


 Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

## Promoting Trust in Nutrition and Dietetics

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## Disclosure

Employee of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics


Member of the American Council on Exercise Scientific Advisory Panel  
 Member of the Executive Committee of the International Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism

Member of the Healthy Eating Research Expert Panel on Beverages for Children 0 to 5

Grants:

- ✓ Academy of Nutrition and Dietetic Foundation Grant to Validate the MCC diagnostic tool
- ✓ General Mills Foundation Grant – develop and test a community level tool on food security


2/25/19

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## Presentation Outline

- ✓ Discuss Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Scientific Integrity Principals
- ✓ Discuss efforts with managing bias, transparency and accuracy
- ✓ Evidence Analysis Center, building trust with evidence and transparency

2/25/19



**FROM THE ACADEMY**

## A Unifying Vision for Scientific Decision Making: The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' Scientific Integrity Principles


Kelly A. Tappenden, PhD, RDN; on behalf of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Council on Research

**ABSTRACT**

In 2014, recognizing the need to have a single document to guide scientific decision making at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (Academy), the Council on Research was charged with developing a scientific integrity policy for the organization. From the Council on Research, four members volunteered to lead this workgroup, which reviewed the literature and best practices for scientific integrity from well-respected organizations, including federal funders of research. It became clear that the scope of this document would be quite broad, given the many scientific activities the Academy is involved in, and that it would be unreasonable to set policy for each of these many situations. Therefore, the workgroup set about defining the scope of scientific activities to be covered and envisioned a set of guiding principles, to which policies from every organizational unit of the Academy could be compared to ensure they were in alignment. While many relevant policies exist already, such as the requirement of a signed conflict of interest disclosure for Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo speakers, the Evidence Analysis Library funding policy, and the Academy's sponsorship policy, the scientific integrity principles are unique in that they provide a unifying vision to which future policies can be compared and approved based on their alignment with the principles. The six principles outlined in this article were approved by the full Council on Research in January 2015 and approved by the Academy's Board of Directors in March 2015. This article covers the scope of the principles, presents the principles and existing related resources, and outlines next steps for the Academy to review and revise current policies and create new ones in alignment with these principles.

J Acad Nutr Diet. 2015;115:1486-1490.

JAND 2015:115:1486-1490


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## Clarity to Research: What is a scientific activity?


Note that scientific activities go far beyond conducting research and deals with dissemination as well, so most DPGs are involved in a scientific activity.

Conducting research (intramural)	Funding scientific activities (extramural)	Disseminating science (to public/profession)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRN</li> <li>• EAC</li> <li>• ANDHII</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• QI projects</li> <li>• Program evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation grants</li> <li>• DPG/MIG grants</li> <li>• Contracts to research organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Media</li> <li>• Position/practice papers</li> <li>• CPE offerings</li> <li>• Research reports</li> <li>• Guidelines</li> <li>• Public education</li> <li>• Conferences</li> </ul>

JAND 2015:115:1486-1490

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## Scientific Integrity Principles



JAND 2015:115:1486-1490

### I-Ethical Conduct of Research

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*Research conducted or funded by the Academy or its foundation should be held to the highest ethical standards.*

- Intramural/extramural research activities (ie doing research and giving grants for research)
- Human subjects' protections required
  - IRB approval
  - Responsible conduct of research
  - Research ethics training
- QI projects included

JAND 2015;115:1486-1490

### II-Publication of Research

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*Every effort should be made to publish research conducted or funded by the Academy, regardless of funding source or outcome. No funders or funding agreements may limit the ability to publish.*

- Intramural/extramural research activities
- Publication should be submitted even if expected results not achieved.
- Assure grants to/from the Academy don't limit publication

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### III-Funder's Influence on Research Question/Education Content

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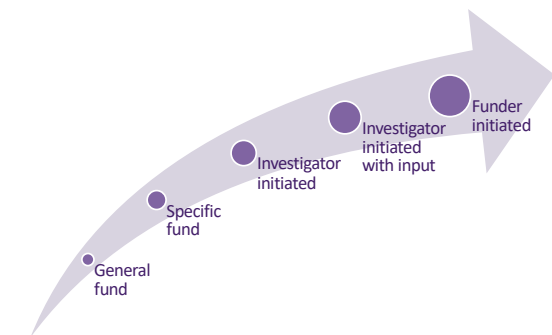
*The influence of the funder on the research question and methodology must be differentiated and disclosed. Policies must be developed to determine where on this continuum is acceptable, which may vary for the type of project proposed.*

- Intramural/extramural research activities
- EAL study indicates funding source does not affect research outcomes in nutrition studies
- Continuum in type of relationship influence

