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**Message From the President:**  
**Simin Nikbin Meydani, DVM, PhD**

ASN's [Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting](#) in Boston was a certified success, and I am very thankful for all who contributed to the meeting. This year's science was once again engrossing and thought-provoking. We continue to gather feedback from members in as many ways as possible, including at the Annual Meeting. This year we hosted the annual Society Business Meeting at a new time on Saturday evening, with breakout sessions on open access, sustaining discoveries report, and nutrition-focused annual meeting (view ASN's [2014 Year-in-Review](#) and the Business Meeting [slides](#)). In addition, we hosted a listening session on a possible open access publication, and invited attendees to participate in crowd-sourcing about the 2018 meeting. Crowd-sourcing is designed to obtain input into a project by enlisting the services of a number of people via the Internet. The point of this open, transparent and quantifiable social data collection is to mix core ideas from survey research with new insights from crowdsourcing. We are still collecting impressions on various elements of the [new ASN Annual Meeting, to launch 2018-2020!](#)

2015 featured the debut of the [Emerging Leaders in Nutrition Science](#) poster competition, as well as several international forums, and a minority and diversity affairs forum on career enhancement. Our attendance was above 2,700 and ASN abstract submission (1,805) was the second-highest level achieved since 2010.

Please take a minute to complete ASN's EB 2015 [attendee survey](#), noting that it includes instructions for dietitians seeking Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credit. There is also a [FAQ](#) on CPE available. Finally, I want to say thank you to all members and staff who made this year's conference one to remember!

Simin Nikbin Meydani, DVM, PhD  
ASN President



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**Upcoming Deadlines & Events**

**April 28.** [Tufts Obesity Symposium](#). Boston, MA. 1:30-5:00 pm.

**May 6.** [ASN Nutritional Sciences Council Webinar](#): What is the microbiome and what is the evidence that diet can modify GI bacteria? 1:00 pm.

**May 8.** EB 2016 [abstract categories](#) deadline.

**May 17-19.** [Digestive Disease Week](#). Visit ASN at Booth #3147. Washington, DC.

**May 27-28.** [FDA Science Forum 2015](#). Silver Spring, MD.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### New Webinar Series on the Microbiome

ASN's Nutritional Sciences Council is conducting a free, four-part webinar series to describe the different approaches used to characterize the human microbiome, review current knowledge about gastrointestinal (GI) microbiota and obesity, and discuss the interactive role of GI microbiota and nutrition in chronic health and disease.

Registration is now open for the first program:

*What is the Microbiome and What is the Evidence that Diet can Modify GI Bacteria?*

Wednesday, May 6, 2015 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm

Speakers:

- Lita Proctor, PhD, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health
- James Lewis, PhD, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

[Register and learn more about future webinars in the series.](#)

### Call for Abstract Topic Categories: ASN's Scientific Sessions at EB 2016

ASN's Scientific Sessions provides a forum for the presentation of the latest basic and clinical research on nutrition-related topics. Each year, ASN's Scientific Programs Committee works with the Research Interest Sections, Councils and other groups to confirm abstract categories for the coming year. These categories help to guide the overall programming of oral and poster presentations. ASN members are encouraged to submit new topic categories for the annual Call for Abstracts. Review last year's abstract categories [here](#). To submit a new topic category for consideration, please email your idea(s) to [mguenther@nutrition.org](mailto:mguenther@nutrition.org) by Friday, May 8.



### Magnesium Workshop

The Center for Magnesium Education and Research, in partnership with ASN, conducted a workshop April 1-3. Held immediately after EB 2015, the workshop was titled "**Addressing an Evidenced- Based Reference Interval for Total Serum Magnesium Concentration.**" Through presentations and group discussions, participants reviewed the physiology of human magnesium balance and the factors that influence changes in serum and urine concentrations and examined the peer-reviewed literature to determine whether a need exists to establish an evidence-based reference interval for total serum magnesium concentration for optimum human health. To aid the scientific community, a small group will be developing a review article on the state-of-the-science on this topic. The article will be framed around an "evidence matrix" across population/age groups and health outcomes as they relate to levels of serum and urinary magnesium. The wealth of data presented at the workshop will populate the matrix and help expose data gaps where additional research might be warranted.

