



American Society for Nutrition
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ASN STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT'S FY 2012 BUDGET

February 15, 2011– The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) today praised the President's proposed increases in funding for FY 2012 for the following agencies and programs: the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ASN applauds the President's decision to support funding boosts which will support nutrition, food safety, and food assistance programs.

The proposed \$23 million increase for NCHS to \$161.8 million will be used to support the NHIS, NHANES, and National Health Care Survey, and to purchase a full 12 months of vital statistics collected by the vital records jurisdictions.

The President's budget provides \$325 million for competitive peer-reviewed research grants through AFRI, an increase of 24% since 2010. To support these priorities, the Administration proposes to eliminate funding for all research grant earmarks and cancel \$224 million in unobligated balances for research construction projects, resulting in current savings and significant future cost avoidance.

The proposed budget for NIH in 2012 is \$31.8 billion, which is approximately a \$745 million increase over the FY 2010 actual level.

“The investments proposed by President Obama continue to demonstrate this Administration's commitment to science and to improving the nation's health,” said ASN President Robert M. Russell, MD. “We urge Congress to support increases in these critical programs that are the lifeblood of the nation's science and research enterprises.”

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) is the preeminent professional organization for nutrition research scientists and clinicians around the world. ASN is dedicated to bringing together the top nutrition researchers, medical practitioners, policy makers and industry leaders to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition. Founded in 1928, ASN publishes The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN), the Journal of Nutrition (JN) and Advances in Nutrition. Visit ASN online at www.nutrition.org.

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