**CONNECTICUT ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS HOLDS Spring Meeting**

***Speakers to Address Advances in Agriculture, Cancer and Diet Myths, Food Allergies in Infants, and the Connecticut State Health Improvement Plan: Healthy CT 2020***

**CROMWELL, CT** **(April 14, 2015**) – Nearly 200 Connecticut Registered Dietitian Nutritionists, dietetic students and Dietetic Technicians, Registered, are planning to attend the Spring meeting of the Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics on Thursday, April 23 at the Marriott Courtyard in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Meeting highlights and speakers include:

**Lessons from the Grape: Making This Year Your Finest Vintage Ever**

* Laurie Forster, award-winning sommelier, author and TV personality will give a motivational talk on getting the most out of your life based on her personal journey from software sales executive to award-winning sommelier, and the many lessons she has learned from the grape.

**Changing the Way we look at Agriculture**

* The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation’s Abigail Andrew Copenhaver, RDN, CDN will provide insight into the state of both U.S. and international farming, highlighting strategies happening globally to help nutritiously feed the growing world population.

*Sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation*

**Cancer and Diet Myths**

* D. Barry Boyd, MD, Director, Nutritional Oncology, Greenwich Hospital-Yale Health Systems and Asst Clinical Professor, Yale School of Medicine will provide an overview of the current research on the role of food and cancer risk, along with popular misconceptions. Dr. Boyd is a pioneer in the field of integrative cancer care, with a targeted focus on nutritional support for cancer patents.

**Infant Feeding Practice and Food Allergy Update**

* Recommendations on early infant feeding has changed significantly over the last decade. Recent research and guidance publications from experts in food allergies and pediatrics have challenged previously held convictions about withholding potential allergens until 1, 2 or 3 years of age. In this session, Sherry Coleman Collins, MS, RDN, LD a consultant with the National Peanut Board, will provide an overview of the latest research and recommendations on early infant feeding and food allergies.

**Healthy CT 2020: A call to action**

* Steven Lazarus, Associate Health Care Analyst, Division of Office of Health Care Access with the Connecticut Department of Public Health provides an overview of Healthy CT 2020, the CT State Health Improvement Plan developed by the CT Health Improvement Coalition.

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In addition to the speakers, there will be poster sessions and exhibits, including Abbot Nutrition, SkinnyEats, Nestle Waters, Ideal Protein of America, National Dairy Council, GMO Answers, Medtrition, LesserEvil Healthy Brands, Kent Precision Foods, CT Alliance of Diabetes Educators, Valley Provisions/Boar Heads Foods, Nestle Health Science, Simplified Nutrition Online, Simply Thick, Click Inc., Design for Health and Centrad Healthcare, LLC.

An awards presentation will also be held to recognize outstanding members, including recognizing Georgia Chavent, MS, RDN, of Woodbridge, Conn., who won the prestigious Outstanding Dietetic Educator Award out of all of the dietetic educators in N.J., N.Y., New England and internationally. Ms. Chavent is an assistant professor of nutrition and dietetics at the University of New Haven. The Outstanding Dietetics Educator Award recognizes the teaching, mentoring and leadership activities of faculty and preceptors in dietetics education programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics.

 **“**From learning the latest recommendations on infant feeding as it relates to food allergies, gaining insight into US and global farming practices to feed a growing world, discovering popular misconceptions on food and cancer risks, hearing what the CT Health Improvement Coalition is up to, and being inspired by the insight and humor of an award winning sommelier, the CT Academy spring meeting offers members of all practice areas an opportunity to learn, connect and earn continuing education credits," said Pat Baird, MA, RDN, President of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

The Connecticut Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics ([www.eatrightct.org](http://www.eatrightct.org)) serves the public through promotion of optimal nutrition, health, and well-being.As the leading advocate of the dietetic profession in Connecticut, our membership includes Registered Dietitian Nutritionists, Dietetic Technicians, Registered, students, and retirees of the profession. Chartered by the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](http://www.eatright.org/), the CT Academy is committed to serving the public in the state of Connecticut, while supporting activities at the national and international level. For more information visit the website at [www.eatrightct.org](http://www.eatrightct.org/).

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