

# Pediatric Nutrition

a dietetic practice group of the  
 Academy of Nutrition  
and Dietetics

Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Members of the Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group,

The impacts of racism are devastating and far-reaching. For some, this issue has been brought to the forefront by the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and Rayshard Brooks by police officers. For others, enduring the effects of racism, discrimination, and inequality is part of daily life. PNPG recognizes this time of crisis and commits to being actively anti-racist while striving to improve diversity and inclusion within our organization now and for years to come.

What we look like as an organization does not mirror the children and families that we serve. According to figures from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Commission on Dietetics Registration, the number of reporting RDNs identifying as non-white is less than 19% and a critical look at the PNPG volunteer leadership team reflects a similar trend. We can do better.

Inclusivity is a core value of our organization and integral to achieving our [mission](#) – leading the future of pediatric nutrition through education, research, service, and policy/advocacy. Addressing systemic racism and reducing health disparities is not only a problem of Black Americans and members of other marginalized groups, but of our entire community. We must work together to make meaningful change.

Last week, over 150 DPG and MIG leaders, including many PNPG leaders, signed on in support of a letter calling for improved inclusion, transparency and accountability within the dietetics community. That letter reached the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics CEO, Academy Board of Directors, Academy Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Planning Task Force, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics, and the Commission on Dietetic Registration. There are several opportunities for PNPG members to engage with Academy Leadership on these issues: share your thoughts and suggestions via [this survey link](#) or consider [completing this form](#) to participate in the Health Equity and Diversity Advocacy Group.

Open dialogue is paramount in achieving lasting change. Connect with volunteer [PNPG Executive Committee](#) members to share your thoughts, ask questions, or learn how you can

become more involved. We want to hear from you! Members can utilize the community discussion board as a platform to engage in conversation about racism, diversity, and inclusion in pediatric nutrition. We've started a thread, [here](#), as a starting point. Additionally, all may join us in participating in the #DietitiansforBLM social media campaign which kicked off earlier this week.

Policy and advocacy is another area in which we all can make a difference. Click [here](#) to ask members of Congress to provide \$300 million in funding for minority-serving institutions that would support allied health programs, including nutrition and dietetics, in coordination with the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education. As a continued commitment to expand our advocacy efforts as a practice group, PNPG voted to increase financial support for its policy efforts this year. Let us know if you're interested in joining our public policy team or would like to learn more.

PNPG's professional development team is currently exploring options to develop original educational content related to diversity and inclusion. They are also accepting webinar proposals (stipend provided) from individuals and organizations on topics that support the PNPG mission. In the meantime, check out existing relevant [resources and information](#) from the Academy including free CPEUs.

As you review your Academy membership for the new year, please consider connecting and supporting the [Member Interest Groups](#). Reminder that the Academy membership payment plan is available for members who may need financial support during these trying times.

We truly hope to hear from you. Reach out to any member of the [PNPG Executive Committee](#) or [contact us via this link](#) to share your thoughts or if you're interested in being part of the public policy team, submitting webinars or other authored pieces for professional development, participating in member support efforts, supporting special projects, or would like to be considered for an elected position, appointed position or award with PNPG.

In solidarity,

The Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group