DIFM Lifetime Achievement Award: Diana Noland, MPH, RD, CCN, LD

DIFM is pleased to announce that the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award is bestowed to Diana Noland, of Burbank, California. Diana is considered a pioneer of integrative and functional medical nutrition therapy by her peers, young and old. She is one of the emerging functional nutrition practitioners in our country, and has advanced knowledge and training in nutrition, supplements, and specialty functional testing, which she uses with clients locally, nationally, and internationally. She is owner of an Integrative and Functional Nutrition Therapy private practice, FoodFax, in Burbank, California.

Diana earned her B.S. degree from the University of Utah, in Chemistry/Pre-med/ Foods and Nutrition. She completed a Dietetic Internship and then an M.P.H in Nutrition at Loma Linda University in California. She earned the title of Certified Clinical Nutritionist in 2001 (IAACN), and is now a candidate for the Institute for Functional Medicine Certification, scheduled for completion January 2016.

Diana has been a member of the Academy for 43 years, and has been an RD for 38 years. She joined DIFM in 2000, and received the DIFM Excellence in Practice Award in 2010. She has served the DPG in several roles, as Nominating Chair in 2012, and as a co-author of the Standards of Practice/Standards of Professional Performance for Integrative RDNs, published in the JADA in June 2011. She participated on the Task Force for two applications from DIFM for Credentialing in Integrative Nutrition from the Academy.

Among her many unique contributions to our profession and IFMNT:

Diana is adjunct faculty at University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) Dietetics and Nutrition. She was coordinator of the development of curriculum for an integrative nutrition track in the dietetics internship graduate program at KUMC, in collaboration with the KU Integrative Medicine Clinic.

She co-authored an article scheduled for publication in the Journal of American College of Nutrition (within the next two months), “The Next Generation of Dietitians; Implementing Dietetics and Practice in Integrative Medicine”.

Diana served on the faculty of the Institute for Functional Medicine (IFM) and developed and chaired the IFM Nutrition Advisory Board 2006--2009. For the Institute for Functional Medicine, Diana was a co-founder of the Nutrition Advisory Board. She also served as Nutrition Coordinator and developed the Functional Nutrition Course and expansion of nutrition therapy for the IFM organization.
She is a sought after international speaker and educator on the benefits and concerns using functional nutrition, supplements, and herbs. In the last two years, Diana was recruited to become a consultant to the Chair of Karolinska Research Institute in Sweden for a project to incorporate functional nutrition/medicine into their healthcare system. She has been a featured speaker at various healthcare conferences in Sweden for this project.

Diana has authored many articles and chapters in nutrition professional and lay publications. She has been a Preceptor or Peer Mentor for many students and professionals in Integrative and Functional Nutrition.

Words of appreciation for Diana from several DIFM members reveal the giving nature of her character:

From Julie Starkel, MS, MBS, RDN:

In the 2000s, Diana took the train from Burbank, CA down to Tijuana for five years, and then rode in a van to Baja California to set up the nutrition department at Sanoviv Hospital. This unique facility specializes in functional medicine, and cancer therapy. Diana has spent countless hours on DIFM’s listserve. Members depend upon Diana’s advice to solve their puzzles with their patient or for themselves! The same applies for renowned physicians, naturopathic physicians, chiropractors, alternative practitioners and many other healthcare professionals. She is on the Scientific Advisory Boards of several nutraceutical companies, and was an invited guest speaker at the Integrative Healthcare Symposium with standing room only at her session. She has been a speaker at the American Dietetic Association’s FNCE (2004), at DIFM’s pre-FNCE conference in 2011, CA state dietetic association and other organizations, at A4M Anti-Aging Cancer Conference, Annual Nutrition Consultant Training Instructor in Sweden, and at the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origins (AAPI) national convention in June 2012, with over 1500 physicians present. She has contributed a chapter for AAPI’s e-book which has been used globally. Further, Diana is a contributing author for Strauss and Mahan’s textbook Food and Nutrition Care Process.

From Dr. Thomas M. Wnorowski, BCIM, and CNCC:

I have met few people who actually look for goodness in others. Diana is one of them. Whatever the circumstance, she is there to evoke the best a person can be, not only in our profession, but also in her personal meetings with people. She and I have mutual friends, some of whom she does not know about, and some of whom are not aware that Diana and I are colleagues. Yet their reverent mention of her, regardless of the field about which we converse, bespeaks an esteem that only a special person can engender. Her passion for our professional is obvious in the outcomes she both pursues and achieves, leaving no evidence-based stone unturned.
From Ruth Leyse-Wallace, PhD, RD:

As described in the recent book “Quiet” by Susan Cain, there are many successful people who innovate and create but dislike self-promotion, who steadily generate, lead, and then follow-up with support of others’ achievements. I see Diana as one of these people.

With her quiet, but confident, enthusiasm she has always been helpful and informative to me and others, who have big or little questions as we expand our knowledge, and apply the art and science of nutritional care. Diana consistently non-judgmentally demonstrates the sharing and support we all need at times.

From Coco Newton, MPH, RD, CCN:

I first met Diana in 2002 as part of the group of 50 RD’s who became Certified Clinical Nutritionists. She quickly was regarded as a key pioneer among us, and it was typical for her to be “teaching” everywhere she went. At conferences with students always in tow, she continuously shared her wisdom. Clinicians at all levels of practice and backgrounds sought her input. It was typical to see people waiting in line to ask her questions then circles forming around her as she spoke. She has that gift of knowing her material so well that her teaching is like telling a story to listeners who don’t want an ending.

Diana is non-judgmental, dedicated, patient, kind, thoughtful, humble, and of high integrity. She doesn’t compete or position herself for attention or applause. She has helped so many dietitians with their own or their family’s health concerns and profoundly transformed many lives.

From Leigh Wagner, MS, RD:

My experience working with Diana to co-create materials for the master’s certificate in Dietetics and Integrative Medicine at KU showed me her ability to quickly identify the needs of an educational program, and envision curriculum to encourage students to improve nutritional practice and research related to Dietetics and Integrative Medicine. To create the graduate courses, she spent countless hours to design and improve the curriculum to teach graduate students to think critically, through the integrative and functional nutrition lens. Diana loves teaching and routinely spends extra time during early mornings and late nights to speak with students one-on-one to facilitate their understanding of this new way of thinking.

Diana is not only motivated to further our profession as a nutrition discipline; she also pushes the integrity and care provided to clients, patients and our colleagues. She employs a well-rounded approach to both practice and teaching, truly embodying the principles of mind-body-
spirit. Without Diana's lifetime of dedicated service, Dietetics in Integrative and Functional Medicine wouldn't be what it is today.

Join us in congratulating Diana, as we celebrate her lifetime of achievements and promotion of RDs in Integrative and Functional Medicine!