

# About Our Experts



THE WHOLE PACKAGE.



**Leslie Bonci, MPH, RD, CSSD, LDN**, is a leading dietitian and the Director of Sports Nutrition at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In her practice, Leslie works with patients who have digestive disorders and often does presentations on nutrition for digestive health. She authored the book “American Dietetic Association’s Guide to Better Digestion” and has worked as the Pittsburgh Steelers’ team dietitian for 20 years. She has appeared on the Today Show, CNN, ESPN and MSNBC, and The Dr. Oz Show, among others. Leslie has authored several books, including “Sport Nutrition for Coaches,” “Bike Your Butt Off,” “Run Your Butt Off” and “Walk Your Butt Off.” Leslie Bonci, MPH., RD, CSSD, LDN, is a spokesperson for the California Dried Plum Board.



**Mary Jo Feeney, MS, RDN, FADA, FAND**, is a Registered Dietitian with a Master of Science in Nutrition from Case-Western Reserve University. She is a charter Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and served on the Academy and its Foundation’s Board of Directors, and is a past recipient of the Academy’s Medallion Award. Mary Jo consults for the food, agriculture and healthcare industries and has served as the Nutrition Advisor to the California Dried Plum Board since 1997.



**Shirin Hooshmand, PhD**, is currently an Assistant Professor of Nutrition at the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences at San Diego State University (SDSU). She received her PhD from the Department of Nutrition, Food and Exercise Sciences at Florida State University where she studied the bone reversal effects of plant’s bioactive compounds. She completed her post-doctoral training at the Florida State University working in the area of nutrition, bone and cartilage. Her current research interests include bone and calcium metabolism, osteoporosis and osteoarthritis, and functional foods. She has served as an ad hoc reviewer for the USDA’s small business innovation research (SBIR) grants for Food Science and Nutrition program. She is the invited faculty for Interdisciplinary Symposium on Osteoporosis (ISO2014) organized by National Osteoporosis Foundation. She has published 25 original articles in peer reviewed journals and presented more than 40 abstracts in national and international symposiums. She has received the Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) fellowship and the Florida State University Graduate Research and Creativity Award. Shirin Hooshmand, PhD, is a spokesperson for the California Dried Plum Board.

## Media Contacts:

Erin Jundef, Ketchum, 310-437-2513 or [erin.jundef@ketchum.com](mailto:erin.jundef@ketchum.com)

Alyson Barnes, Ketchum, 415-984-6259 or [alyson.barnes@ketchum.com](mailto:alyson.barnes@ketchum.com)

[CaliforniaDriedPlums.org](http://CaliforniaDriedPlums.org)

