What is a Learning Lounge Talk?

The Learning Lounge is a showcase for dynamic members who discuss big ideas, emerging trends, or how-to instructions in 15 minutes (12 minutes of content and 3 minutes of audience Q&A). They take place on a small stage in open spaces outside of session rooms. Speakers should be lively, engaging, and comfortable speaking extemporaneously.

What kinds of topics are suitable?

**We aim for...**

...**big ideas.** What are the topics that affect dietitians across specialties or settings? Examples of past topics include avoiding perfectionism, ethical approaches to sponsorship, and understanding gender privilege.

...**emerging trends.** What should be on a dietitian’s radar? Examples include long COVID, the sober-curious lifestyle, and bigorexia.

...**how-to instructions.** What are simple steps a listener can take? Previous examples include community gardening, zero-waste cooking, or starting a side hustle.

**We try to avoid...**

...**complex topics** that are heavy on science and research. These are difficult to absorb in 15 minutes.

...**content requiring visual aids.** If you cannot explain your topic without charts, graphs, or other visual data, it probably does not suit the Learning Lounge.

...**promotion.** The Learning Lounge is not a forum for new products or services.

What type of visual aids are available?

None! Speakers are fitted with a wireless microphone, but no visual aids are included—no handouts, no slides. A digital clock helps you keep time.

Why only 15 minutes?

These talks are designed to inspire curiosity or provide simple steps to take action rather than delve into scientific details or heavy research. Adult learners are good at focusing on one subject at a time in relatively short chunks. But remember—shorter doesn’t mean lesser!

Do these talks offer CPE?

No—these are informational only.

Do speakers receive an honorarium?

Speakers receive a 50% discount on the early registration rate.

What will I need to submit?

Be prepared to submit some demographic and contact information, such as Academy member number, title and organization, and email address; an overall topic with suggested title, description, and outline; and a brief (no more than one minute) introduction video. If applicable, also include references.