



American Society for Nutrition  
*Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice*

## **MARIAN E. SWENDSEID**

***Namesake for the ASN Foundation***

***Nutrition and Cancer Prevention Scholarship Fund***

Marian's major research contributions were in amino acid requirements, including establishing histidine as an essential amino acid for adults, and her work in protein, choline, folic acid, and Vitamin B12 metabolism.

Marian Swendseid was born in Petersburg, ND in August 1918. She passed away in Irvine, CA in January 2014.

In 1939, Marian graduated from the University of North Dakota with a Master of Science in organic chemistry, and in 1941 she was awarded a PhD in biological chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

Marian's early career took her from academia to industry and later back to academia. She began her career in 1942 as a Research Chemist at Parke, Davis and Company in Detroit. In 1952, she came to California as the biochemist in charge of the Gastroenterology Research Laboratory at the Veterans Administration Center in Los Angeles. The following year she became a research chemist in the UCLA Department of Medicine. Her academic career began at UCLA in 1954 and continued until her retirement in 1989 as Professor of Nutrition in the School of Public Health and Professor in the Department of Biochemistry. She is listed as an author or co-author on [more than 150 manuscripts](#) in PubMed.

Marian was a member of the American Society for Nutrition, Society of Sigma Xi, American Society of Biological Chemists, American Dietetic Association, and Eta Sigma Gamma.

She was inducted as a Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition in 1989, where she served as an Associate Editor for *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* (1967-1974). Additional honors included the Borden Award for Fundamental Research in Nutrition, Golden Plate Award, Sioux Award from the University of North Dakota, Woman of Science Award from UCLA, Distinguished Achievement Award from the Institute of Food Technologists. In 2000, Marian's contributions were honored by her students and colleagues at a Festschrift sponsored by the American Institute of Cancer Research.