NUTRITION AND INTEGRATIVE PHYSIOLOGY

The Department of Nutrition and Integrative Physiology is dedicated to understanding how maintaining metabolic health combats the development and progression of chronic disease. It engages other programs within U of U Health to translate new research findings into clinical procedures and community outreach programs that improve quality of life.

Departmental and Affiliated Research Units

- U of U Center for Community Nutrition
- Diabetes and Metabolism Research Center
- Molecular Medicine Program
- Utah Vascular Research Lab
- Huntsman Cancer Institute

DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

- Faculty (10 tenure track, 24 career line, 35 adjunct, 1 emeritus)
- Nutrition Minor Students: 229
- Graduate Students: (38 PhD, 32 CMP, 10 MS)
- Ranking amongst Nutrition Science Departments in Per Faculty Grant Funding: 6
- Ranking amongst Nutrition Science Departments in Total Grant Funding: 14
- People served by the UUCCN since 2017: >106k
- First-time pass rate on RDN registration exam: >93%

Research

The department’s research portfolio has undergone a major expansion, exemplified by the increase in annual research expenditures over the last several years (see Figure). Department scientists use a variety of research techniques and model systems to understand how nutrient metabolism influences health and disease, bridging virtually all sciences dealing with human biology. Research programs benefit from outstanding core facilities and strong collaborations with other Centers and Institutes within U of U Health.

Clinical and Community Engagement

The department’s U of U Center for Community Nutrition (UUCCN) educates members of the local community about diabetes and healthy lifestyle choices. Many UUCCN programs are affiliated with the Driving Out Diabetes Initiative. Programs include evidence-based workshops, food demonstrations, and group discussions for school-aged youth, underserved lower-income families, and people experiencing homelessness. It also works to establish community partnerships to increase access to healthy foods for underserved communities. Since launching in 2017, the UUCCN has reached over 106,000 individuals across Utah, Idaho, and Arizona. UUCCN also offers training opportunities for students throughout the College of Health.

Future Goals

- Continue to build upon our record of research excellence by expanding our base, with the goal of achieving top 3 rankings in grant support and publications amongst Nutrition Science Departments.
- Continue to expand our clinical training and community engagement programs to better serve the people of Utah and the Intermountain West.

Education

Nutrition and Integrative Physiology trains leaders in dietetics and nutrition and metabolism research. Programs impart knowledge in a culture that produces exceptional graduates. Students come from a broad variety of backgrounds and experiences and display academic excellence, community service, and leadership potential. The department’s diverse class of students experience a dynamic learning environment that prepares them to serve all community sectors.

Academic Programs

- PhD in Nutrition and Integrative Physiology
- Coordinated Master’s Program in Nutrition (RDN)
- MS in Nutrition and Integrative Physiology
- Undergraduate Nutrition Minor

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