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Development of the Sleep Module for the Automated Self-Administered 24-Hour (ASA24) Dietary Assessment Tool: New Research Opportunities

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> ACCUMULATING EVIDENCE SUPPORTS A COMPLEX interplay between diet, sleep, and various health outcomes. A large body of literature exists investigating independent influences of dietary quality^{1,2} and sleep^{3,4} on health outcomes, particularly chronic disease risk such as obesity,^{5,6} cardiovascular disease,^{1,3,4,7-10} diabetes,^{1,3,4,11,12} and cancer.^{1,4,13,14} However, emerging evidence suggests that one's diet may impact the quality of subsequent sleep,^{15–18} and conversely sleep duration and quality may impact the amount and quality of foods and beverages consumed.^{17,19–21} Additionally, these behavioral patterns are circadian. occurring rhythmically within the context of a 24-hour day.²² The *timing* of when one eats and the *timing* of when one sleeps may impact one another.^{23,24} Meal timing patterns. including timing of first and last eating occasion, eating jetlag, and variability in temporal eating patterns, have been linked to a number of metabolic outcomes.^{24–27} Evidence would be strengthened by elucidating the impact of the intricate interplay between diet and sleep patterns on health and disease. Timing of dietary and sleep behaviors also may interact with other health-related behaviors, such as physical activity, and biological factors, such as circadian rhythms, chronotype, and metabolism, to impact long-term health outcomes.²²⁻²⁴ The collective area of research about the relationship between temporal eating patterns, circadian rhythms, and health and disease is often referred to as chrono-nutrition.²²

STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

MMSW, LEO, SGO, and KAH developed the ASA24 Sleep module; MMSW wrote the first draft with contributions from LEO, SGO, and KAH; MMSW, LEO, SGO, and KAH reviewed and commented on subsequent drafts of the manuscript. All authors approved the final manuscript.

Shams-White et al.

Few tools exist to capture the multidimensional natures of diet (including meal timing, diet quality, and fasting windows) and sleep health (including sleep timing, efficiency, duration, quality, regularity, and alertness²⁸), their day-to-day variability (including weekday vs weekend), and their interrelationship within the 24-hour day. Much of the observational evidence examining associations between dietary intake and sleep outcomes are crosssectional and often use questionnaires that capture these behaviors over the span of a month or year (eg, via food frequency or sleep questionnaires asking about the past month). ^{16,17,29} This limits examination of direct, temporal associations between diet and sleep within a 24-hour day. Assessment tools that are designed to capture behavior soon after it occurs, such as 24-hour dietary recalls (referred to herein as recalls) and sleep diaries, and data in real time, such as with actigraphy, allow researchers to better integrate dietary and sleep measures into health research. These shorter-term tools are often used in randomized controlled trials investigating how dietary intake and sleep interact and influence chronic disease risk factors.^{17,18} However, diet and sleep are often not assessed concurrently, prohibiting researchers' abilities to integrate data and estimate their joint associations with health outcomes. For those studies that may capture both behaviors within the same period, assessment tools (eg, recalls, diaries, wearables, and digital assessments) usually capture these two complex behaviors separately, increasing both participant and researcher burden. The objective was to thus update a widely used dietary assessment tool to additionally capture self-reported sleep health.

The Automated Self-Administered 24-Hour (ASA24) Dietary Assessment Tool is a fully automated, web-based, self-administered assessment tool that captures self-reported dietary intake over a 24-hour period.³⁰ It was developed by the National Cancer Institute under contract with Westat and is publicly available at no cost to researchers, clinicians, and educators. It enables the collection of multiple recalls or food records via desktop computers and mobile devices. ASA24's web-based system probes participants to recall foods, beverages, and dietary supplements consumed throughout the reporting period and the time of each meal; codes data; and provides detailed food-level and summary data for each day of dietary assessment captured. Additionally, a variety of novel modules can be added to capture information on food sources, meal locations, with whom meals are eaten, and electronic device use during meals. Such optional modules are periodically added to the ASA24 system based on research trends or user needs. The aim of this commentary is to thus describe the ASA24 Sleep module development process and module content to inform researchers interested in studying the relationship between diet quantity and quality, chrono-nutrition, sleep health, and health outcomes.

