grading the conclusions made,” Spilotro said. “I was able to offer a student’s perspective to the leaders of various work groups.”

Spilotro spent her weeks reviewing the current information posted on the library, assisting the analysts with uploading information to the Library, participating in work group conference calls and helping to plan the evidence analysis training workshop.

“As a future dietetic intern, I will have many dietetic practice-related questions. The Evidence Analysis Library will give me answers to these questions as well as access to high-quality research articles supporting these conclusions,” said Spilotro.

The complete Evidence Analysis Library is an ADA member benefit that can be accessed through the research page on the member side of ADA’s Web site [http://www.eatright.org/Member/index\\_10708.cfm](http://www.eatright.org/Member/index_10708.cfm)  
Non-members can view a demonstration of part of the Library at <http://www.adaevidencelibrary.org>

### **Future Evidence Analysis Library Topics:**

- Adult Weight Management
- Congestive Heart Failure
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Diabetes Type 1 and 2
- Gestational Diabetes
- Gluten Intolerance/ Celiac Disease
- Hypertension
- Nutrition Care in Bariatric Surgery
- Oncology

- Spinal Cord Injury
- Unintended Weight Loss

## **National Association Reports**

### ***United States***

#### **Positions of the American Dietetic Association (ADA)**

An ADA's position is a statement of the Association's view on an issue, which impacts the nutritional status of the public, is derived from pertinent facts and data, and is important to the mission, vision, philosophy and values of the American Dietetic Association. ADA develops positions that reflect the Association's opinion based on current scientific information.

ADA has published several joint positions with Dietitians of Canada and the New Zealand Dietetic Association has adopted several of ADA's positions.

The newest position of ADA is "Providing nutrition services for infants, children, and adults with developmental disabilities and special health care needs." This was published in the January 2004 issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association.

Reaffirmed positions published in 2004 are:

- Use of nutritive and nonnutritive sweeteners – published in February 2004.
- Dietary guidance for healthy children aged 2-11 Years – published in April 2004.
- Functional Foods – published in May 2004.
- Nutrition and Women's Health – This is a joint position with Dietitians of Canada and was published in June 2004.

- Nutrition intervention in the care of persons with human immunodeficiency virus infection – This is a joint position with Dietitians of Canada and was published in September 2004.

There are two new positions in development: Dietary Fatty Acids and Pediatric Overweight. It is anticipated they will be published after approval in late 2005 and early 2006.

There are several ADA positions that have been reaffirmed and are currently being updated. In 2005 the following ADA reaffirmed positions will be published in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association:

- Fat Replacers
- Nutrition Across the Spectrum of Aging
- Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding
- Benchmarks for Nutrition Programs in Child Care Settings
- The Impact of Fluoride on Health
- Food Fortification and Dietary Supplements

For a complete listing of ADA's position and additional information see: [http://www.eatright.org/Public/index\\_7705.cfm](http://www.eatright.org/Public/index_7705.cfm) .

### ***Italy***

#### **Professional Position Papers**

Annalaura Fantuzzi, Ersilia Troiano  
Italian Association of Dietitians, ANDID

During 2004 the Italian Association of Dietitians, ANDID, released Professional Position Papers on some topics of interest. These documents represent the expression of the professional growth of dietitians in the main fields of the professional profile. The Position Papers regarded clinical areas (such as renal disease, diabetes and hospital

malnutrition) where a fundamental, non replaceable, role for the dietitian has been documented by the most recent scientific evidence, with reference to high quality studies performed by dietitians or by working-groups involving dietitians. The Position Papers were drawn up by groups of expert dietitians, sharing their cultural and professional heritage, acquired through the years as their own professional experience of “knowing” and “doing”, and comparing this professional experience with the best available evidence.

The goal of this important effort of the Association was to provide an authoritative and useful reference for dietitians, promoting, at the same time, the professional contribution of dietitians to medical care and to the improvement of patients’ health status.

The English version of these documents will be available from April 2005. For request, please contact ANDID (dietistiandid@virgilio.it).