## Public Policy News

### Nutrition Chapter in AAAS Report

**May 28-30. [Canadian Nutrition Society Annual Conference.](#)** Winnipeg, MB.

**June 7.** Early registration deadline for FASEB [Science Research Conference on Human Milk](#), organized by ASN Lactation RIS.

**June 16.** ASN Press Conference: A Transparent, Actionable Framework for Food and Nutrition Research Public-Private Partnerships. Washington, DC. 9:00-10:00 am.



## Crowd-Sourcing Opportunities

We invite you to participate in ASN's "All Our Ideas" crowd-sourcing initiative by addressing the following questions that were recently added:

[If ASN launches an open access journal, what should it be called?](#)

[As a student member, what is most important to you in a nutrition conference?](#)

Sarah Ohlhorst, ASN Director of Government Relations, authored the nutrition and obesity portion of [Chapter 25: Food Safety and Nutrition in the FY 2016 Budget](#) of the [AAAS Report on Research and Development \(R&D\) for Fiscal Year 2016](#), which showcases federal support of nutrition research. For the first time, nutrition and food safety merited their own chapter, separate from content on natural resources and renewable energy (Chapter 26).

### **Seeking Member Input: 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Scientific Report**

ASN members are asked to **submit comments** on the [Scientific Report of the 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee](#) to [sohlhorst@nutrition.org](mailto:sohlhorst@nutrition.org) as the Society prepares written comments by the **May 8** deadline. ASN delivered oral comments on the report at a public meeting hosted in late March. Members interested in providing their own written comments can do so [online](#).



ASN staff (right) met with Rep. French Hill (center) of Arkansas during FASEB's Capitol Hill Day.

Visit the [ASN website](#) to read the entire policy update.

## **Journal Highlights**

### **Advances in Nutrition**

The recent [issue](#) of *Advances in Nutrition*, ASN's international review journal, features several new takes on topics in nutrition:

- Offering a new perspective on obesity, Jennifer C. Kerns explores the discovery of high rates of thiamin deficiency in certain populations of people with obesity. Although obesity traditionally has been viewed as a disease of excess nutrition, this review presents evidence suggesting that it may also be a disease of malnutrition.
- Ondine van de Rest and coauthors present a systematic review of studies that investigate the link between dietary patterns and cognition among older adults. Their analysis suggests that better adherence to a Mediterranean diet can result in a lower incidence of cognitive decline, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease.

### **The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition**

Read the [media alert](#) for summaries and analyses of each study.

- *Dairy products: good or bad for cardiometabolic disease?*
- *Lipid-based nutrient supplement increases the birth size of infants of primiparous women in Ghana*
- *Does dietary cholesterol influence cardiovascular disease risk in people with type 2 diabetes?*



### **The Journal of Nutrition**

Summaries and analyses of this study and accompanying commentary are found in the [media alert](#).

- *Chronic intake of sucrose accelerates sarcopenia in older male rats through alteration in insulin sensitivity and muscle protein synthesis*
- *Maternal consumption of dietary fiber during pregnancy and lactation may have long-term benefits for infant immune development*

## **Member Spotlight**

- **Carine Lenders, MD**, Boston University School of Medicine, will receive a medal of honor for nutrition services given in Vietnam by the Ministry of Health.
- **Connie Weaver, PhD**, Purdue University, was appointed to the FDA Science Advisory Board and also to the Office of Women's Health Research.
- Browse the list of members who joined [ASN in March 2015](#).

*Have you received an award, been quoted in the media or published a book recently? ASN is proud of its members and wants to know about such accomplishments. Send the information to Suzanne Price at [sprice@nutrition.org](mailto:sprice@nutrition.org) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.*