



We are CRN.

When you've been around for a while, you come to know who you are.

CRN's identity as the leading trade association representing responsible dietary supplement and functional food industry players is more evident this year than ever. As we reflect on our 49 years as the most credible and most respected voice of this industry, we look forward to celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2023.

After nearly a half century, we at CRN know who we are—and we know we would not be here without the vision, energy, and support of our members.

CRN members share a commitment to science, to a culture of responsibility, and to the highest ethical standards. That sets us apart and provides a foundation to deliver safe, high quality, and innovative products that so many people rely on to optimize their health and wellness.

Explore our full 2022 annual report at www.crnusa.org/2022 to review highlights of our 49th year and the results of our work that make us who we are.



For the full report, visit www.crnusa.org/2022

We are advancing CRN’s core purpose and values toward a long-term vision.

The 2021–2023 strategic plan adopted by CRN’s board of directors reaffirms the association’s core purpose is:

To protect and advance a climate for our members to responsibly develop, source, manufacture, and market science-backed dietary supplements, functional food, and their ingredients, for better health and nutrition.

CRN’s initiatives are driven by these core organizational values:

- Influential and proactive leadership
- Science-based decision making
- Integrity and accountability
- A passion for wellness

We envision a future in which nutritional products—dietary supplements and functional food—are universally trusted, accessible, and accepted as essential for a healthy world.

We are expanding self-regulatory initiatives.

In 2022, CRN added new best practices for proprietary blends to its library of self-regulatory guidance for the supplement industry and continued to grow the *Supplement OWL*. In addition, CRN held its second annual toxicology workshop, with the theme, “Assessing the Safety of Ingredients in a Formulation,” to advance safety evaluations of products beyond legal requirements.

Industry’s responsibility amid regulatory uncertainty

At the start of 2022, CRN President & CEO Steve Mister contributed a bylined article to Nutrition Industry Executive, “The Industry’s Responsibility in an Era of Regulatory Uncertainty.” It underscores numerous challenges stemming from the lack of clear direction and predictable enforcement from FDA and exemplifies CRN’s commitment to advancing quality and safety—whether the regulators are watching or not. Mister also spoke to this issue during his address at CRN’s Now, New, Next event—see the annual report microsite for the complete transcript.



“During this time of FDA instability, it’s not surprising that other actors are lining up to impose their own agendas upon the industry...The best way to deter would-be enforcers is to demonstrate a strong commitment throughout the industry to self-police and observe high levels of quality, even if regulators are distracted or disengaged. That’s why our members agree to adhere to CRN’s guidelines and best practices...”

Hear from CRN’s outgoing and incoming board chairs via our annual report microsite: www.crnusa.org/2022



We are influencing public policy.

In 2022, CRN advanced legislation to create dietary supplement listing, held back age restriction proposals in six states, called on Congress to address the CBD conundrum, and called for FDA to properly apply the drug preclusion prohibition of DSHEA to ingredients like NAC and NMN. We advocated for recognition of dietary supplements as “qualified medical expenses” for FSAs and HSAs and interacted with the Department of Defense on programs targeting supplement use by members of the military.

CRN represented our members’ interests with FDA, urging the agency to clarify its use of Remote Regulatory Assessments, enhance its inspections, and improve communications between its policy and enforcement divisions. We responded to FDA’s proposed “amnesty” for NDI notifications and argued that the agency is misinterpreting the drug preclusion provision to stifle supplement innovation.

CRN also protected member interests internationally, securing fish oil exporters with continued access to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Seafood Inspection Program (SIP) certificates and promoting science-based nutrition policy through the CRN-International webinar series and journal publication.



“Given the consistently overly broad manner in which the FDA has interpreted the drug preclusion provision since its inception, amending the drug preclusion language may be the best option to preserve consumer access to dietary supplements.”

From “Drug preclusion and public health: The case for a narrow interpretation of ‘article,’” by CRN’s Megan Olsen and Daniel Garza in RAPS, the publication of the Regulatory Affairs Professionals Society



CRN’s Daniel Garza and Cassie Folk, government relations consultant and founder/president of Cassie Folk & Associates, testified at a hearing of the New Jersey Senate Health, Human Services, and Senior Citizens Committee in opposition to proposed age restriction legislation.

We are improving consumer access.



In 2022, CRN initiatives to improve access to nutrition and nutrition education ranged from the hands-on work of our members in their communities across the U.S. and globally to #Act4Access with donations of time, product and funding—as well as the development and distribution of science-backed messaging—to support policymaking that expands access.



The CRN Foundation released new research—the “Supplements to Savings” report detailing billions of dollars in potential savings in U.S. healthcare costs from the selective use of certain dietary supplements. Meanwhile, the “Vitamin D & Me!” campaign helped educate practitioners and consumers about the importance of this essential nutrient and its relationship to COVID-19.

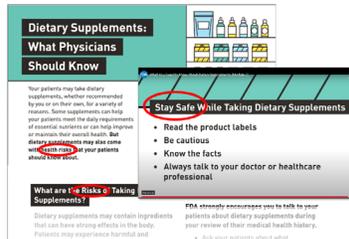


CRN emphasized nutrition and nutrition education with leadership of the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health—the first event of its kind in 50 years.

We are enhancing public perceptions.

In 2022, CRN’s communications team worked in concert with subject matter experts across its science, regulatory, legal, and membership departments to develop and disseminate content supporting the safety and benefit of dietary supplements and nutritional ingredients—both proactively and responsively—as well as positioning the dietary supplement and functional food industry as responsible and delivering value to people’s lives, overall societal health, and the economy.

CRN called out FDA’s “Supplement Your Knowledge” education campaign for being overly negative and dismissive of the regulations that oversee these products, overemphasizing risk.



We responded on behalf of the industry and provided perspective to headline-making research through the year—both positive and negative.

The CRN and American Society for Nutrition Foundation (ASNF) Program for Scholars (CAPS) Award supports educational opportunities for the next generation of nutrition scientists and practitioners.



CAPS awardee Doreen Larvie with mentor Dr. Sonia Hartunian-Sowa, DSM Nutritional Products; mentor Dr. Yasmeen Nkrumah-Elie, ChromaDex with CAPS awardee Samantha Fessler, Arizona State University; mentor Dr. Casey Vanous, Herbalife Nutrition, with CAPS awardee Samiha Azgar, Cornell University.

We are growing membership.

In 2022, CRN welcomed 25 new voting and associate member companies. See our annual report microsite for a complete listing: www.crnusa.org/2022

In addition, participation in CRN’s committees, working groups and task forces grew, providing our member company executives with expanded opportunities to shape their industry and more deeply experience the benefits of CRN membership.

Through member webinars and guest presentations during CRN virtual committee meetings—available to CRN members on demand—CRN provided educational content on the topics that matter most.



Visit our annual report microsite for more on how CRN pushed back on mischaracterizations of dietary supplements and provided balance with outlets such as CNN, the Today Show, the Wall Street Journal, and more.



Hear from new and longtime members about the value of CRN membership via our annual report microsite: www.crnusa.org/2022

