



American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice

December 27, 2016

Governor Mike Pence, Vice President-Elect, Chair of Transition Team
Rick Dearborn, Staff Director of Transition Team
Joel Leftwich, Head of Department of Agriculture Transition Team
Andrew Bremberg, Head of Department of Health and Human Services Transition Team
President-Elect Trump Transition Team Headquarters
Trump Tower
725 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-Elect Trump Transition Team Leaders,

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) congratulates your team on the recent election of Donald Trump to the Presidency of the United States of America. ASN is a not-for-profit, professional scientific society dedicated to bringing together the world's top researchers to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition. ASN has more than 5,000 members throughout the world, working in government, clinical practice, academia and industry, to conduct research that helps all Americans live longer, healthier lives. As you move forward in your efforts, we offer our Society as an independent resource with expertise in nutrition.

ASN enthusiastically supports all efforts to advance science, technology and innovation, and urge the incoming Administration to maintain a federal commitment to research, as nutrition research dramatically improves the quality of life for Americans and people around the world each day. The return on investment in basic research, while often extraordinary, is unpredictable and materializes over the long term. Sustained funding for research is necessary to support our nation's investments in research and innovation that lead to life-saving discoveries. Support for basic research will help the United States maintain its global competitiveness and success. ASN brings to your attention the enclosed *National Nutrition Research Roadmap 2016–2021: Advancing Nutrition Research to Improve and Sustain Health*, created by the Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition, as well as ASN's own *Nutrition Research Priorities*, as examples of research that will help to sustain and improve the lives of all Americans.

ASN proposes that the work of the trans-federal government Interagency Committee on Human Nutrition continue to allow for increased harmonization of and more effective nutrition Initiatives. This Committee is charged with improving the planning, coordination, and communication among federal agencies engaged in nutrition research. Nutrition work currently takes place across multiple departments, including the Department of Health and Human Services; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To cover the full spectrum from prevention to treatment, coordination of nutrition policy, research and programs must occur at leadership levels across the federal government.

ASN suggests that the Administration establish a senior level position in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy to serve as the federal government's overall coordinator of nutrition-related initiatives. This individual would serve as a liaison across all government agencies and to the private sector. This "nutrition czar" would ideally be a distinguished scientist in the field of nutrition science.

ASN also recommends that the Administration convene a broad dialogue on the many nutrition-related issues facing our nation. Such a dialogue is needed now more than ever given the complex nutrition issues currently affecting our nation to advance viable solutions. ASN would be happy to generate a public platform for discussion of health and wellness issues related to nutrition. ASN is uniquely positioned to foster an open dialogue on nutrition-related topics between academia, clinicians, government, and industry.

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) stands ready and welcomes opportunities to assist the Transition Team and the incoming Administration on nutrition-related initiatives and issues. Please feel free to contact Dr. John E. Courtney, ASN's Executive Officer, [240-428-3643; jcourtney@nutrition.org] if we may provide additional information or be of assistance in pursuit of improving the health and well-being of all Americans.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marian L. Neuhouser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marian L. Neuhouser, Ph.D., R.D.
2016-2017 President, American Society for Nutrition