

CAN DReaM International

A Policy Approach to

Address Disease-Related Malnutrition

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National PEN Societies: Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS) & Francophone Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (SFNCM)



Description of initiative

Background: Disease Related Malnutrition (DRM) is prevalent and associated with substantial economic and health burdens globally. Advances in *nutrition care as a human right* as a part of universal health care are evident, but significant gaps remain. There is a lack of policy level action or policy frameworks specifically to address DRM, which is a significant barrier to improving nutrition care. The United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 (UN Decade) is a commitment by UN Member States to undertake 10 years of sustained and coherent implementation of policies, programmes and increased investments to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, everywhere. The Canadian Nutrition Society (CNS), in conjunction with its standing committee, the Canadian Malnutrition Task Force (CMTF), registered a commitment with the UN Decade called "Creating Alliances Nationally to address DRM" (CAN DReaM) to create capacity for evidence-based policy approaches to DRM. The Francophone Society of Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism (SFNCM) is joining CAN DReaM in efforts to achieve an initiative that has international impact, called CAN DReaM International.

Rationale: A policy framework for DRM that includes careful consideration of actors, content, context, and process is needed. CAN DReaM International is a multi-country initiative, that will support and catalyze these country-based policy approaches to address DRM.

Objectives and scope: To engage with and support clinical nutrition societies with registering a commitment with the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition to accelerate policy development and create collective pull for best nutrition care across all health care settings globally.

Planned activities and deliverables

Preliminary work is underway which includes a scoping review of existing international DRM policies and Key Informant interviews with experts in nutrition policy and/or decisions makers in the area of malnutrition from multiple countries.

Steps to be taken:

1. Develop a DRM policy framework that can be applied internationally, building on the scoping review & informant interviews.
2. Engage with key international stakeholders to create a model that supports the development and registration of country-specific commitments to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. The SFNCM will work with CNS to develop this model. Other countries that will also pursue registration include Australia and Brazil. We will work with these countries to spread CAN DReaM International and will work with UN/WHO and other stakeholders, including patients and carers, to scale the work more broadly.
3. Convene stakeholders to review and discuss the policy framework approach and explore opportunities to use and/or suggest policy approaches to address DRM, in conjunction with UN/WHO.

What are the concrete deliverables of the project:

1. A model & process for individual nutrition societies to address DRM through policy-based approaches.
2. Multiple countries register a commitment to the UN Nutrition Decade to enhance awareness of DRM.

What achievements are possible within 12 months and 24 months:

12 months: DRM policy framework developed with stakeholder input; engagement of multiple nutrition societies; 1 other country registers a CAN DReaM commitment with UN/WHO.

24 months: knowledge mobilization meeting to bring stakeholders together in 2024 with acknowledgement and support from UN/WHO. This meeting will allow us to identify barriers and enablers to policy approaches to DRM and to explore tailored implementation of CAN DReaM International.

Resources and enablers

CNS/CMTF and SFNCM are recognized as global leaders in their contributions to advancing clinical nutrition and education, and our existing effective partnerships with nutrition experts and organizations will allow this program to be successful. CNS/CMTF are also providing the leadership, expertise, and personnel for the preliminary work of conducting the scoping review of existing DRM policies in conjunction with an international expert advisory group. The MNI grant will be used for knowledge mobilization which includes creation of infographics and communication tools (5000 euro) and an international stakeholder meeting in 2024 (25000 euro).

Results/outcomes and expected impact

CAN DReaM International is designed to develop alliances across and within countries to accelerate adoption and application of DRM best practices and policies. Findings from this work will be used to support policy approaches to address DRM in multiple countries. By applying a policy-based approach and focusing on progressive collaborations with multidisciplinary, stakeholders including patients and carers, we aim to support strategies to implement and advance nutritional care in clinical practice on an international level. To our knowledge, this is the first international alliance initiative to advance DRM care with a policy focus. Ultimately, this initiative aims to enhance standardization of nutrition practices related to DRM across countries, reduce the prevalence of malnutrition and enhance access to nutrition care as a human right to improve patient outcomes.



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