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### Opportunity for Influence Based on Funding for Scientific Activities

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### IV-Funding of Professional/Practice Education

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*Funding of professional education should be considered on a continuum similar to the presented for research projects. Policies must be developed to determine where on this continuum it is acceptable. Disclosure is of critical importance.*

- Professional education can influence practice
- Relevant to nutrition supplement or food products

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### V-Funding of Public Education

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*Funding source for public education should be disclosed in a way that is understandable to the public.*

- Dissemination activities
- Funders should not control content of materials, unless their expertise or instructions are the best source of information

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## VI-Disclosure of Funding Source and Conflicts of interest

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*All scientific activities should have a clear disclosure of funding source and the influence the funding source had on all aspects of the projects, as well as potential conflicts by presenters and developers.*

- Intramural, extramural and dissemination activities
- Disclosure concept relates to all 6 principles
- Not limited to financial and relational conflicts

JAND 2015;115:1486-1490

## Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND) efforts to Promote Transparency, Accuracy and COI

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It's extremely difficult to control how the news media and other outlets report on research, but the JAND does its best to make the research as accurate as possible so that it is less likely to be misinterpreted or misrepresented.

JAND follows the recommendations and procedures from established research and publishing bodies:

- ✓ International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) – provides guidance and recommendations on authorship, conflict of interest, and transparency
- ✓ AMA Manual of Style – provides guidance on research and publishing requirements and presentation
- ✓ Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) – provides case studies, flowcharts, and recommendations for dealing with potential ethics violations (such as undisclosed conflicts of interest).
- ✓ World Association of Medical Editors – provides a forum to discuss best practices in publishing peer-reviewed medical journals

## Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND) efforts to Promote Transparency, Accuracy and COI

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### Author Requirements

JAND authors must meet all four recommendations of the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors to be considered an author:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

### Transparency

JAND requires and publishes the following information:

- Funding/support
- Any and all potential conflicts of interest
- Author contributions to the work

## Journal of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND) efforts to Promote Transparency, Accuracy and COI

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### Rigorous Research Requirements

Since 2006, the JAND Board of Editors Statistics Team has been developing articles on conducting nutrition research and methodology. To date, JAND has published a collection of **15 articles**, with more on the way concerning the best practices for conducting nutrition research.

### Peer Review Process

50 Board of Editors members from around the globe.

Large repository of expert reviewers that adhere to highest standards of the peer review process.

- Among many other things, insure that conclusions in published articles make sense given the findings so they are less likely to be misinterpreted or misrepresented.

### Study Design Checklists

- Provide guidance to the authors on what may be required for certain study designs and articles.
- Indicate to reviewers where and how article requirements are addressed in the articles, and if not, why this information isn't included.



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## Development of Normative Documents from the Academy

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### Evolving the Academy Position Paper Process: Commitment to Evidence-Based Practice

Deepa Handu, PhD, RD, LDN; Lisa Moloney, MS, RD; Mary R. Rizzo, PhD, RD; Feon Cheng, PhD, MPH, RD, QHTS CP; Donna Wilkstrom, MS, RD; Antonia Accola

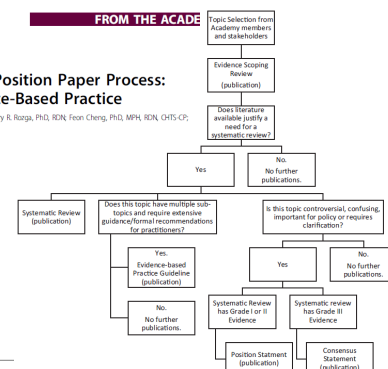
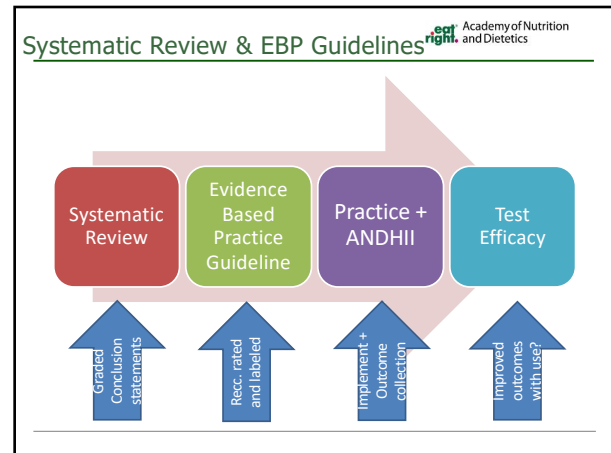
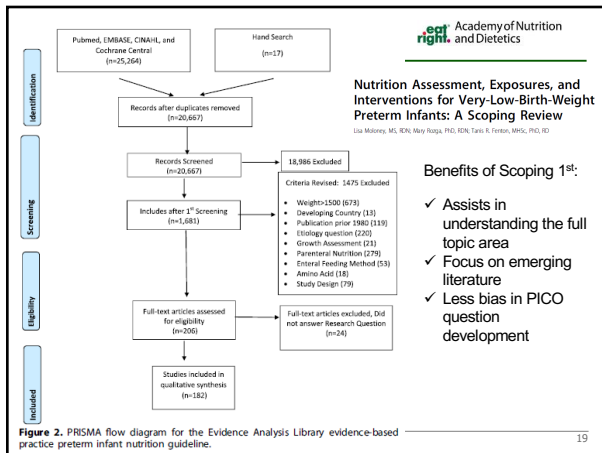


