AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR NUTRITION PROMOTES RIGOR AND TRANSPARENCY IN NUTRITION RESEARCH

September 16, 2016—The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) urges that collaborative relationships among food and nutrition stakeholders be held to the highest standards possible and continually improved to maintain transparency, promote rigor, and ensure reproducibility and professionalism thus securing the scientific basis of evidence used in developing nutrition policy, practices and recommendations. Rigorous nutrition science research helps form the foundation for both clinical and population-wide nutrition recommendations. Significant resources are required to conduct high quality research.

The recent JAMA Internal Medicine article by Kearns and colleagues highlights issues dating back many years that can create a climate of distrust, confusion, and lack of confidence among consumers related to nutrition. There have been significant improvements in both processes related to perceived or real conflicts of interest in nutrition research and transparency over the past decades, but ASN believes there is more work to be done. “Ensuring public trust through best practices in scientific rigor and transparency is mandatory for nutrition research,” stated ASN President Marian L. Neuhouser, Ph.D., R.D. The ASN Blue Ribbon Advisory Committee on Ensuring Trust in Nutrition Science is currently developing best practices that will allow for effective collaboration across industry, government, academia, and nonprofit, nongovernmental organizations leading to the best nutrition science and policy possible, attained with the highest level of rigor, transparency and confidence. As the authoritative voice on nutrition science research, policy and practice, ASN is committed to ensuring increased trust amongst all constituencies and stakeholders, including the general public.

ASN is the authoritative voice on nutrition and publisher of The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition, The Journal of Nutrition, and Advances in Nutrition. Established in 1928, ASN’s more than 5,000 members in more than 75 countries work in academia, practice, government and industry. ASN advances excellence in nutrition research and practice through its publications, education, public affairs and membership programs, reaching over 36 million individuals annually. Visit us at www.nutrition.org.