1977 Fifty ADA members sign a petition requesting approval by ADA of a specialty interest group in gerontological nutrition.

1978-1979 Volunteers work to formalize the group by writing by-laws and obtaining a slate of officers. Dues were $4.

1978 First organized meeting is held at Las Vegas AME.

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1980 Joncier Greene becomes chair. GN presents its first major AME session, Nutrition Education for the Elderly Project.

1981 Regular newsletter service begins. GN adopts a resolution regarding the 1981 White House Conference on Aging and develops a nutritionist position description.


1983 GN responds to the Amendment to the Older Americans Act Regulations. GN develops an issue paper for ADA on the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

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1984 GN, with the Governmental Affairs Office, distributes an issue paper on Nutrition and Aging.

1985 GN assists ADA with the first Position Paper: Nutrition, Aging, and The Continuum of Health Care. GN adds three more Regional Coordinators, making it one from each of seven areas.

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1986 GN continues to sponsor workshops.

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Membership:
1978 - 207
1981 - 531
1983 - 860
1984 - 1300
1987 - 1729
1990 - 2000
1994 - 2482
2000 - 2466

FOUNDERS
Dorothy Diggins
Caroline Van Mason
Janette Martin
Borisinghen Lugton
Christine Frysztacki
Joncier Green
Ramona Higging
Ruth Mumma
Rita Tanski
HISTORY OF GERONTOLOGICAL NUTRITIONISTS DIETETIC PRACTICE GROUP (Continued)


1987 GN hosts its first AME reception in Atlanta.

1988 The Joncier Greene Memorial Lecture "Nutrition and Cancer Risk" is presented by Louise Light, National Cancer Institute, at AME in San Francisco. GN produces its first membership brochure.

1989 There is standing room only at GN's major AME session on Nutrition, Exercise, and Aging, in Kansas City. GN announces its Joncier Greene Continuing Education Award program making funds available to help cover expenses for educational events. GN develops its first traveling portable exhibit. GN authors Linda Shoaf and Helen Jensen publish "Inclusion of Geriatric Nutrition in ADA Approved Undergraduate Programs," in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, Sept.

1990 Kay Bishirjian, GN Regional Coordinator, testifies for Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. GN members Audrey McCool, Mary Tonore, and Nancy Wellman (chair) serve on ADA's Nutrition Screening Initiative Steering Committee with 35 key health organizations. GN implements its speakers stipend award to promote GN speakers at related meetings.


1992 GN establishes formal alliances (for ADA) with the National Nutrition and Aging Services Programs and the National Association of Meal Programs (now Meals on Wheels America). Since then GN has made and maintains six alliances.

1993 GN develops its Lending Library. GN publishes research project "Need, Availability, and Outcomes of Nutrition Services for the Aged."  

HISTORY OF GERONTOLOGICAL NUTRITIONISTS
DIETETIC PRACTICE GROUP (Continued)

1996  GN establishes precedent among DPGs by converting to elected Practice Coordinators to replace Area Coordinators.

1997  GN sponsors workshops Removing the Masks of Alcohol and Chemical Dependency among Older Adults, which was subsequently presented 10 times. GN members Kay Bishirjian and Sylvia Escott-Stump receive ADA Medallion Awards at AME in Boston. GN sponsors its first Nutrition Education Aid contest won by a Massachusetts graduate student.

GN participates in the development of ADA The Nutrition and Health for Older Americans Campaign and accompanying Toolkit with the Food Guide Pyramid for Persons 50 Plus.

GN announces its own electronic mailing list, Gnu list at ADA AME in Atlanta.
GN publishes with ADA continuing education module Nutrition and Parkinson Disease.
GN co-sponsors a post-ADA workshop Nutrition in Aging: Building Successful Partnerships.

2000  GN implements its Nutrition Education Materials Development Grant for members.

Past Chairs:
1980       Joncier Greene
1981-82 Linda Hoops
1982-83 Dorothy Diggins
1983-84 Barbara Posner
1984-85 Audrey McCool
1985-86 JoAnn Pegues
1986-87 Mary Pat Howley
1987-88 Eleanor Schlenker
1988-89 Joe Carlin
1989-90 Mary Tonore
1990-91 Linda Shoaf
1991-92 Linda Netterville
1992-93 Kay Bishirjian
1993-94 Eunshil Shim
1994-95 Barbara Blocker
1995-97 Eileen Kutnick
1997-98 JoAnn Prophet
1998-99 Marilyn Abernethy
1999-00 Martha Peppones
2000-01 Barbara Woodhouse

Alliances:     AoA, AARP, NCOA, NAMP (MOWA), NANASP, National Resource & Policy Center for Nutrition and Aging at FIU

GN Web Site: Http://trc.ucdavis.edu/gerinutr/