

# Engaging Members in Research

## HOD Fact Sheet

House of Delegates

Spring 2014

### HOD Fact Sheet: Outcomes of the Spring 2014 HOD Virtual Meeting

The House of Delegates (HOD) conducted a virtual dialogue on Engaging Members in Research on May 3-4, 2014. Over 119 delegates and interested Academy members convened via WebEx and teleconference to discuss this mega issue over two days. The backgrounder is available on the Academy Website at [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod) >Spring 2014 HOD Virtual Meeting> Meeting Materials. Prior to the meeting, delegates conducted a dialogue on what they or their constituents are already doing in research and how they or their constituents see themselves contributing to research in the future. This fact sheet provides a summary of the outcomes of the meeting.

The purpose of the dialogue session was for delegates and meeting participants to:

1. Increase members' awareness of Academy research resources.
2. Recognize various ways members are utilizing and contributing to research.
3. Develop a plan to empower members (at all practice levels) to use, participate in and/or conduct research to benefit the profession and the public.
4. Identify ways that members can build a professional culture that encourages and embraces research.
5. Advocate for resources to conduct research.

During the meeting, the House of Delegates completed the following activities:

1. Identified current attitudes towards research;
2. Identified behaviors and behavior changes needed to cultivate and strengthen participation in research;
3. Identified a vision for future research and outcomes;
4. Identified actions that delegates and members can take to encourage integration of research activities into the professional culture of nutrition and dietetics.

### Overview of the Process for Conducting this Dialogue Session

The purpose of the House of Delegates is to govern the profession of dietetics. As part of the House's role in governing the profession, the following steps were taken for conducting the dialogue session on Engaging Members in Research.

1. Released a backgrounder on the topic for dialogue on February 6. The backgrounder "Engaging Members in Research" was released to the HOD and the membership.
2. Solicited input to the backgrounder: Delegates were asked to submit information on what they and their constituents are currently doing in research and how they see themselves contributing to research in the future. Delegates posted their feedback, as well as the feedback from their members between February 20 and April 30. These comments can be reviewed on the HOD Website at [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod) >Spring 2014 HOD Virtual Meeting> Meeting Materials.
3. Conducted a dialogue on the topic.

4. Dialogue workbooks were consolidated and released to the HOD and membership at [www.eatright.org/hod](http://www.eatright.org/hod) >Spring 2014 HOD Virtual Meeting> Meeting Materials.
5. At the end of the dialogue session, one motion was developed pertaining to Engaging Members in Research. Two other motions, Academy Bylaws Amendment and a Proposed Position Concept, were also developed following the Spring 2014 HOD Virtual Meeting.

#### **What are the next steps following the HOD Meeting?**

As a result of the Spring 2014 HOD Virtual meeting, three motions were developed and approved by the HOD. The HOD requests:

- The Council on Research to develop a concrete plan to engage members in research, which includes an outcome measures component. The plan will empower members at all practice levels and all practice areas to successfully use; participate in and/or conduct research; effectively connect members to existing research resources; recognize members' contributions to research; and create a strong culture of research for the profession.
- The Academy Bylaws be amended to include the Past Treasurer on the Board of Directors and the term of office for a Public Member to change to three (3) years to ensure consistency in the terms of office for Board of Directors members.
- The Academy develop the proposed position concept, "The Role of the RDN and Nutrition Therapy in the Prevention and Treatment of Pre-Diabetes and Diabetes" as presented for development of an Academy position paper by the Academy Positions Committee.

The Council on Research is requested to submit preliminary and final reports to the House of Delegates by fall 2014 and spring 2015. The Academy Bylaws Amendment will be effective June 6, 014. The House Leadership Team will monitor progress on the development of the position paper on behalf of the House of Delegates.

Watch for further updates on this Spring HOD Meeting topic. Please feel free to contact your delegate to learn more ([link to the Online Directory for HOD](#)).