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

**Message From the President:**  
**Patrick J. Stover, PhD**

ASN's fifth [Advances & Controversies in Clinical Nutrition](#) (ACCN) conference was an overwhelming success. Visit the [ASN blog](#) and [YouTube channel](#) for highlights from this year's meeting.

Prior to ACCN, the ASN Board of Directors met to discuss semi-annual reports and the progress towards the goals for the remainder of the year. ASN continues to grow and meet the needs of the membership and the global nutrition community in new and innovative ways, which is essential in this time of never-ending change in the research and funding landscape. Please continue to reach out to board members and share your thoughts, ideas and suggestions to ensure the society can be guided by the needs and sage advice of the membership.



ASN Board of Directors in Long Beach, CA

Remember, you can [contribute](#) to the ASN Foundation through December 31 to maximize your tax deductions for 2015. The [Foundation](#) helps fund more than two dozen scientific awards and postdoctoral fellowships, which are key to promoting, recognizing, and encouraging excellence in nutrition research.

Wishing all of our members a safe and happy holiday season.

Patrick J. Stover, PhD  
ASN President

**Upcoming Deadlines & Events**

**December 15.** ASN [Predoctoral Fellowship Award application deadline.](#)

**February 23.** Experimental Biology [hotel reservations deadline.](#)

**March 1.** Experimental Biology [early registration deadline.](#)

**March 14-18.** [John Milner Practicum.](#) Rockville, MD.

**April 2-6.** [ASN Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting](#) at EB 2015. San Diego, CA.

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**June 12-16, 2016 in the Chicago, Illinois area**

**Applications due Feb. 12, 2016**

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**Cancer Webinar**

[The Impact of Obesity on Cancer Risk](#), U.S. National Cancer Institute, Division of

[ASN News](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[Public Policy News](#)

[Journal Highlights](#)

[Member Spotlight](#)

## ASN News

### Open Access Journal Editor Search

The American Society for Nutrition announces the search for Editor of a new open access journal to be launched in January 2017. The five-year appointment will begin in the summer of 2016 to allow ample time for the new Editor to participate in decisions related to journal development, strategic direction and selection of Associate Editors and the journal editorial board. The new journal will provide a global forum for the rapid publication of research findings on a broad range of topics in nutrition, placing particular emphasis on new article types and topics underserved or not served by current ASN publications. Fully peer reviewed, the new publication will broaden access to nutrition research to investigators with limited access to subscription-based journals.

Interested individuals are invited to submit a brief biographical sketch and curriculum vitae before **February 15, 2016**. Candidates should provide additional information on their qualifications and vision for the journal to complete their application by **March 1, 2016**.

Members of ASN and other interested individuals are invited to submit nominations of potential candidates to the Editor Search Committee.

Please visit the [ASN website](#) for details on the application requirements and for additional information. All expressions of interest, application materials, and nominations should be addressed to the committee chair, Catherine Field, and submitted electronically to the ASN Publications Administrative and Research Assistant, Kimberly Rhodes ([krhodes@nutrition.org](mailto:krhodes@nutrition.org)).

## Upcoming Meetings

### ASN's Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting at EB 2016

ASN's 80th [Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology](#) is just a few months away! The meeting will be held April 2-6 in San Diego, CA. Make sure to [register by March 1](#) to save up to \$135! Registration rates will increase after March 1. The headquarters hotel for ASN is the [Hilton San Diego Bayfront](#). This hotel and many others will sell out - make your reservations soon!

This past year, ASN's Scientific Program Committee has been working hard to develop a top-notch program for ASN's Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting at EB 2016. Our goal over the next few years is to innovate ASN's Scientific Sessions to ensure not only high quality programming but also depth and breadth for all of our target audiences.

This year's program is divided into six program tracks:

- Cellular and Molecular Nutrition
- Nutrition Across the Lifespan: From Pediatrics to Geriatrics

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## Combined Federal Campaign

ASN is thrilled to once again join federal employees and over 4,000 approved charities in continuing the legacy of giving with the [Combined Federal Campaign \(CFC\)](#). Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (**September 1-December 15**) support non-profit organizations like ASN. [Enroll through CFC](#) to help ASN provide health and human service benefits throughout the world!