## Awards

### April 2005 International Awards

The ADA Foundation is proud to be able to offer the following awards for international dietetics professionals. **The application deadline for all of the following awards is April 30, 2005.** More information is available at <http://www.adaf.org>. For an award application please contact the ADA Foundation at 800/877-1600, ext. 4803 or [epuga@eatright.org](mailto:epuga@eatright.org).

### First International Nutritionist/Dietitian (FIND) Fellowship for Study in the USA

This \$2,000 award is given to a professional, foreign dietitian or nutritionist, preferably from a developing country, to enable him or her to attend a workshop or seminar or to participate in a continuing education program or orientation project in the United

States. Priority will be given to a qualified nutritionist or dietitian who has a serious financial need and a definite goal of applying the United States experience in his or her native country.

### Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management

This \$1,000 award is given for an essay by a professional dietitian or nutritionist describing a resourceful educational food, nutrition or dietetic exchange program or study tour with an institution or organization of a foreign country. The project preferably should require little money so that it can be easily duplicated. The scheme must be effective, practical and attainable and should serve as a model with guidelines to be used for other partnerships or collaborations preferably with developing nations.

### Colgate-Palmolive Fellowship in Nutrition and Oral Health/Dental Education

This \$15,000 award will provide financial support over a two-year period for doctoral research in nutrition and oral health/dental education. The award is given on a competitive application basis to support research in nutrition, oral health or dental education by doctoral students seeking a doctorate in nutrition, oral health or dental education. The recipient of this award, a registered dietitian or international equivalent, must have as short- and long-term goals, a career in nutrition, dental or health professions education.

## Resources

### ADA’s International Membership Access to Web-Based Resources

In January 2002, the American Dietetic Association (ADA) approved the creation of a new membership category that allows

dietetics professionals from outside the United States to become members of ADA. As of February 2005, the International member category has grown to include 153 members from 43 different countries including Australia, Hong Kong, Italy, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mexico, South Korea and United Arab Emirates.

International members benefit from a monthly subscription to the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*—with easy online access, the opportunity to subscribe to *ADA Daily News*, a brief review of USA leading food, nutrition, and health headlines with links to the actual articles delivered via e-mail on weekdays, an affiliate (chapter) membership in the American Overseas Dietetic Association (AODA), access to scientific summaries on ADA's member-only web site, options to join special interest sections called dietetic practice groups (DPGs), and the opportunity to attend meetings at a discounted rate. For a complete list of the ADA international membership benefits, please check the ADA web site at <http://www.eatright.org>.

Applications are now being accepted for the June 1, 2005 – May 31, 2006 membership year. Qualifications for international membership in ADA include completion of formal training in food, nutrition or dietetics received outside the United States or U.S. Territories, verified by the country's professional dietetics association and/or national regulatory body. International membership dues are \$170 per year, plus a one-time \$25 application fee, payable in U.S. dollars.

Nutrition professionals from outside the United States who are interested in becoming ADA members can contact Mary Jawgiel at 312-899-4863 or send an e-mail to [mjawgiel@eatright.org](mailto:mjawgiel@eatright.org).

## **Nutrition Care Manual**

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) has developed a Web-based professional dietetics resource, called the Nutrition Care Manual (NCM). NCM answers the need for electronic data management in health care. It is a science-based diet manual that is accessible by individual subscribers or large organizations anywhere in the world by Internet access.

NCM promotes science-based practice by providing direct links to references and abstracts cited within the material. Sections are based on the Nutrition Care Process, which was approved by the ADA House of Delegates in 2003. Each disease topic includes multiple aspects of nutrition care including risk factors, lab values, anthropometrics, nutrition diagnosis, nutrition prescription and intervention and nutrition support.

More than 150 nutrition experts from across the United States have contributed to the creation of NCM as authors or reviewers. NCM will be revised on an annual basis in keeping with a major goal for NCM; that of supporting clinical practice by providing current science and best-practice information to dietetics professionals.

