

Patricia Anthony graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1980 with a BS in Nutritional Sciences. Pat became a Registered Dietitian based on her supervised hours from her experience with a nutrition support team and surgical rotation during her master's program after she received her MS in Clinical Nutrition from the University of Kentucky in 1982. Pat always knew that she wanted a career in nutrition. While working at a hospital along-side a registered dietitian, she was inspired to pursue a career in dietetics and to be in a clinical setting. She has numerous peer-reviewed publications and is currently the Senior Director of Organizational Growth at the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition in Silver Spring, Maryland.

With a career path based on clinical nutrition, Pat's experiences during her undergraduate career at UConn have led to several accomplishments such as Fellow of the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition in 2016. During her time at UConn, Pat was president of the Nutrition Club and remembers selling cookbooks to raise money. She also managed the meal services on campus by working with the chef and planning meals in one of the dining halls. When asked about some of her favorite courses, Pat emphasized that food chemistry and clinical courses were very applicable in the field. She recalls back to her experience working for Nestle in Switzerland with food scientists and being able to understand the chemical reactions in foods and how the ingredients impacted shelf life.

A key position which built the foundation for Pat's career in the field of dietetics was as a metabolic and nutrition support specialist at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. As the first dietitian on the Nutrition Support team, she worked with other health professionals such as nurses to develop a home nutrition support team. She reflects back on the experience and how she gained knowledge about medicine in general, along with parenteral and enteral nutrition. Pat has experience in multiple sectors of dietetics, such as at Coram Healthcare, where she learned first-hand the relationship between the clinical and business side of healthcare.

Today, Pat currently works at the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. This multidisciplinary organization promotes best practices and methods to ensure patients are being fed appropriately. Her current position includes working with industry partners to determine how to inform clinicians about evidence-based nutrition practices to improve the delivery of nutrition care to patients. Additionally, she is always working together with her partners and co-workers to discuss new practices and research that may be beneficial to patients.

When asked about improvement for the future registered dietitians, Pat had great advice and knowledge to share. She emphasized that there are many different career paths for nutrition majors, whether they are traditionally working at a hospital, or non-traditional routes such as working for food companies overseas. Pat also mentioned the importance of having a hands-on practice to learn in a clinical setting to apply the knowledge gained throughout the undergraduate experience. She believes that both hands-on practice and coursework will be beneficial for internships and jobs.

After a busy and evolving career path, Pat is excited in remaining connected to the UConn community and Department of Nutritional Sciences. She thinks that alumni can stay connected by visiting the university as guest speakers for nutrition courses to share their experiences and advise with students through their unique career paths. Pat also described how she is still in contact with friends she attended the University of Connecticut with. Alumni receptions and get together are also a way that Pat looks forward to networking and catching up with old peers. We would like to thank Pat for her contribution and long-lasting relationship with the University of Connecticut and the Department of Nutritional Sciences.