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Background

The Evidence Analysis Library® (EAL®) is the premier definitive source of synthesized nutritional research provided in an accessible, online, user-friendly website for the dietetic/nutrition profession and other health care providers. The EAL is recognized by Academy members as an indispensable product with high member value. Its mission is to have a rigorous, highly respected process of evaluating, synthesizing and disseminating research findings worldwide on topics of food and nutrition.

The EAL is comprised of two main components, systematic reviews and evidence-based nutrition practice guidelines. There are standalone systematic reviews that are not used in the development of evidence-based practice guidelines. There are also systematic reviews that continue onto the guideline development phase. Systematic reviews used for guideline development can be found on the same project page, and are linked with the guideline recommendations.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics is the primary source of funding of the EAL. External funding for the EAL has enabled the Academy to publish much more content than would have been possible through Academy funding only.

Purpose

This policy is designed to minimize bias or the perception of bias during the development of the systematic review and/or evidence-based nutrition practice guideline and to ensure the highest level of integrity.

The following procedures shall be enforced:

1. Funding by industry is not permitted for Evidence Based Nutrition Practice Guidelines (EBPNG) nor the systematic review which supports such guideline, Academy Position Papers or Consensus Report. Industry funding is only used for standalone systematic reviews are not used to inform guidelines. Academy groups, not-for-profit associations or government agencies can apply to fund these resources.
2. All externally funded projects are funded as unrestricted grants meaning the funding entity has no input or involvement on any aspect of the project, including:
 - a. Expert Workgroup Recommendation or Selection

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- b. Evidence Analysis Question Formulation
 - c. Inclusion/Exclusion Criteria and Search Terms
 - d. Grading of Conclusion Statement and/or Rating of Guideline Recommendation
 - e. Communication with any member of the project team
3. All members of the expert workgroup are required to disclose all financial, professional and personal conflicts of interests that occurred within 5 years of the commencement of the research. They must complete the Academy's form at time of appointment to the workgroup, maintain it throughout their term and verbally update prior to each teleconference or meeting. Any disclosures are published on the EAL under "Project Team" section of the project.
4. All externally funded project topics should meet the EAL's mission.
5. Notice of funding shall be duly noted on the published project.
6. Funder will receive:
 - a. Quarterly reports on the status of the systematic review.
 - b. A 2-year subscription to the EAL via a unique link to the sponsored systematic review;
 - c. Listed in the EAL systematic review landing page as a financial contributor.

Definitions

- a) Industry – is defined as either an individual for-profit company or a consortium of companies within an industry.
- b) Government – is defined as any government organization (e.g., AHRQ, NIH).
- c) Academy Groups – is defined as an Academy Dietetic Practice Group (DPG), Member Interest Group (MIG), Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR), Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation (ANDF).
- d) Not-for-Profit – is defined as an organization or professional association with 501(C) 6 status or a 501(C)3 foundation.

Review

This process shall be reviewed five years by the Academy staff. Any changes to these procedures shall be communicated immediately to all responsible parties.