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Nutrition Research Task Force Call MINUTES
Thursday, January 28, 2021
3:00 p.m. Eastern

Participants: Sylvia Rowe, *co-chair*; Lindsay Allen, Steve Zeisel, Roger Sunde, Edith Feskens, DeAnn Liska, Katy Tucker, Anthony Basile, Daniel Hoffman, Jaapna Dhillon, Lynnette Neufeld, Laura Borth, Naomi Fukagawa, Alison Brown, Andrew Brown, Len Epstein, Mike Kelley, Emahlea Jackson

ASN Staff: Sarah Ohlhorst

The call convened at 2:56pm and was called to order at 3:03pm.

Co-chair Sylvia Rowe opened the call by reminding writing groups that the template provided should be used as a guide for each section. She noted that each section should still have integration and narrative to make each section compelling and reminded the writing groups that the overarching focus throughout is precision nutrition.

With the overarching focus of precision nutrition, many TF members referenced presentations from the recent NIH Precision Nutrition: Research Gaps and Opportunities Workshop. On-demand recordings from the virtual workshop can be found online: <https://www.labroots.com/ms/virtual-event/precision-nutrition-research-gaps-opportunities-workshop> It was also noted that this white paper could be a resource to the NIH as they continue with implementation of the Nutrition for Precision Health, powered by the All of Us Research Program.

Sylvia thanked Task Force members for providing feedback on the draft introduction and encouraged other TF members to share any additional feedback with Sylvia, Rick, and Sarah. They will be revising the introduction based on the feedback received and will share a revised version with the TF. Some TF members pointed out that it was not clear who the audience was for the introduction. It was reiterated that the primary audience is ASN membership – nutrition researchers and scientists. Once the report is published, ASN may develop one-pagers for more specific audiences including media and policy makers. TF members suggested that the introduction define precision nutrition and touch on the current challenges of delivering precision nutrition to diverse groups such as low-income individuals and others. One comment was made that the lines about nutrition science controversies could be softened somewhat to better represent nutrition science to outside audiences. It was also suggested that the introduction highlight more of what each writing group will cover in the body of the white paper and noted that some of the concepts from the introduction could be touched on again in the final cross-cutting section.

Each writing group provided a brief update on their progress with their respective section and had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification from other writing groups. Sylvia reminded writing groups that initial drafts are due by February 22nd.

Cross-cutting writing group: This section will be forward thinking and will highlight interdisciplinary research as a must-needed skill for future researchers and the importance of translational research. This final chapter should present a bigger picture and highlight how nutrition can take the lead in pulling together various disciplines to tackle important questions rather than defaulting the lead to other disciplines. Other groups were encouraged to cover omics and other cross-cutting disciplines in their sections as well, as it will only be briefly mentioned in this section.

Socioeconomic influences/ Disparities: This group will use the 5 stages of research model to highlight a couple specific examples per each stage. They will examine drivers for disparities, environmental, and socioeconomic influences and highlight community research with under-represented groups as well as ethnographic surveys, implementation research, and impact evaluation.

Dietary methodologies: Biomarkers will be mentioned in this section and linked to metabolomics. Dietary assessment will be covered in this section. This section will also cover limitations of ASA24, which is being used as a baseline for the NIH precision nutrition initiative, with other novel interesting methods to complement it. Limitations of ASA24 will be covered, as well as benefits such as its practicality. It is likely being used by NIH because it is online, interprets itself, you do not need personnel, and you can target large numbers of people. Here is the link for the Dietary Assessment Center RFA - <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-21-004.html>

Behaviors:/ Environments: This group will work with Rick Mattes to cover sensory for this section and will highlight behaviors predominantly. Environments will be covered more extensively by the Socioeconomic influences writing group.

Nutritional status: This section will not go into FFQs and other dietary assessment methodologies. They will be briefly addressed but note that is covered in the dietary methodologies section. Current as well as potential new biomarkers will also be touched on in this section, although it will not go through individual amino acids. As a limitation, it will be noted that one must assume normal metabolic status with biomarkers. Lindsay Allen offered to help review the biomarkers section. It was also suggested that this group cover how to incorporate new biomarkers for policy making, etc.

Microbiome ecologies/ Biology: Non-nutrients, metabolites, phytonutrients, and short-chain fatty acids will be covered. Strengths/limitations will likely be a table in this section. One limitation that will be noted is that diet inclusion has not been a factor for many microbiome studies.

Genetics/ Epigenetics: Homeostasis and transcriptomics will be covered for zinc, iron, selenium, vitamin D, and tryptophan. Some of the methods to be covered will include RNA-seq, bridging clusters, and Northern blotting.

Next Steps

The call adjourned at 4:05pm.