ASA24 SLEEP MODULE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The goal for the Sleep module was to capture measures of self-reported sleep health, including questions specific to timing, quantity, and quality. The team, which included researchers with diet and sleep expertise, addressed the following main decision points during the development of the Sleep module: (1) the optimal order of the ASA24 modules and the period of sleep data collection in relation to dietary data collection; (2) the potential respondent target population(s) the tool would be relevant for; (3) the aspects of sleep health

Shams-White et al.

most important and feasible to capture; and (4) the implementation and refinement of the tool as an electronic data capture module.

First, the optimal placement of the Sleep module in relation to dietary assessment was considered. Given dietary assessment is the main objective of ASA24, it was decided the Sleep module would be a subsequent module to be completed after dietary intake data collection is completed. Additional discussions addressed which sleep period(s) were best to capture in the module for implementation with recalls and records: the sleep period before the first meal vs after the last meal reported. For both assessment approaches (ie, recall and record), the team opted to assess the participant's most recent sleep period to reduce recall bias and lower participant burden. To illustrate, a recall asks the respondent to report their dietary intake from the previous day; therefore, the accompanying Sleep module primarily focuses on the sleep period after the last meal (ie, the respondent's most recent sleep period), rather than the sleep period preceding the first meal (ie, 2 nights before the day that the recall is completed) (Fig 1A). Conversely, a food record is completed in real time, and thus, the sleep period before the first meal (ie, the respondent's most recent sleep period) is captured (Fig 1B).

Next, potential target populations for the Sleep module were discussed. Although ASA24 is used in various populations, the focus for developing the Sleep module was on the general adult population and nocturnal sleep period. Therefore, the language and questions included focused on nocturnal sleep rather than periodic sleep episodes (eg, daytime naps, biphasic sleepers) and were not necessarily tailored to those with sleep disorders or irregular sleeping schedules (eg, nightshift workers, caretakers with young infants, or those with purposeful night awakenings).

To determine module content, a thorough literature review was conducted to identify validated questionnaires currently being used to assess sleep in healthy populations. To develop a more comprehensive understanding of the tools and variety of sleep questionnaires being used by researchers, the search was expanded to include assessment tools for populations with sleep disorders. Of the multiple self-reported sleep assessment tools reviewed, the main tools considered included the National Sleep Foundation Sleep Diary,³¹ Munich Chronotype Questionnaire,³² Consensus Sleep Diary (CSD) Core,³³ and expanded CSD, Morning administration (CSD-M).³³ The search results were narrowed down based on multiple priorities: a focus on the nocturnal sleep period, interest in day-level data (ie, not asking about average sleep quantity or quality over multiple days), and the goal to apply minimal modifications to validated survey questions.

Additionally, all public-facing features of the ASA24 respondent website must comply with the Plain Writing Act of 2010³⁴ and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973³⁵ to ensure ASA24 uses language that can be easily understood by the public and is accessible to people with disabilities. Thus, any assessment tools that would require administering an image-heavy module were excluded. Module length was also strongly considered to limit participant burden. Given the average time to complete a recall using ASA24 is 24 minutes,³⁶ the aim was to limit the Sleep module to approximately 5 additional minutes or less to keep the entire assessment under 30 minutes. With these criteria in mind, the

CSD Core³³ was determined to be the best fit for the Sleep module. Additional external researchers with expertise in meal timing and sleep health were consulted for feedback on module content and utility throughout the decision-making process; in these discussions, additional survey items were considered that may be needed to capture a fuller picture of sleep health.

Programmers at Westat with expertise in survey design were consulted throughout the module content development and review process and provided guidance for implementation. As previously mentioned, to ensure the Sleep module complied with writing and formatting requirements, CSD Core questions underwent plain language review, with a target of a fifth-grade reading level. The questions and responses were also formatted in a way that enables those with disabilities, particularly those who may use a screen reader and other assistive technology, to be able to read and respond to the questions. Finally, the data collection process within the ASA24 System was internally piloted, and output data files were checked for accuracy.

