

The Year in Review



Martha Peppones

The new millennium represents a significant milestone in the history of the Gerontological Nutritionists Dietetic Practice Group as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. Throughout the years, GN has grown to be one of the largest practice groups in the American Dietetic Association and has provided members with professional and timely information.

The accomplishments outlined in this annual report illustrate the active role GN members have taken to help meet the challenges of the rapidly growing field of gerontological nutrition. By sharing ideas and research, GN helps dietetic practitioners maintain the competitive edge in this era of rapid growth of the elderly population.

A **strategic planning session** was held in June 1999 to set the direction for GN. The three major key linkages that were identified are with GN members, other Dietetic Practice Groups, and Policymakers. The strategic plan will be revised in 2000-2001 to match the new plan by ADA.

GN had a successful meeting in Atlanta at the **1999 Annual Meeting and Exhibition**. The well attended major session, "Towards a Society for All Ages: Nutrition in the International Year of the Older Adult", featured speakers Nancy Wellman PhD, RD; Robert Russell MD; and David Thomas MD. The session was sponsored by the National Dairy Council. GN also participated in the DPG showcase and held a well-attended Members Business Meeting.

GN and the Administration on Aging co-sponsored a **post-ADA workshop** titled "Nutrition and Aging: Building Successful Partnerships". Held on the Friday following Annual Meeting, there were approximately 100 in attendance. Very positive evaluations were received and plans are underway for a similar workshop in 2000.

After much effort and work, a new publication was made available at the Bookmart at the Annual Meeting and Exhibition. Written by GN members Kathrynne Holden MS, RD; and Valentina Remig PhD, RD, LD, FADA, **Parkinson's Disease: Assessing and Managing Unique Nutrition Needs** is approved for 3 CPE Hours for RDs and DTRs. The self-study guide provides dietetics practitioners with the knowledge and skills required to assess and manage the unique nutritional needs of affected individuals.

The GN **Lending Library** mailed out lending items to 35 members since August 1999. All names were added to the "Get Connected" mailing list. Two additional videos from the Peanut Institute have been acquired that will be added to the lending library.



GN Board members, Kathy Stroh (left) and Barbara Woodhouse (right) talk with a prospective member at the ADA DPG Showcase.

The **GN Newsletter** continues to be a significant member benefit. To meet some of the strategies in the strategic plan, four new members were published this year with acknowledgement. They were Mickey Bielamowicz, Edith Graybill, Susan Saffel-Shrier, and Linda Bobroff. A Nutrition Education Aid contest was conducted in the fall of 1999. Winners were Katie Salstrom and Danielle Lipparelli, students at the University of Washington for their Calcium Facts entry. The GN newsletter editors implemented a copyright agreement and have guidelines for feature articles.

Through the **Awards Committee**, GN offers several awards as a member benefit. Two Speaker Stipend Awards of up to \$500 each are available. GN granted one award to Becky Lind, representing the NC-FH Area Agency on Aging to present at the NANASP conference in June. Two Jancier Green Continuing Education Awards are also available. One was awarded this year to Cheryl Meskus to attend the Nutrition and Aging conference in September 1999. There were no requests received for the Distinguished Service Award which has a cash award of \$500.

The **Legislative Committee** kept on top of pertinent legislation this year and informed members through the legislative column for the GN newsletter. Several GN members also attended ADA's Legislative and Public Policy workshop in March 2000. During the year, GN assisted the ADA Government Affairs office in preparing testimony for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

The **Nominating Committee** developed a slate of officers for 2000-2001 program year and offered an incentive of a Palm Pilot to increase voting participation. Elected officers are: Nancy Trebella, Chair-elect; Adele Huls, Treasurer; Deborah Kemokai-Wright, PC Long-Term Care; Kristin Hastings, PC Home and Community Based Care; Audrey McCool, Nominating Chair-elect.

The **Gerontological Nutritionists Standards of Professional Practice** for dietetics professionals working with older adults were published in the July 1999 issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association. The **Quality Management Committee** is also investigating other avenues to offer advanced training and guidelines for GN members.

GN's **Practice Coordinators** participated in a variety of activities including participating in all board meetings and communications, writing newsletter articles, reviewing abstracts for ADA Annual Meeting, and communicating with "Get Connected" persons.

The **Alliance Committee** was active during this year of transition at ADA. The committee chair attended alliance workshops at AME 1999 which outlined some of the plans for handling alliances in the future. New alliance representatives were recruited and articles about our alliance partners were featured in the newsletter. Our proposed alliance with the Parkinson's Association is still pending approval from ADA.

Workshop Presentations Continue
GN continued with its Chemical Dependency workshop presentations around the country. It was presented in June 1999 at the Arizona Dietetic Association Annual Meeting and in May 2000 at the California Dietetic Association Annual Meeting. At these meetings, over 250 dietetics professionals learned about the incidences of chemical dependency in older adults and the role of nutrition in treatment.

