

PNPG 2019 Award Winners

Outstanding Member of the Year



PNPG is proud to announce our 2018 Outstanding Member of the Year, **Holly A. Van Poots, RDN, CSP, FAND**. Holly's training of RDNs in the practice of nutrition focused physical examination in the assessment of the nutritional status of the pediatric patient population has been instrumental in moving this practice into the mainstream of practice for the pediatric dietitian. Holly has served PNPG in numerous leadership roles: PNPG Delegate, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' House of Delegates, PNPG Chair, PNPG Building Block for Life Editor, and PNPG Post Editor. Her commitment to pediatric nutrition continues through her efforts to support the work of the PNPG malnutrition committee. In addition, Holly works to support specialty certification through her participation as Subject Matter Expert for Pediatric Specialty Exam Development and Review for the Commission on Dietetic Registration. Congratulations Holly and thank you for all of your dedication and service to pediatric nutrition!

Pre-Professional Practice Scholarship



PNPG is proud to announce that the Pre-Professional Practice Scholarship was awarded to **Simona Lourekas, CHES, MS**. Simona graduated with a Master of Science in Nutrition from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA in May 2018. She is currently in her second year of her Brigham and Women's Hospital Dietetic Internship. Simona has had multiple pediatric nutrition practice work experiences. She worked as a pediatric nutritionist at the Baystate Children's Hospital outpatient weight management treatment program (MIGHTY). She taught nutrition education classes, food demonstrations, planned events, created bulletin boards and handouts as well as meeting with families with the MIGHTY team. She created and texted families a "recipe of the week" and hosted a weekly taste test. Simona also served as a research assistant at the University of Massachusetts on a NIH funded longitudinal study examining peer influence mechanisms in weight related behaviors of adolescents (FAST study). She is interested in pursuing a career as a pediatric dietitian. Congratulations Simona!

Research Grant Award



Congratulations to **Dr. Sina Gallo, PhD, RD**, who was selected to receive the PNPG Research Grant Award for her project entitled "A Pilot Study of 3rd-Grade Children's Dietary Recall Accuracy: Body Mass Index and Quantified vs. Non-Quantified Interviews." Accurate assessment of children's dietary intake is critical to understand the relationship between dietary behaviors and health. Dr. Gallo will be conducting a pilot validity study of the effects of BMI and quantification for children in multiple grades to improve assessment of dietary intake of elementary school-aged children. The proposed project may advance understanding of dietary assessment of elementary school-aged children and alter methods used by national surveys and researchers to more accurately assess intake. Dr. Gallo is an assistant professor in Food and Nutrition Studies at George Mason University and is trained in children's bone health and clinical trials; and more recently she has focused on pediatric weight programs for ethnic minorities. We congratulate Dr. Gallo on this award and look forward to seeing her results!

Recognized Neonatal RDN Award



Congratulations to **Amy Sapsford, RD, CSP, LD, CNSC** our inaugural recipient of PNPG's Recognized Neonatal RDN Award. Amy's focus for her entire career has been Neonatal Nutrition beginning at Dayton Children's in 1983 and moving on to Cincinnati Children's in 1990 until now. She co-authored the first Nutritional Care for High Risk Newborns (blue) book in the mid 1980's with her Ohio Neonatal Nutritionists colleagues and contributed multiple chapters to the 2 subsequent (Red Book) editions. She went on to co-author the Enteral Nutrition chapter of the AND NICU Nutrition Handbook and she co-authored the first two AND Human Milk chapters for the Infant Feedings book. Amy served as a Content Item Writing Specialist for the CSP exam for CDR for many years including conversion from the simulation exam to the computerized version. She also participated in the development of the practice surveys and content outlines using the Nutrition Care Process. Amy has served PNPG as a member of the Ad Hoc Discharge Formula Preparation committee, PNPG Web Coordinator and as a reviewer for PNPG Building Blocks for Life. Congratulations Amy and thank you for all of your dedication and service to neonatal and pediatric nutrition!