Your Opportunity Begins Here.

ASN Scientific Councils and Research Interest Sections
Share Your Scientific Expertise with Like Minds Through ASN

The American Society for Nutrition (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 is a home to nearly 5,000 members who work in academia, practice, government and industry across 75 different countries. ASN members benefit from interacting among our Scientific Councils, Research Interest Sections (RIS) and additional networking communities. Getting involved within ASN’s community groups enables our members to develop professionally, discover new opportunities and increase their impact in the field.

ASN’s three Scientific Councils encompass a broad spectrum of nutrition research and serve as the basis for governance in ASN. The Global Nutrition Council, Medical Nutrition Council and Nutritional Sciences Council integrate nutrition knowledge arising from various scientific disciplines, develop priorities for ASN, and initiate translational and policy activities.

ASN’s fifteen Research Interest Sections (RIS) provide a mechanism for topic-specific community and discussion, and facilitate scientific exchange on areas that may cut across those of the various Councils. The RIS organize many symposia, minisymposia and poster sessions at ASN’s Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology.
Global Nutrition Council
The Global Nutrition Council (GNC) serves members with basic and applied research interests on all aspects of human nutrition of relevance to both economically less-developed countries and to disadvantaged populations and the translation of this knowledge into training, policies and programs. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: (1) under nutrition and deficiency diseases, (2) relationships between infection and nutrition, (3) nutrition interventions and their evaluation, and (4) the relationships between economic development policy and nutrition. These research efforts may include nutritional biochemistry, physiology, clinical nutrition, nutritional epidemiology, nutritional anthropology or other social and behavioral sciences, economics, and public health.

Medical Nutrition Council
The Medical Nutrition Council (MNC) serves members who are interested in clinical, research, educational, and/or training aspects of nutrition and metabolism as it relates to optimal health and the prevention and treatment of human disease. The MNC provides an interface between advances made in laboratory science to clinical practice, and bridges the translation of knowledge from the bench to the bedside to the community. The MNC will disseminate clinical nutrition knowledge, promote policies to prevent and treat nutrition-related diseases, train health professionals, and monitor national dietary and disease trends. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: (1) nutrition-related diseases in humans; (2) clinical nutrition practice; (3) complementary and alternative medical nutrition; (4) determinants and consequences of dietary and nutritional trends; (5) national nutrition intervention programs and policies; and, (6) nutrition training for health care professionals from undergraduate through sub-specialty training. MNC members receive a special e-newsletter that covers the latest breaking news in clinical nutrition.

Nutritional Sciences Council
The Nutritional Sciences Council (NSC) serves as a home for members with research interests encompassing the breadth of nutrition sciences with the goal of improving the nutritional status of individuals and populations across the lifespan. Thus, NSC member’s research interests include basic molecular, animal, human and population research, translational nutrition research and education. The NSC: (1) brings scientists from different disciplines together to increase communication and foster new interactions by sponsoring networking events at Experimental Biology and on the web, (2) disseminates nutrition advances by showcasing interdisciplinary and translational sciences through sponsorship of symposia and workshops, (3) promotes the career advancement of junior members through NSC awards and networking activities, (4) creates and sponsors workshops that serve as practical primers in cutting edge technology, (5) supports ASN advocacy for national policies to promote funding of biomedical research and nutrition programs.

“The American Society for Nutrition is not just for, or about, Americans! The rapidly growing international membership provides enormous opportunities for interactions from basic science to applications and policy. ASN’s Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology represents a wonderful ‘knowledge fest’ and the best way to keep up with the latest advances in our field.”

Andrew M. Prentice, PhD, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Chair, ASN Membership Committee
Aging and Chronic Disease:
As our population ages, nutrition plays a critical role in the health and well-being of older adults. The purpose of the Aging and Chronic Disease RIS is to promote nutrition research in aging and chronic disease-related areas using both qualitative and quantitative research methods.

www.nutrition.org/agingandchronicdisease

Carotenoid Research Interactive Group (CARIG):
CARIG’s mission is to promote research into nutritional roles, functions, and actions of carotenoids and their metabolites; provide a mechanism for the dissemination of new research; serve as a liaison representing the interests of the carotenoid research community to government agencies and other organizations; promote and support the training of young researchers; and communicate to the wider research community and the public.

Community and Public Health Nutrition:
A community for ASN members with research focused on (1) the determination and assessment of nutritional status in human populations, including national nutrition studies; (2) the evaluation of interventions to maintain and improve the health and well-being of human populations including nutrition education, food assistance, food and nutrition supplementation, and food fortification programs, and (3) food, nutrition, and related health and social policies.

Diet and Cancer:
This RIS focuses on the impact of nutritional status and dietary factors in cancer development; the role of diet in modulating cellular, biochemical and molecular events associated with carcinogenesis at numerous sites in animal and human models; and the relevance and application of research in the field of cancer chemoprevention.

Dietary Bioactive Components:
Does your work contribute to our understanding of the efficacy and safety of foods and their biologically active compounds? If so, you belong in this RIS, which focuses on elucidating the biological, biochemical and genetic basis by which such compounds may reduce the risk of chronic disease, contribute to toxic effects or convey health benefits. Policy and regulatory affairs of foods and biologically active compounds are also addressed.

Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism:
RIS members research the function and metabolism of major energy yielding substrates. This Section encompasses research concerned with cellular, tissue, organ, and whole body metabolism and the integration and regulation of metabolism in vivo, under normal healthy and various pathophysiological chronic disease conditions. It covers basic and applied research on the influence of macronutrients and dietary supplements on metabolism, human performance, and body composition.