Mission:

The Gerontological Nutritionists DPG is the advocate of the dietetic professional serving the public through the promotion of optimal nutrition, health, and well-being.

GN Executive Committee 1999-2000
Chair: Martha Peppones, MS, RD

Immediate Past Chair:
Marilyn Abernethy, DrPH, RD

Chair-elect: Barbara Woodhouse, RD, LD

Secretary: Cathy Gendreau, RD, LD

Treasurer: Nancy Trebella, RD

Practice Coordinators

Home and Community Based Care:
Kathy Stroh, MS, RD

Facility Based Long Term Care:
Edith Graybill, RD

Education/Research:
Susan Saffel-Shrier, MS, RD, CD

Food Systems Management:
Marnie Cranston, RD, LN

Committee Chairs

Alliance: Floristene Johnson, MS, RD, LN

Awards: Cheryl Meskus, RD

Display: Trish Welch, RD, PhD

Fundraising: JoAnn Prophet, MS, RD

Legislative: Amy Nickerson, MS, RD
and Valentina Remig, PhD, RD, FADA

Nominating Chair: Bonnie Athas, RD

Nominating Chair-elect:
Dian Weddle, PhD, RD

Quality Assurance: Valentina Remig,
PhD, RD, FADA

Newsletter Coordinating Editor:
Dalna McKeon, MS, RD

Newsletter Circulating Editor:
Sherri Hinde, RD

Newsletter Feature Editor: Karen
Chapman-Novakofski, RD PhD

Webster: Carolee Stephens

ADA Practice Team Partner:
Aurelia McCoy, MBA, RD, LD

CPI Representative: Marty Yadrick,
MS, MBA, RD

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GN website
<http://trc.ucdavis.edu/gerinutr/>

ADA website
<http://www.eatright.org>



About GN

The Gerontological Nutritionists Dietetic Practice Group had a membership of 2406 registered dietitians and dietetic technicians registered who are interested in gerontology and nutrition. We are employed in a variety of settings including but not limited to:

- hospitals
- adult day care facilities
- government agencies
- senior nutrition programs
- education & research facilities
- long-term care facilities
- home health agencies
- community nutrition programs
- home delivered meals programs

As a group we are involved in a variety of projects such as advocating for legislative issues related to aging and nutrition, developing nutrition standards for community practice, and strengthening our own member network.

Get Connected

The success of GN's Strategic Plan requires the active involvement and expertise of our membership. In 1997, GN began expanding our member networking by focusing on areas of practice, rather than limiting member networking to geographic areas. The four GN areas of practice are Facility-Based Long-Term Care, Home and Community-Based Care, Education/Research and Food Systems Management.

Through the "Get Connected" program, members are linked to the GN Practice Coordinator for their area of practice. As a GN practice contact, members may be asked to develop a newsletter article, comment on state and national legislation, develop educational tools and programs or serve on a GN committee. This involvement will help achieve the goals of the GN dietetic practice group as well as provide many opportunities for professional growth. More information on Get Connected is available on the GN website.

Alliance Partners

- AARP
- Administration on Aging
- Meals on Wheels Association of America
- National Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs
- National Council on Aging
- National Resource & Policy Center on Aging

Fundraising

In 1999-2000, GN received funding and support from the National Dairy Council, Computrition, Inc., Menu Systems, Inc., Novartis, The Peanut Institute, Unifiber, and Biotechnology General Pharmaceutical.

ADA Mission

The American Dietetic Association promotes optimal nutrition and well-being for all people by advocating for its members.

ADA Vision

American Dietetic Association members are the leading source of food and nutrition services.



Board members discuss GN's strategic plan for 2001.



Mr. Peanut greets Sam and JoAnn Pegues (past GN chair and CPI delegate) at "A Celebration of Americans from Fifty Forward" reception hosted by the Peanut Institute at the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta.

Financial Report

In fiscal year 1999-2000, total expenditures were \$66,639 or 90% of the amount budgeted. A complete Treasurer's Report will be presented at the Food and Nutrition Conference and Exhibition in October in Denver.

These activities are expensed to the following categories:

Member Services:

- Newsletter: 4 issues a year
- Practice coordinators: membership resource file & network
- GN website and electronic mailing list
- Legislative affairs
- GN Awards: Joncier Green & Speaker Stipend Awards
- AV lending library
- Alliance coordination
- Continuing Education: develop & sponsor workshops

Administrative Expenses:

- Conduct business for members
- Teleconference calls
- Development of strategic plan

Meetings:

Annual Meeting & Exhibition:

- Display at showcase
- Business meeting
- Major session
- Reception

Spring Meeting:

- Board member orientation
- Strategic plan development
- Work assignments for coming year