CONTENT AND UTILITY OF THE ASA24 SLEEP MODULE

ASA24 now contains an optional Sleep module that provides researchers with an opportunity to capture data on sleep health after completion of a dietary recall or food record. Therefore, ASA24 can now be used to assess self-reported dietary intake and sleep health among English- and Spanish-speaking adult populations with at least a fifth-grade reading level. Key summary points for the Sleep module are highlighted in Figure 2. As previously mentioned, the Sleep module focuses on nocturnal sleep rather than periodic sleep episodes (eg, daytime naps or biphasic sleepers) and is not tailored for respondents with sleep disorders or irregular sleeping schedules (eg, nightshift workers, caretakers with young infants, or those with purposeful night awakenings). At this time, irregular sleep schedules and nap periods are outside the scope of this module and would require researchers to administer a separate sleep survey or device-based measure if choosing to pair with ASA24 dietary data.

The ASA24 Sleep module contains 10 unique questions (Fig 3) that address the aforementioned dimensions of sleep health (including sleep timing, efficiency, duration, quality, regularity, and alertness²⁸) and can be administered immediately after a dietary assessment (recall or record) if the researcher turns on the module within the researcher website. Eight CSD Core questions were adapted for inclusion, and two additional questions adapted from other assessment tools were added in the module to capture respondents' perceptions of how refreshed they felt on awakening^{31,33} and comparability of the reported sleep night to usual nighttime sleep duration³⁷ (Fig 3). In addition to the assessed variables, repeated assessment with the Sleep module can enable the examination of sleep regularity or variability, a component of sleep health that has been linked to several health outcomes.^{38–43}

The order of questions and sleep period captured by the Sleep module depends on the dietary assessment tool chosen by the researcher during study setup, as depicted in Figure 1. For studies in which respondents complete a recall(s), the module includes two questions on wake time and sleep quality for the sleep period immediately preceding the first reported

meal (questions 6 and 9 from Fig 3). The same two questions are then asked again with the other sleep questions (ie, all 10 sleep questions in Fig 3) for the nocturnal sleep period immediately after the last meal (ie, 12 sleep questions total per dietary recall) (Fig 1A). A study that pairs a recall with the Sleep module allows researchers to assess the time between waking and first meal (eg, morning fast period) or associations between dietary intake with the following nocturnal sleep period.

In contrast, pairing a food record with the Sleep module focuses all 10 sleep questions from Figure 3 on the nocturnal sleep period before the first meal (Fig 1B). A single record can be used to assess how the previous night of sleep may relate to subsequent dietary intake. The collection of multiple, consecutive records with the Sleep module allows researchers to also assess how dietary intake may influence the following night of sleep. (Fig 1B).

Once study data are collected in ASA24, all sleep health variables will be included in Total Nutrients and Supplements analysis files and available for download on the Researcher Website under "Data and Results."

CONSIDERATIONS AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

A few points are important to note as researchers begin to use this new module. First, although the module is based on a validated survey, the wording of the CSD Core questions were modified, and two additional sleep questions were added. This survey is thus a beta version and has not been validated; future research efforts can compare this tool with more objective measures, for example, from polysomnography and actigraphy. ASA24 also relies on self-report of both dietary intake and sleep and the potential for recall bias should be considered.⁴⁴ As previously mentioned, the Sleep module is currently recommended for use among adults without pre-existing sleep conditions or irregular sleep schedules and was thus not developed with these subpopulations in mind. Additionally, given this is the first launch of the ASA24 Sleep module, it has yet to undergo extensive user testing, and the utility of collecting dietary and sleep data together in this platform and its feasibility for administration is unknown. Indeed, the research community can help determine whether the module should be refined and, if so, can help improve the module by providing feedback through the ASA24 Help Desk⁴⁵ for consideration in future ASA24 updates.

CONCLUSION

ASA24 is a publicly available resource that now includes a standardized approach to examine the associations between dietary intake and sleep health in the context of the 24-hour day, as well as their joint associations on health outcomes of interest. ASA24 can allow both behaviors to be captured temporally, and with minimal burden added, via a short Sleep module for use across study designs, including clinical studies, interventions, observational studies, or surveillance research. Additional support will soon be available on the ASA24 webpage to guide researchers, including variable definitions and guidance to calculate additional sleep (eg, total sleep duration) and chrono-nutrition (eg, interval between awakening and first eating occasion) variables of interest.