Experimental Animal Nutrition:
A home for ASN members who research the nutritional characteristics of animal species other than man, particularly of animals used by man as sources of food and fiber. The biological level of organization of research interest ranges from the subcellular and cellular to populations of the species; emphasis often given to research in whole animals. Includes nutrition research in companion animals, exotic species and marine animals.

ASN’s Research Interest Sections also meet during ASN’s Annual Meeting, with many RIS sponsoring receptions and student poster contests with competitive awards. The RIS are represented on the Board of Directors by the RIS Director, who is elected by RIS Chairs. All of the RIS groups encourage networking, research collaborations, and the participation of undergraduate, graduate, medical and other students. Additionally, ASN’s public affairs leaders consult with the RIS for guidance on specific scientific topics.

“Through symposia, webinars and other activities, RIS provide a unique home for ASN members to focus on scientific and practice-based issues in nutrition. The RIS are vibrant networks where scientific exchange, professional development, ongoing dialogues and mentorship all take place.”

Shirley Gerrior, PhD, RD, LDN – College of Health Sciences, Walden University, Past RIS Director
**Lactation:**
Join this RIS if you study factors related to human milk, lactation, breastfeeding and maternal and child health and well-being during the postpartum period. The scope of interest encompasses lactational physiology at the molecular, cellular and organismal levels; regulation and significance of human milk composition; breastfeeding behaviors and practices, and a range of outcome variables related to both the mother and infant. Activities are coordinated with the International Society for Research in Human Milk and Lactation.

@www.isrhml.org  @Lactation_RIS  www.facebook.com/LactationRIS

**Nutrient-Gene Interactions:**
The Nutrient-Gene Interactions RIS is focused on: (1) mechanisms of gene expression and their regulation by nutrients and other dietary constituents; (2) identification of novel genes that influence the effect of dietary components on health and disease processes, and (3) the influence of genetic variation on the metabolic response to dietary factors. Emphasizes the concepts and techniques in the areas of biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, genetics, genomics, proteomics and systems biology. Nutrition research ranges from the molecular to the organismal level in humans and other vertebrates, and model organisms such as yeast.

**Nutrition Education:**
Members focus on the communication of nutrition science information to the general public to help them understand the relationship between diet and health to food practices, and to individuals with specific dietary needs to change behaviors conducive to health and well-being. RIS activity includes research on nutrition information transfer, factors that affect eating patterns, effects of nutrition knowledge on behavioral change, behavior modification to improve health, and motivating factors for change. Includes the development and testing of effective and efficient nutrition education materials, programs, and activities for target subgroups of the population.

**Nutrition Translation:**
This RIS provides a forum for scientists from academia, government, industry and private practice to address the conversion of nutrition knowledge from the “lab bench to the consumer.” RIS members explore ways to translate key findings in nutrition research science into practical applications that can be used to improve human health.

@www.nutrition.org/nutritiontranslation

**Nutritional Epidemiology:**
ASN members investigating the relationships between diet, nutritional status and health in human populations will be at home in this RIS. Focuses include: studying the interactions of lifestyle, environmental, and genetic exposures on health status, and researching assessment methods, biomarkers, and other statistical and epidemiological techniques. RIS members integrate these finding with clinical research to elucidate nutrition’s impact in the etiology and prevention of disease.

**Nutritional Immunology:**
Members elucidate the impact of nutritional status and dietary factors on the functioning of the immune system, and the impact of inflammation, autoimmunity, and infection on the nutritional status of individuals. Researchers who conduct human clinical or field trials as well as those who use various animal and cell models to address either basic or applied questions about the workings of the immune system are welcome.

@NutImmRIS  www.facebook.com/NutImmRIS

“My interactions with ASN through Councils and Research Interest Sections significantly enhanced my understanding of many critical components of nutrition and weight management. ASN has provided me with opportunities to interact with some of the best nutrition researchers in the world.”

James O. Hill, PhD, University of Colorado-Denver, ASN Past President
Obesity:
Educators, clinicians and researchers who focus on obesity will find this RIS a mechanism to integrate the study of obesity into the broader scope of nutrition research. OBRIS achieves this with programs that address obesity-related pathologies, such as diabetes, cardiovascular disease, imbalances in lipid metabolism, elevated blood pressure, cancer, asthma and other pulmonary diseases and other chronic diseases.

Vitamins and Minerals:
Promotes research on the basic understanding of the function, metabolism, and utilization to establish nutritional recommendations. This RIS strives to encourage the development of new research techniques to better understand and promote the contributions of these vitamins and minerals to health promotion and disease prevention.

How to Join
ASN Councils and RIS
As an ASN member, you are eligible to join all three Scientific Councils and an unlimited number of RIS — at no additional charge! However, you can only vote for officers of your primary Council.

How to join Scientific Council(s) and Research Interest Section(s):
• Log in to the ASN members’ only website with your e-mail address and password.
• Click on “Update My Member Profile” and specify each Scientific Council and RIS you wish to join. When joining a RIS, a box with a check mark signifies you are a current member.
• You can also join the Student Interest Group (SIG), Young Professional Interest Group (YPIG) and Volunteer Interest Group from this page!
• Click “Update Profile” and you will be automatically enrolled in the community email loop. All Councils, RIS, the Student Interest Group and the Postdoc/Young Professional Interest Group offer listservs.

The Councils and RIS gladly accept industry support for their critical scientific programming. To learn how you can engage with these groups, please e-mail contribute@nutrition.org.