

# CRN's Working Groups, Task Forces & Subcommittees

## **CRN's Working Groups, Task Forces & Subcommittees**

CRN forms working groups, task forces and subcommittees to respond to emerging issues or to proactively address an area of importance to CRN members and the dietary supplement industry. As they typically tackle a specific issue, they remain separate from CRN's long-standing committees, and may depend on separate participation and funding levels. If you are interested in joining a particular working group, task force or subcommittee, please contact CRN's Director of Membership Development Carl Hyland or the designated CRN staff liaison.

### **CBD Working Group**

*Staff Liaisons: Andrea Wong & Megan Olsen*

The CBD Working Group follows the evolving hemp-derived CBD marketplace and keeps members informed of the rapidly changing scientific, legal, and regulatory landscapes for hemp-derived ingredients. The working group provides guidance to CRN staff on engagement with FDA and other stakeholders as CRN works to clarify how companies can market compliant hemp-derived CBD foods and dietary ingredients. All CRN members are welcome to participate in the CBD Working Group.

### **Consumer Survey Advisory Committee**

*Chair: Tom Druke, Balchem*

*Staff Liaison: Brian Wommack*

The Consumer Survey Advisory Committee, a subgroup of the Communications and Media Outreach Committee (CMOC), is comprised of market research, marketing, and communications executives at member companies interested in research about U.S. consumers' usage of dietary

supplements. The Advisory Committee, which is responsible for assembling the annual CRN survey questionnaire, ensures that the survey will uncover the most important information relevant to supplement consumers, including which supplements they take and how often, why they take supplements, where they purchase them, and more. The Advisory Committee meets via email and for a series of conference calls in June and July before the survey is fielded in August by a third-party market research firm. Space is limited on this subcommittee and interested members are encouraged to reach out to Brian Wommack for details.

### **Dietary Guidelines Subcommittee**

*Staff Liaison: Haiyuen Nguyen*

The DGA Subcommittee develops a strategy for CRN to participate in the process and development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans, the national nutrition policy published every 5 years by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The Subcommittee also guides the development of CRN comments submitted throughout the Dietary Guidelines process. Interested members should contact their Senior Scientific Advisory Council representative.

### **Science in Session Planning Subcommittee**

*Chair: Yasmeen Nkrumah-Elie, ChromaDex*

*Staff Liaison: Haiyuen Nguyen*

The Science in Session Planning Subcommittee develops the program for *Science in Session*, a scientific symposium that is held annually in conjunction with CRN's Annual Conference. Interested members should contact their Senior Scientific Advisory Council representative.

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## **Government Relations State Subcommittee**

*Chair: Ingrid Lebert, Pharmavite*

*Staff Liaison: Julia Gustafson*

The Government Relations State Subcommittee (GRSS) is a subcommittee of the GRC. The subcommittee is focused on gathering and sharing information on key state issues with potential impact on the supplement industry, as well as any corresponding bills which may require industry participation/intervention. Because most of the subcommittee's work is centered on preparedness for state activities, there is also a strong focus on developing methods for sharing legislative news with the CRN membership. The subcommittee meets by conference call and is vital for any CRN member company executive charged with tracking state legislation.

## **Health Care Practitioner Forum**

*Staff Liaison: Luke Huber & Carl Hyland*

The Health Care Practitioner Forum (HCPF) is focused on meeting the needs of CRN members that serve the practitioner dietary supplement channel. The HCPF centers on the scientific, regulatory, legal, and advocacy topics of interest to the practitioner market.

## **NDI Working Group**

*Staff Liaison: Haiyuen Nguyen*

The *ad hoc* NDI Working Group is a part of the larger Regulatory Affairs Committee that specifically focuses on developing CRN's strategy and position with regard to FDA's policy on New Dietary Ingredient (NDI) Notifications. The Working Group meets on an as-needed basis by teleconference to discuss CRN comments and recommendations to FDA on issues related to

NDIs. All CRN members are welcome to participate in the Working Group.

## **Nutrition Access Initiative Task Force**

*Chair: Micah Osborne, Stratum*

*Staff Liaison: Brian Wommack*

Included in the current strategic plan is an effort to improve consumer access to and education about supplements.

Building on the previously announced three pronged-effort: Celebrating the Good, Educate for Mission, and Connect and Facilitate, task force members have sought to develop each of the prongs further.

