



American Society for Nutrition
Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice

January 16, 2018

Dr. Marcia McNutt, President
National Academy of Sciences
Dr. Victor Dzau, President
National Academy of Medicine
500 Fifth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Drs. McNutt and Dzau:

The efforts of the Health and Medicine Division of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) in reviewing and updating the Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs) for sodium and potassium have a vast impact not just on food, nutrition and public health policies, but on how expert opinion and the bodies issuing those opinions are valued in our society. The American Society of Nutrition (ASN), a scientific, professional society with more than 6,500 members who conduct nutrition research to help all individuals live healthier lives, is highly invested in both of these outcomes. In this regard, ASN would like to express concern with the composition of the committee composed to review and update the sodium and potassium DRIs.

ASN recognizes that conflict of interest (COI) and perspectives on an issue cannot be completely removed from such a committee; however, the recent NASEM report (February 2017) on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans Committee selection process established that *balance* must be a primary objective in proposing membership for committee selection. ASN views the current committee composition as lacking the critical standard of balance, as well as lacking clinical expertise to address certain physiologic issues related to reviewing and updating the sodium and potassium DRIs. A list of U.S. and Canadian scientists with specific academic research and clinical experience relevant to reviewing and updating the sodium and potassium DRIs is included below for your consideration.

ASN asks that the NASEM will re-examine the composition of this important committee to ensure a fair and balanced multidisciplinary group representative of all necessary clinical areas. ASN is happy to assist the NASEM and has provided the names of several candidates who could be useful as potential committee members, reviewers, consultants, or other subject matter experts (listed below). ASN is highly supportive of the work of the NASEM, and hopes to be able to endorse the resulting work of this committee, as ASN has for other NASEM nutrition and public health-related endeavors.

Recommendations for Clinical Sodium and Potassium DRI Subject Matter Experts

Lynn Moore, DSc, Associate Professor of Medicine, Boston University, School of Medicine

Specific expertise in the following areas: nutritional epidemiology, obesity and cardiometabolic risk, cardiovascular epidemiology, behavioral assessment across the lifespan

lmoore@bu.edu

Stuart Linas, MD, Professor of Medicine, Nephrology, University of Colorado School of Medicine

Nationally recognized NIH funded expert in potassium balance in renal disease, hypertension and metabolic syndrome

STUART.LINAS@UCDENVER.EDU

Joel Geerling, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Neurology, University of Iowa
NIH funded investigator whose work has used genetic techniques to isolate and manipulate neurons that mediate basic physiologic functions including sodium appetite, sleep, bladder control, and thermoregulation.

joel-geerling@uiowa.edu

Scott Hummel, MD, MS, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Cardiology, University of Michigan

Clinical specialty is heart failure and cardiac transplantation with an emphasis on the clinical decision making in managing end-stage heart disease and the application of non-pharmacological approaches to improving disease management in the elderly.

scothumm@med.umich.edu

Arya Sharma, MD, PhD, FARCPC, Professor of Medicine & Chair for Cardiovascular Obesity Research and Management, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada

Dr. Sharma is the Alberta Health Services endowed Chair in Obesity Research and Management and of Medicine. His research focuses on the evidence-based prevention and management of hypertension and obesity and its complication

amsharm@ualberta.ca

Raymond Townsend, MD, Professor of Medicine, Nephrology and Hypertension, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Townsend's research and larger body of clinical investigation has focused on electrolytes and hypertensive cardiovascular disease with a particular emphasis on potassium and sodium.

townsend@mail.ed.edu

Suzanne Oparil, MD, Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Professor of Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology, Director, Vascular Biology and Hypertension Program, University of Alabama, Birmingham, School of Medicine

Dr. Oparil is an internationally recognized expert on the renin angiotensin system and its interface with sodium and potassium homeostasis whose research has been NIH funded for over 4 years. She is a Past-President of the AHA and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

soparil@uabmc.edu

Phyllis August, MD, MS, Ralph A Baer MD Professor of Research in Medicine; Professor of Medicine in Obstetrics and Gynecology; Professor of Public Health at Weill Cornell

Dr. August's research has centered on hypertension in pregnancy and the role of the renin angiotensin system including fluid and electrolyte disorders.

paugust@med.cornell.edu

Eric Krause, PhD, Associate Professor Pharmacodynamics, University of Florida.

Dr. Krause's NIH funded lab studies how signals associated with dehydration impact the central pathways regulating stress responding and mood, specifically loss of body fluids increases circulating levels of angiotensin II (ANGII), which activates the angiotensin type-1 receptors (AT1R) in various tissues to increase fluid intake, promote water and electrolyte retention and elevate blood pressure.

ekrause@cop.ufl.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John E. Courtney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John E. Courtney, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer, ASN