

Melissa M. Page, MS, RDN, CSOWM, LDN

Position: Senior Bariatric Dietitian at Maine Medical Center's Weight and Wellness Program in Portland, ME.

Expertise: Melissa is a Certified Specialist in Obesity and Weight Management, has held several leadership positions within professional dietetics groups, and is passionate about promoting the role of the registered dietitian as a key part of the multidisciplinary team in metabolic and bariatric surgery.

Education: MS in Clinical Nutrition, Tufts University. BS in Dietetics, Indiana University

Vision for IH EC: The IH EC is a unique group of individuals from diverse clinical expertise, all with the same goal of supporting patients' success throughout the bariatric surgery process. Promoting the role of IH members as key components of the surgical team will help to provide more support to these roles and better patient outcomes. Encouraging collaboration within IH specialties elevates our role and reduces redundancy in the clinic. We should also strive to provide more diverse educational resources to support diverse and underrepresented members and patients. Bringing in more diversity onto the EC will help to provide a better perspective of how we can better serve a more diverse member and patient population.

Goals for IH EC:

- Expand on modes of communication to reach all styles of learners such as podcasting, short form videos, and/or infographics.
- Develop standardized educational resources in multiple languages to support members working with diverse populations.
- Continue to provide high quality professional development and continuing education events, but expand on the pool of speakers to include more diversity.
- Develop networking and education events that encourage collaboration within IH specialties.
- Develop materials to support IH members on their path to advancing their careers, i.e. management positions, advanced degrees, research opportunities, etc.