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Figure 1.

The sequence of activities captured in the Sleep module: recall vs record. (A) Recalls collected dietary information from the previous day. When respondents complete a dietary recall with the Sleep Module, information is gathered on the sleep periods immediately preceding and immediately following the dietary reporting period. First, two questions are asked about wake time and sleep quality for the sleep period immediately preceding the first reported meal of the recall day. The same two questions are asked again along with the other eight sleep questions for the sleep period immediately after the last meal of the recall day. (B) Records collect dietary data in real time. When respondents complete a food record with the Sleep module, all 10 sleep questions are asked about the sleep period before the first meal of the record day. The collection of multiple, consecutive records with the Sleep module allows researchers to assess consecutive nights of sleep.

The F	ASA24 Sleep module:		
•	 Is best suited for adult populations and assessment of the nocturnal sleep period 		
	 Periodic sleep episodes are not captured (eg, biphasic sleeping or daytime naps). 		
	 Not tailored for populations with sleep disorders or irregular sleeping schedules 		
•	Contains 10 unique questions that take approximately 5 additional minutes to complete		
	• Eight questions are adapted from the Consensus Sleep Diary Core ³³ and address sleep timing, duration, and qualit		
	• Two additional questions adapted from other assessment tools ^{31,33,37} capture how refreshed respondents felt o		
	awakening and comparability of the reported sleep night duration to a usual night.		
٠	Can be used with a recall or record to assesses respondents' most recent sleep period		
	• For a recall, this is the sleep period following the last meal reported, as well as the wake time of the previous da		
	 Researchers can assess the morning fast period or associations between dietary intake with the following 		
	nocturnal sleep period.		

- For a *record*, this is the sleep period before the first meal reported.
 - For a single record, researchers can assess the influence of a nocturnal sleep period on subsequent dietary intake.
 Multiple consecutive records also can be used to assess morning fasting period and how dietary intake may influence the following nocturnal sleep period.

Figure 2.

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Key takeaway points for the ASA24 Sleep module.

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		Response options	
1.	What time did you get into bed yesterday [insert day, date]? This may not be the time that you began trying to fall asleep.	 Enter time, 12:00–11:59 AM/PM I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
2.	What time did you begin to try to fall asleep?	 Enter time, 12:00–11:59 AM/PM I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
3.	About how long did it take you to fall asleep, from when you first began trying?	 Enter minutes (0-59), hours (0-24) I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
4.	How many times did you wake up, not counting the final time you woke up?	 Enter number, 0—no limit I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
5.	In total, about how long were you awake? What was the total time you were awake between the time you first fell asleep and the final time you woke up?	 Enter minutes (0–59), hours (0–24) I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
6.	What was the final time you woke up today, [insert day, date]?	 Enter time, 12:00–11:59 AM/PM I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
7.	What time did you get out of bed today? This may be different from the final time you woke up. For example, you may have woken up at 6:35 a.m. but did not get out of bed to start your day until 7:20 am.	 Enter time, 12:00–11:59 AM/PM I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
8.	How well did you sleep last night?	 Very good Good Fair Poorly Very poorly I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
9.	How did you feel when you woke up today [insert date]? ^{b,c}	 Refreshed Somewhat refreshed Tired I prefer not to answer I don't know 	
10.	How does the amount of sleep you reported between [insert date] and [insert date] compare with your usual sleep? ^{b,d}	- Much more than usual, usual, much less than usual	
^a Questions are adapted from the Consensus Sleep Diary (CSD) Core Questions ³³ unless otherwise noted.			
^b These questions were added to capture sleep quality more fully and to better understand whether the duration of the reported sleep period is indicative of usual sleep for the respondent.			

^cThis question was developed as an adaptation from questions in the National Sleep Foundation Sleep Diary³¹ and expanded CSD, Morning administration (CSD-M).³³

 $^{\rm d} This$ question was adapted from the final question in the ASA24 recall and record. $^{\rm 37}$

Figure 3.

Questions included in the ASA24 Sleep Module.