

HISTORY OF GERONTOLOGICAL NUTRITIONIST DIETETIC PRACTICE GROUP

FOUNDERS

Dorothy Diggins
Caroline Van Mason
Janette Martin
Boringuen Lugton
Christine Frysztacki
Joncier Green
Ramona Higging
Ruth Mumma
Rita Tanski

Membership:

1978 – 207
1981 – 531
1983 – 860
1984 – 1300
1987 – 1729
1990 – 2000
1994 – 2482
2000 – 2466

1977 Fifty ADA members sign a petition requesting approval by ADA of a specialty interest group in gerontological nutrition.

1978 First organized meeting is held at Las Vegas AME.

1981 GN Works with ITT Continental Baking Company and ADA to sponsor a "Nutrition & Aging Convocation".

1983 GN responds to the Amendment to the Older Americans Act Regulations. GN develops an issue paper for ADA on the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. GN forms its first alliance with the National Health Screening Council for Volunteer Organizations.

1984 GN, with the Governmental Affairs Office, distributed an issue paper on Nutrition and Aging. GN publishes with ADA a Position Statement on Older Americans Act Reauthorization.

1978-1979 Volunteers work to formalize the group by writing by-laws and obtaining a slate of officers. Dues were \$4.

1980 Joncier Greene becomes chair. GN presents its first major AME session, "Nutrition Education for the Elderly Project". Regular newsletter service began. GN adopts a resolution regarding the 1981 White House Conference on Aging and develops a nutritionist position description.

1982 GN sponsors its first workshop "Expanding Horizons for Nutrition and the Elderly" in San Antonio. Nominating Coordinators from the 4 ADA Areas were added to the GN ballot. ADA and GN jointly publish "Nutrition Services for Older Americans; Foodservice Systems & Technologies," coauthored by Audrey McCool and Barbara Posner.

1985 GN assists ADA with the first Position Paper: Nutrition, Aging, and The Continuum of Health Care. GN adds three more Regional Coordinators, making it one from each of seven areas.

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1986 GN publishes *Standards of Practice for Gerontological Nutritionists* in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*.

1987 GN hosts its first AME reception in Atlanta.

1988 The Joncier Greene Memorial Lecture *Nutrition and Cancer Risk* is presented by Louise Light, National Cancer Institute, at AME in San Francisco.
GN produces its first membership brochure.

1989 There is standing room only at GN's major AME session on Nutrition, Exercise, and Aging, in Kansas City.
GN announces its Joncier Greene Continuing Education Award program making funds available to help cover expenses for educational events.
GN develops its first traveling portable exhibit.
GN authors Linda Shoaf and Helen Jensen publish *Inclusion of Geriatric Nutrition in ADA Approved Undergraduate Programs*, in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, Sept.

1990 Kay Bishirjian, GN Regional Coordinator, testifies for Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.
GN members Audrey McCool, Mary Tonore, and Nancy Wellman (chair) serve on ADA's Nutrition Screening Initiative Steering Committee with 35 key health organizations.
GN implements its speakers stipend award to promote GN speakers at related meetings

1991 GN members Kay Bishirjian and Connie Codispoti meet with the Senate Special Committee on Aging as part of ADA's delegation to recommend changes in the Older Americans Act. Audrey McCool, GN past-chair, receives ADA's Award of Excellence in Community Nutrition. Eleanor Schlenker receives GN's first Distinguished Service Award, presented at AME in Dallas. Other recipients have included Joe Carlin, 1990; JoAnn Prophet, 1992; Linda Shoaf, 1994. And Marily Abernethy, 2000.
GN publishes *Guide to Effective Menu Planning for the Elderly Nutrition Program*.

1992 GN establishes formal alliances (for ADA) with the National Nutrition and Aging Services Programs and the National Association of Meal Programs (now Meals on Wheels America). Since then GN has made and maintains six alliances.

1993 GN develops its Lending Library.
GN publishes research project *Need, Availability, and Outcomes of Nutrition Services for the Aged*

1994 GN publishes "*Standards of practice for Gerontological Nutritionists*" in *Journal of American Dietetic Association*.

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1996 GN establishes precedent among DPGs by converting to elected Practice Coordinators to replace Area Coordinators.

1998 GN posts its own web site on the Internet: <http://trc.ucdavis.edu/gerinutr/>
GN participates in the development of ADA's "The Nutrition and Health for Older Americans" Campaign and accompanying Toolkit with the Food Guide Pyramid for Persons 50 Plus.

2000 GN implements its Nutrition Education Materials Development Grant for members.

1997 GN sponsors workshops "Removing the Masks of Alcohol and Chemical Dependency among Older Adults" which was subsequently presented 10 times. GN members Kay Bishirjian and Sylvia Escott-Stump receive ADA Medallion Awards at AME in Boston. GN sponsors its first Nutrition Education Aid contest won by a Massachusetts graduate student.

1999 GN publishes its "Standards of Professional Practice for Gerontological Nutritionists" in the *Journal of the American Dietetic Association*, July.
GN announces its own electronic mailing list, "GNlist" at ADA AME in Atlanta.
GN publishes with ADA continuing education module "Nutrition and Parkinson's Disease"
GN co-sponsors a post-ADA workshop "Nutrition in Aging: Building Successful Partnerships."

- Past Chairs:**
- 1980 Joncier Greene
 - 1981-82 Linda Hoops
 - 1982-83 Dorothy Diggins
 - 1983-84 Barbara Posner
 - 1984-85 Audrey McCool
 - 1985-86 JoAnn Pegues
 - 1986-87 Mary Pat Howley
 - 1987-88 Eleanor Schlenker
 - 1988-89 Joe Carlin
 - 1989-90 Mary Tonore
 - 1990-91 Linda Shoaf
 - 1991-92 Linda Netterville
 - 1992-93 Kay Bishirjian
 - 1993-94 Eunshil Shim
 - 1994-95 Barbara Blocker
 - 1995-97 Eileen Kutnick
 - 1997-98 JoAnn Prophet
 - 1998-99 Marilyn Abernethy
 - 1999-00 Martha Peppones
 - 2000-01 Barbara Woodhouse

Alliances: AoA, AARP, NCOA, NAMP (MOWA), NANASP, National Resource & Policy Center for Nutr and Aging at FIU

GN Web Site:
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