Finally, the task force solicits additional Board members willing to serve, or nominations of other company experts by Board members, and is interested in setting up an advisory committee of subject matter experts to provide occasional guidance to the task force. Any member wishing to share current initiatives, to join the task force, to nominate a company expert to join the task force, or to nominate someone to the advisory committee may do so by contacting Task Force Chair Micah Osborne at [mosborne@stratumnutrition.com](mailto:mosborne@stratumnutrition.com) or CRN Foundation Executive Director Brian Wommack at [bwommack@crnusa.org](mailto:bwommack@crnusa.org).

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## **Probiotics Working Group**

*Chair: Jeremy Bartos, MeriCal*

*Staff Liaisons: Andrea Wong & Jim Griffiths*

The Probiotics Working Group monitors/[responds to media coverage](#) of the probiotic category, and keeps members engaged and updated on issues such as FDA's position on labeling probiotic quantity, retailer standards for probiotic products, the Codex proposal on probiotics, and the Lactobacillus taxonomy change. The Working Group meets on an as-needed basis by teleconference. All CRN members are welcome to participate in the Working Group.

## **Prop 65 Working Group**

*Staff Liaison: Megan Olsen*

The Prop 65 Working Group meets on an *ad hoc* basis by teleconference to discuss issues related to Proposition 65 (Prop 65). The group assists with comments and recommendations to the California Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) on proposals related to Prop 65, including proposed regulations and chemical listings. Membership is open to all CRN members with an interest in Prop 65.

## **Proprietary Blends Task Force**

*Staff Liaison: Haiuyen Nguyen*

The Proprietary Blends Task Force will examine opportunities to clarify the appropriate use of the labeling exception for proprietary blends (e.g., best practices). The Task Force meets monthly by teleconference. All CRN members are welcome to participate in the Task Force.

## **Retailer Standards Working Group**

*Staff Liaison: Megan Olsen*

The Retailer Standards Working Group provides a forum for manufacturers and suppliers to discuss regulatory, technical, and compliance issues surrounding retailer standards programs. Retailer standards programs may require manufacturers to engage in product testing or manufacturing facility audits to demonstrate safety and quality of products. Members assist CRN staff by providing insights into these programs and advising on steps CRN can take to encourage retailer harmonization of these programs. This working group meets on an *ad hoc* basis by teleconference and is open to voting members only, with one representative per voting member.

## **Sports Nutrition Working Group**

*Staff Liaisons: Luke Huber*

*Chair: Adam Branfman, Nestle Health Sciences*

*Vice Chair: Samantha Clayton, Herbalife Nutrition*

The Sports Nutrition Working Group typically meets on a quarterly basis by teleconference to discuss topics related to legislative, scientific, regulatory and stakeholder issues surrounding the role of dietary supplements in sports nutrition. The Sports Nutrition Working Group is open to all member companies.

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## **Toxicology Subcommittee**

*Staff Liaisons: Andrea Wong & Jim Griffiths*

The Toxicology Subcommittee is part of the larger Senior Scientific Advisory Council that addresses scientific and regulatory issues related to the safety of dietary ingredients, dietary supplements, and functional foods. The group explores topics such as safety considerations for NDIs and GRAS ingredients, assessing the safety of multi-ingredient formulations, drug-herb interactions, and other emerging toxicological issues. The Subcommittee meets on an as-needed basis by teleconference and holds workshops on topics of interest to members. Interested members should contact their Senior Scientific Advisory Council representative.

## **USP/AOAC Subcommittee**

*Staff Liaison: Jim Griffiths*

The USP/AOAC Subcommittee is a part of the larger Regulatory Affairs Committee that specifically focuses on US Pharmacopeial Convention (USP) General Chapters and ingredient/product monographs that appear in the USP, National Formulary (NF) and Food Chemicals Codex (FCC). The Subcommittee also monitors analytical methods development for dietary ingredients by AOAC International. Understanding the issues, from both the industry perspective, as well as how USP and AOAC processes work, allows CRN to more effectively communicate and seek industry resolutions to analytical methods and acceptance criteria for dietary ingredients as well as non-dietary (food) ingredients. Interested members should contact their Regulatory Affairs Committee representative.

## **Vitamin D Task Force**

*Co-Chairs: Annahita Ghassemi, Church & Dwight & Alan McNamara, Pharmavite*

*Staff Liaisons: Luke Huber & Kendall Ridley*

The Vitamin D Task Force leads the development of an educational website on Vitamin D & COVID-19 sponsored by member donations to the CRN Foundation. The group meets on an *ad hoc* basis by teleconference and is made up of members who are sponsoring this education initiative. The group provides guidance on educational content, marketing and communications efforts related to the initiative. The Vitamin D Task Force is open to member companies which are sponsoring the initiative.

*For more information contact:*

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