**ASN CFC #36770**



## Advertise with ASN

Advertising opportunities with ASN include the ASN monthly e-newsletter, medical nutrition e-newsletter, on-site convention newspaper at EB, and the ASN job board. Visit our [advertising page](#) to learn about all available opportunities to reach our membership of more than 5,000!

**Contact US**

- Clinical and Translational Nutrition
- Global and Community Nutrition
- Nutritional Epidemiology
- Education

Our website, [scientificsessions.nutrition.org](http://scientificsessions.nutrition.org), is continually being updated with program details.

This month's featured session is **Food Systems for Public Health** which will open a dialog on agricultural production and human nutrition and explore climate change and other challenges and approaches facing the agricultural system specific to calls for dramatic increases in fruit and vegetable consumption. Speakers include National Geographic's Dennis Dimick, Executive Environment Editor, and NASA's Cynthia Rosenzweig (*invited*), a climatologist named by *Nature* as one of the top ten influential scientists of 2012.



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## Public Policy News

### Congressional Action

#### FY 2016 Omnibus Yet to be Seen

A short-term "continuing resolution" (CR) funding the government through December 16, 2015 passed the Senate, and the House is expected to approve the CR today, December 11th. The White House previously said President Obama will sign a CR that funds the government for a few days beyond December 11 so Congress can finalize the omnibus.

The passage of the CR through December 16th is a good sign that both the House and Senate leadership are committed to completing work on the omnibus as soon as possible. The House and Senate Appropriations Committee are expected to release versions of an omnibus spending bill early next week. The delay in releasing the text of the omnibus appropriations bill is due to the ongoing disagreements on the policy riders. In addition, efforts to add a package extending tax breaks that expire on December 31st to the omnibus are complicating the discussions.

Conflicts continue to arise between parties and between chambers on what "policy riders" or legislative provisions will be included. The disagreements arise over halting refugee resettlement, changing the affordable care act health coverage, blocking environmental and banking regulations and loosening campaign finance restrictions. Despite suggestions to add a ban on state GMO labeling laws to the appropriations bill, Senate Agriculture Committee ranking member Debbie Stabenow, D-MI has argued to postpone consideration of GMO labeling until 2016. The White House has issued a [Statement of Administration Policy](#) with a threatened veto, citing, among other things, opposition to provisions that would "defund the Prevention and Public Health Fund, limit women's health care choices, and disproportionately impact low-income individuals."

## Administrative Action

### NIH Requests Strategies to Enhance Diversity of Physician-Scientist Workforce

The Physician-Scientist Workforce Working Group (PSW-WG) was created by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and tasked with analyzing the composition and size of the physician-scientist biomedical workforce and making recommendations to sustain and strengthen it. One recommendation is to intensify its efforts to increase diversity in the workforce, as major deficiencies were found with regard to diversity. NIH has released a Request for Information (RFI) for unique trajectories, potential systematic or structural barriers, and successful strategies that might be undertaken to enhance the diversity of the PSW. [Responses](#) are required by **December 28, 2015**.

### FDA Requests Comments on 'Gluten-Free' Labeling Proposed Rule

On November 17, 2015, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) released a [proposed rule](#) to establish requirements for fermented and hydrolyzed foods, or foods that contain fermented or hydrolyzed ingredients, and bear the "gluten-free" claim, such as yogurt, sauerkraut, pickles, cheese, green olives, vinegar, and FDA regulated beers. In 2013, the FDA issued the [gluten-free final rule](#), which addressed the uncertainty in interpreting the results of current gluten test methods for fermented and hydrolyzed foods in terms of intact gluten. FDA has issued this proposed rule to provide alternative means for the agency to verify compliance, based on records that are made and kept by the manufacturer. **The FDA is accepting public comments on the proposed rule until February 16, 2016.** Electronically submit comments to the docket [here](#).

### CDC Requests Comments on National Health Interview Survey Redesign

In its inception in 1957, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) had only 75 questions and 95 percent of those asked elected to participate. The survey now has 1,200 potential questions, takes 90 minutes to complete and the participation rate is around 70 percent. Due to these statistics and a recent [article](#) calling for the survey to slim down, the CDC is inviting public comment and recommendations on the [2018 NHIS Questionnaire Redesign](#) **until December 31, 2015**.

