



Dear Member,

ASN proudly announces a new direction for our Scientific Sessions & Annual Meeting. Over the past several years, the Board of Directors and several ASN committees have thoroughly assessed the benefits and feasibility of conducting a stand-alone Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting, separate from Experimental Biology (EB). After weighing more than 1,000 members' thoughts and desired outcomes, the Board approved a three-year pilot period for a stand-alone meeting beginning in 2018.

Some of you may ask: why change a long-standing tradition of meeting alongside EB? After careful consideration, the pros associated with an independent meeting were promising: greater flexibility in meeting length, hotel and location; elevated standards for abstract submission; increased global attendance; less overlapping programming; enhanced partnerships; greater net income; and opportunities to introduce new technologies and best meeting practices that enhance the attendee experience.

The Board of Directors looks forward to this experiment, as we believe there is a great opportunity to better address the needs of our diverse communities. Our long-term goal is to convene a meeting that brings greater visibility to the field of nutrition science and better recognizes the global leadership role our Society holds. We also aim to construct a cost-effective meeting that allows us to generate revenue to fund strategic priorities of the Society and, in particular, to cultivate the next generation of nutrition scientists. Everyone – from esteemed Fellows to undergraduates – will experience the advantages this new initiative will bring!

We want to thank the many members and stakeholders who provided us with advice and feedback. You gave us wonderful insights on how we could refresh our scientific program – ideas that we can start to consider immediately. A greater focus on hot topics, unopposed plenary sessions and more intimate networking opportunities were just a few examples that were consistently relayed to us and we are already working to implement.

Learn more in the Stand-Alone Scientific Sessions Frequently Asked Questions, available on the ASN website. Of course, the due diligence and planning continues. We invite you to join with us to build a world-class scientific meeting that exceeds expectations for scientists and clinicians working in basic, clinical, global and public health areas of nutrition science. Here's how you can get involved:

- ✓ Complete the [2014 Call for Volunteers](#) and select “annual meeting programming” so that your interest can be communicated to the ASN leadership.
- ✓ Get involved with your Research Interest Section and/or Scientific Council, groups that are instrumental with program planning.

- ✓ Attend a listening session at ASN's Scientific Sessions at EB 2014. ASN will host a series of these to further probe member opinions on programming and related topics.
- ✓ Email us at info@nutrition.org with your comments and questions.

In the meantime, ASN remains an active partner in Experimental Biology and we are looking forward to another terrific conference this spring. We encourage you to submit a late-breaking abstract for EB 2014, register for the meeting and tell your friends and colleagues to [Join You at the Beach in San Diego](#).

We appreciate your continued membership in our Society and we look forward to hearing from you.

ASN [Board of Directors](#)