



American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice
www.nutrition.org

April 28, 2011

Dear members of the Center for Scientific Review Advisory Council:

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Center for Scientific Review (CSR) Advisory Council regarding review of nutrition-related grant applications. ASN is the professional scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers, clinical nutritionists and industry to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition to promote health. ASN appreciates the support NIH provides to nutrition scientists, such as ASN's over 4,000 members working throughout academia, government and industry, to conduct research that helps all Americans to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. In order to continue important nutrition research, it is imperative that nutrition scientists have significant representation on CSR study sections and *ad hoc* panels that review nutrition-related grant applications.

The NIH has profound effects on nutrition research and monitoring, and the health of all Americans, as the agency responsible for conducting and supporting 90% of all federally-funded basic and clinical nutrition research. Nutrition research, which makes up about four percent of the NIH budget, is truly a trans-NIH endeavor, being conducted and funded across multiple Institutes and Centers. As a strong advocate for NIH funding, ASN recognizes that some of the most promising nutrition-related research discoveries have been made possible by NIH support.

ASN supports high quality, relevant nutrition research and believes in order to achieve this research, it is critical that nutrition scientists have significant representation on CSR *ad hoc* review panels and regular standing study sections that primarily review nutrition-related grant applications, such as the Integrative Nutrition and Metabolic Processes Study Section and the Kidney, Nutrition, Obesity and Diabetes Study Section. Without reviewers and study section members with nutrition expertise that fully understand the complexities of nutrition issues, deserving applications may not be awarded grants or renewed. Nutrition scientists can ensure that proposed research is realistic and achievable, since they are most up-to-date on current nutrition discoveries that proposed research can build upon, and not duplicate, as well as the science gaps that proposed research will need to target.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the NIH Center for Scientific Review Advisory Council regarding the need for nutrition expertise on CSR study sections. ASN members are valuable resources on nutritional science and can provide beneficial insight to CSR study sections. ASN would be happy to connect the CSR with nutrition scientists to enhance study sections and *ad hoc* review panels. Please contact Sarah Ohlhorst, MS, RD, Director of Government Relations, if ASN may provide further assistance. She can be reached at 301.634.7281 or sohlhorst@nutrition.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Russell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert M. Russell, M.D.
President, American Society for Nutrition