NCM is available for demonstration or for subscription at [www.nutritioncaremanual.org](http://www.nutritioncaremanual.org)

## **The ADAF Directory of Resources for International Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics Professionals**

The American Dietetic Association Foundation (ADAF) has recently released the third edition of this free directory. This resource is made possible by Ms. Alice A. Wimpfheimer, MS, RD, CDN through the *Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for*

*International Exchange in Nutrition,  
Dietetics and Management.*

This 100-page directory is designed for use by practitioners, graduates with baccalaureate (or equivalent), or graduate degrees in nutrition (biomedical), food, dietetics, public health, agriculture, foodservice management, food science, food science technology and related areas. Individuals pursuing a professional degree, or professionals who are seeking continuing education, training or work experience nationally or internationally will find this directory helpful. Contact information and general guidelines for numerous organizations that offer financial assistance for studies in the United States and other countries is provided.

To obtain your free copy of the *Directory of Resources for International Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics Professionals*, visit the ADA website at <http://www.eatright.org> then click on "International."

Please provide ADAF with any additional or new information on awards, scholarships, fellowships or grants that become available and are appropriate for listing in this directory.

**ADAF International Directory of Nutrition,  
Dietetics, Foodservice Management and  
Health Sciences Collaborations**

The American Dietetic Association Foundation (ADAF) recently released the third edition of the free comprehensive global directory of nutrition, dietetics, foodservice management and health sciences collaborations. This resource is made possible through the *Wimpfheimer-Guggenheim Fund for International Exchange in Nutrition, Dietetics and Management.*

Originating in 1999, this project seeks to document international collaborative relationships existing within US colleges, universities and other organizations sponsoring entry-level dietetics education programs accredited/approved by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association. In addition, other international community collaborative relationships are included.

It is anticipated that additional collaborations exist and will want to be listed. Some institutions or organizations may be interested in forming partnerships.

For further information and to obtain your free copy of the *Directory of Nutrition Dietetics, Foodservice Management and Health Sciences Collaborations*, visit ADA's website at <http://www.eatright.org> then click on "International."

## **Calendar of Events**

### **9-10 June 2005, Health Improvement – Allied Professions Impacting on World Health**

Edinburg, UK  
<http://conventionmanagement.co.uk>

### **14-16 June 2005, British Dietetic Association Conference**

Cardiff, UK  
<http://www.bda.uk.com/BDAC2005.html>

### **10-13 August 2005, National Congress of Nutritionists**

Santiago, Chile  
<http://www.nutricionistasdechile.cl/congreso.html>

**22-25 October 2005, American Dietetic Association Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo**

St. Louis, Missouri

<http://www.eatright.org/Public/ConferencesAndEvents/96.cfm>

**1-4 March 2006, 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism**

Merida, Yucatan, Mexico

<http://www.isrnm-merida2006.org/start.htm>

**23-26 April 2006, The 4th Asian Congress of Dietetics**

Manila, Philippines

Asian Congress of Dietetics  
Nutritionist-Dietitians' Association of the Philippines, Inc.  
Unit 1106 Herrera Tower, Rufino Corner  
Valero Sts. Salcedo Village,  
Makati City 1227, Philippines  
Email: ndap@I-next.net  
Tel: 632 845 1651 Fax: 632 753 3598

**8-11 September 2008, 15th International Congress of Dietetics**

Yokohama, Japan

Theme - Global Dietetic Linkage and Cooperation for Human Health

The Japan Dietetic Association  
1-39, Kanda-Jinbocho, Chiyoda-ku,  
Tokyo, 101-0051 Japan  
Fax: +81-3-3295-5165  
Website: <http://www.dietitian.or.jp>  
E-mail: webmaster@dietitian.or.jp

**16-19 September 2006, American Dietetic Association Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo**

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

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To apply for membership, contact ICDA Secretariat, Dietitians of Canada, 480 University Ave, Suite 604, Toronto, Ontario, M5G1V2, Canada; phone 1 416 596 0857; fax 1 416 596-0603; or use Contact Us at [www.internationaldietetics.org](http://www.internationaldietetics.org) and select ICDA Office

Editor: Carole Middleton, British Dietetic Association, can be contacted through Contact Us at [www.internationaldietetics.org](http://www.internationaldietetics.org) and select Newsletter.