Figure 1. Decision framework for Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics evidence-based practice



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**Nutrition and Dietetics Topics**

**EVIDENCE ANALYSIS LIBRARY**

LOGIN | NOT A MEMBER? | CONTACT US | HELP

Projects | Policy and Process | Resources | Index | About

Adult Weight Management | Filter | Nutrition Guidance in Healthy Children

Advanced Technology in Food Production | Fluoride | Nutrition Screening

Athletic Performance | Food and Nutrition for Older Adults | Nutritive and Non-Nutritive Sweetener

Bariatric Surgery | Fruit Juice | Obesity, Reproduction and Pregnancy

Breastfeeding | Gestational Diabetes | Oncology

Celiac Disease | Health Disparities | Pediatric Weight Management

Chronic Kidney Disease | Heart Failure | Single Serving Portion Sized Meals and Weight Management

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease | HIV/AIDS | Sodium

Critical Illness | Hydration | Spinal Cord Injury

Diabetes 1 and 2 | Hypertension | Telerehabilitation

Diabetes (Type 2) Prevention | Medical Nutrition Therapy | Urinary

Dietary Fatty Acids | Microwave and Home Food Safety | Unintentional Weight Loss in Older Adults

Disorders of Lipid Metabolism | Nutrient Supplementation | Vegetarian Nutrition

Energy Expenditure | Nutrition Counseling | Wound Care

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**The QC Checklist**

The Quality Criteria Checklist serves as a guiding tool for assessing the quality/risk of bias of research studies using a standard set of questions.

- ✓ The QCC provides a criteria for sound scientific research to help the abstractor examine the quality of a study.
- ✓ The checklist questions have answer choices in the form of "yes/no" (and "not reported", "N/A") to help the abstractor examine the important details about the design of the study and its execution.
- ✓ After answering each sub-question, the abstractor will consider answers to all of the sub-questions to determine an answer for the "overall" validity question.

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**What is the RDI checklist?**

**Why use the QCC?**

- To identify the concepts that are widely accepted as elements of sound scientific investigation
- To provide a tool to enable systematic, objective rating of primary research and review articles
- To support inter-rater agreement among reviewers/abstractors

**The nine main questions included in the QCC Address scientific validity**

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**What is the RDI checklist?**

**Format of the QCC Checklist**

**Validity Questions**

1. Was the research question clearly stated?	Yes No Unclear NA
1.1. Was the specific intervention(s) or procedure (independent variable(s)) identified?	Yes No Unclear NA
1.2. Was the outcome(s) (dependent variable(s)) clearly indicated?	Yes No Unclear NA
1.3. Were the target population and setting specified?	Yes No Unclear NA
2. Was the selection of study subjects/patients free from bias?	Yes No Unclear NA
2.1. Were inclusion/exclusion criteria specified (e.g., risk point in disease progression, diagnostic or prognostic criteria), and sufficient detail and without omitting criteria critical to the study?	Yes No Unclear NA
2.2. Were criteria applied equally to all study groups?	Yes No Unclear NA
2.3. Were health, demographics, and other characteristics of subjects described?	Yes No Unclear NA
2.4. Were the subjects/patients a representative sample of the relevant population?	Yes No Unclear NA
3. Were study groups comparable?	Yes No Unclear NA
3.1. Was the method of assigning subjects/patients to groups described and unbiased (Method of randomization identified)?	Yes No Unclear NA
3.2. Were distribution of disease status, prognostic factors, and other factors (e.g., demographics) similar across study groups at baseline?	Yes No Unclear NA
3.3. Were concurrent controls used? (Concurrent preferred over historical controls)	Yes No Unclear NA

**Answer choices:**  
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unclear ☐ N/A

★ **What information do you need from the study's article in order to make a rational decision on a question?**

**what biases may exist for a type of research what bias-related evidence or information to look for report**

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