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

## Journal Highlights

### *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition: Editor's Pick*

[Inability to match energy intake with energy expenditure at sustained near-maximal rates of energy expenditure in older men during a 14-d cycling expedition](#). Rosenkilde M, Morville T, Riis Andersen P, Kjær K, Rasmussen H, Holst JJ, Dela F, Westerterp K, Sjødin A, Helge JW. *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2015;102:1398-405. Theoretically, there are 3 ways to lose weight: consume fewer calories, expend more

energy, or engage in a combination of these behaviors. Some studies, though, suggest that increasing physical activity simply triggers the body to eat more, thus, potentially negating the desired weight-loss effect. A newly published study, however, provides convincing evidence that exceptional levels of activity do not necessarily elicit compensatory food intake. Most amazing about this study is that it was conducted with a group of remarkably athletic older men who, in response to a personal bet, cycled 1700 miles from Denmark to northern Norway.

***The Journal of Nutrition: Editor's Picks***

[A Plasma  \$\alpha\$ -Tocopherome Can Be Identified from Proteins Associated with Vitamin E](#)

[Status in School-Aged Children of Nepal](#). Keith P West Jr., Robert N Cole, Sudeep Shrestha, Kerry J Schulze, Sun Eun Lee, Joshua Betz, Bareng AS Nonyane, Lee S-F Wu, James D Yager, John D Groopman, and Parul Christian. 210682

Vitamin E status in low-income countries is largely unknown due to the difficulty and cost of measurement. In this study, researchers took a proteomics approach and identified 6 plasma proteins that could predict  $\alpha$ -tocopherol deficiency in children in Nepal. The work is important because good biomarkers of vitamin E status have not been identified previously. The work has the potential to guide the development of a targeted, multi-protein platform to simultaneously estimate the prevalence of multiple micronutrient deficiencies.

[Preventing Gut Leakiness and Endotoxemia Contributes to the Protective Effect of Zinc on Alcohol-Induced Steatohepatitis in Rats](#). Wei Zhong, Qiong Li, Qian Sun, Wenliang

Zhang, Jiayang Zhang, Xinguo Sun, Xinmin Yin, Xiang Zhang, and Zhanxiang Zhou. 216093

Zinc deficiency is common in alcoholic patients and has been documented in experimental models of alcohol-induced steatohepatitis. In a well-conducted study using a rat model, researchers demonstrated that dietary zinc supplementation effectively corrects the alcohol-induced zinc deficiency and ameliorates alcoholic hepatic inflammation. They further show that the protective effect of zinc is achieved by reducing luminal endotoxin level, enhancing epithelial barrier function, and accelerating acetaldehyde clearance. These findings have important implications for the nutritional management of alcoholic liver disease.

[Dietary Sodium Butyrate Decreases Postweaning Diarrhea by Modulating Intestinal Permeability and Changing the Bacterial Communities in Weaned Piglets](#). Chang

Huang, Peixia Song, Peixin Fan, Chengli Hou, Phil Thacker, and Xi Ma. 217406

Antibiotics have been used as growth promoters in diets fed to livestock but there is increasing concern regarding their potential contribution to the development of antibiotic-resistant pathogens. In this study, researchers evaluated the effectiveness of reducing by 50% the amount of antibiotics in the diet in combination with the addition of butyrate and compared this with a higher dose of antibiotic alone or no antibiotics.

The results show that the combination of reduced antibiotics with added butyrate in the

diet was as effective as the higher dose of antibiotics alone in promoting growth and decreasing the diarrhea that is common at weaning in piglets. Further, the data suggested that this dietary combination decreases intestinal permeability and improves some antioxidant parameters, immune indices, and intestinal morphology, and increases colonic bacterial diversity. The findings highlight the importance of investigating alternatives to antibiotics use to promote growth in animal production.

## Member Spotlight

- The second edition of *Nutrition and Behavior: A Multidisciplinary Approach* was recently published. The textbook is authored by ASN members **Drs. John Worobey**, Rutgers University, **Beverly J. Tepper**, Rutgers University, and **Robin Kanarek**, Tufts University.
- Browse the list of members who joined ASN in [November 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 Valerie Bloom at [vbloom@nutrition.org](mailto:vbloom@nutrition.org) to be featured in an upcoming newsletter.*