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Nutrition Research Task Force Call MINUTES
Monday, December 7, 2020
1:00 p.m. Eastern

Participants: Sylvia Rowe, Rick Mattes, *co-chairs*; Andrew Brown, Jaapna Dhillon, Len Epstein, Daniel Hoffman, Mike Kelley, DeAnn Liska, Roger Sunde, Katy Tucker, Steve Zeisel, Naomi Fukagawa, Alison Brown, Lynnette Neufeld

ASN Staff: Sarah Ohlhorst, John Courtney

The call convened at 12:59pm and was called to order at 1:03pm.

Co-chair Rick Mattes opened the call by reviewing the draft timeline that had been proposed for the Task Force. Writing groups will have until December 14th to offer feedback on outlines. Writing will commence in January 2021, aiming to have a completed draft report to the ASN Board of Directors by their June 4, 2021 meeting. There will be check-ins in-between with time for other writing groups to review and critique draft sections. Rick, Sylvia, and Sarah have started on the introduction and will have a draft to share soon.

Task Force members were reminded that sections should be approximately 7-17 pages in length as a guide. Writing groups are encouraged to keep their sections as succinct as possible with judicious use of references as we don't want a textbook of existing methods.

The Task Force discussed that writing sections should be forward-looking and not only cover existing common methods. Common methods could be used in the context of history/evolution of the field and why nutrition questions can be difficult to answer. Future-looking discussion could emphasize what is being done to move the field forward. For example, how to use a method accurately and effectively if you are planning to use it, but why it is being supplanted. The forward-focus will be addressed in the intro as well.

It was also noted that it is important for writing groups to keep audience in mind while writing their sections. (Task Force members had previously agreed that the primary audience for this report should be nutrition scientists, with secondary audiences being journalists, policymakers, and other stakeholders.)

Task Force members were reminded that sections should cover strengths and weaknesses of methods as application and interpretation is discussed. Task Force members were encouraged to discuss the nuances of how/where a method may be more effective or not as effective.

Writing groups then took 3-5 minutes to review the section outlines that they had submitted, with time for questions from other writing groups following. A list of the sections reviewed is listed below. The call was used to clarify what fits within each section and to avoid potential overlap between sections, such as nutritional status and dietary methodologies, although some commonalities and reinforcement among sections will be fine.

Writing Sections

- #1: Genetics/ Epigenetics
- #2: Microbiome ecologies/ Biology
- #3: Nutritional status
- #4: Behaviors/ Environments
- #5: Dietary methodologies*
- #6: Socioeconomic influences/ Disparities
- #7: Cross-cutting

(*Please note that section #5 was added based on email discussion among Task Force members following their last call on October 23, 2020.)

Some of the clarifications discussed included the following: Genetics/epigenetics will include mention of knock-out models, SNP analysis, and transcriptomics. Cravings, fullness, appetite, and reward processes will be discussed in the section on behavior. The food environment will be covered within the health disparities section. The cross-cutting section will address data integrity; how to assess the quality of data.

Next Steps

The call adjourned at 2:05pm.

The next Task Force call will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 from 3:00-4:00pm Eastern.