

# DigiTech Division: Positioning SNEB to Lead the Way in Digital Technology for Nutrition Education and Behavior Change



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In July 2018, the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) launched the Digital Technology in Nutrition Education and Behavior Change (DigiTech) Division.<sup>1</sup> Sharing SNEB's mission and

vision with the other 11 divisions, the DigiTech Division purposefully aligns its goals and values to SNEB's. We aim to strengthen the promotion of effective nutrition education and healthy behavior through research, policy, and practice that include digital technology.

Mobile apps, social media, and even virtual reality are now mainstream in this new era of partnership

with artificial intelligence and robots. 'Status quo' is shifting, and best practices must evolve as digital technology changes the dynamic of how we prepare, deliver, evaluate, and disseminate nutrition education. Indeed, "There are Thousands of Apps for That."<sup>2</sup> But mobile phones and eLearning platforms are just the beginning of how digital technologies are extending the reach and impact of nutrition education.

As the experts in nutrition education, SNEB members benefit by understanding and critically evaluating technology applications in our domain. When SNEB members actively shape how technologies are applied in nutrition education research, education, and practice, these technologies will be more effective at achieving behavior change. With the formation of this new division, SNEB strives to be the leader in helping nutrition educators

and behavior researchers adopt new approaches and optimize impact. The DigiTech Division is committed to empowering SNEB members with the knowledge and resources to integrate emerging technologies into their nutrition education programs by educating, connecting, and promoting SNEB members in the area of digital technology.

## Educate

We will educate members about digital technologies available for nutrition education and provide ways to learn about emerging technologies through webinars, conference sessions and conference workshops.

## Connect

We will provide a platform for connecting members and sharing



**Figure.** First meeting of DigiTech Division.

knowledge, collaboration opportunities, and funding resources through networking events at conference, online resources, and hot topic calls.

### Promote

We are committed to making SNEB the go-to resource for digital technology in nutrition education and behavior change. To do so, we will gather information about how SNEB members and others are using technology in nutrition education and use it to highlight best practices, identify internal experts, and make our members' value and expertise known within and outside SNEB.

Aficionados and technophobes alike are welcome. We hope you will join the division to learn, network, and share your expertise. We look forward to collaborating with you.

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### REFERENCES

1. White AA. The next 50 years: setting the course for SNEB and JNEB. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 2018;50:651–653.
2. Hingle M, Patrick H. There are thousands of apps for that: navigating mobile technology for nutrition education and behavior. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 2016;48:213–218.

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This recognition was given to authors of papers published 3 years previously that have had an impact on the scholarship and literature published in JNEB as measured through citations since publication.

*Past, Present, and Future of eHealth and mHealth Research to Improve Physical Activity and Dietary Behaviors.* Corneel **Vandelanotte**, Andre M. **Müller**, Camille E. **Short**, Melanie **Hingle**, Nicole **Nathan**, Susan L. **Williams**, Michael L. **Lopez**, Sanjoti **Parekh**, Carol A. **Maher**. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 48:219–228. Citations 2016–2018: 55

*The Effect of the Mediterranean Diet on Hypertension: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.* Mariela **Nissensohn**, Blanca **Román-Viñas**, Almudena **Sánchez-Villegas**, Suzanne **Piscopo**, Lluís **Serra-Majem**. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 48:42–53. Citations 2016–2018: 29

*There Are Thousands of Apps for That: Navigating Mobile Technology for Nutrition Education and Behavior.* Melanie **Hingle**, Heather **Patrick**. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 48:213–218. Citations 2016–2018: 28

*The Prevalence of Food Security and Insecurity Among Illinois University Students.* Loran **Mary Morris**, Loran **Mary Morris**, Sylvia **Smith**, Jeremy **Davis**, Dawn **Bloyd Null**. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 48:376–382. Citations 2016–2018: 24

*Measures of Retail Food Store Environments and Sales: Review and Implications for Healthy Eating Initiatives.* Karen **Glanz**, Karen **Glanz**, Lauren **Johnson**, Amy L. **Yaroch**, Matthew **Phillips**, Guadalupe X. **Ayala**, Erica L. **Davis**. *J Nutr Educ Behav*. 48:280–288. Citations 2015–2017: 11