



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

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## **Oral Sponsor Comments during Food and Nutrition Board Workshop “Examining Special Nutritional Requirements in Disease States”**

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On behalf of the American Society for Nutrition, I would like to thank the Food and Nutrition Board, the planning committee members, and each of the speakers for an exceptional, thought-provoking workshop exploring special nutritional requirements in disease states and medical conditions.

In 2015, ASN created a work group to bring together the academic community, nutrition and health organizations, patient groups, industry stakeholders, and others to address the nutritional requirements of disease states and medical conditions from a nutritional science perspective, called the Food for Health initiative. Our discussions ultimately led to this workshop, which has exceeded our expectations. ASN plans to continue the discussion, partnering and convening with the many stakeholders in this area, and to help disseminate the proceedings of this workshop.

As we heard, special nutritional requirements represent both challenges and opportunities for the nutrition science community and there is a clear need for continued dialogue on this topic. Evidence to highlight the nutritional requirements during numerous disease states or conditions is limited, although a clear connection exists. There are many dynamics at play to consider in this discussion – a nutritional requirement to meet or restore the desired health outcomes for one individual may vary from that of another individual with the same disease or condition. More research is needed to elucidate the nutritional science basis behind special nutritional requirements and to determine what those requirements may be for individuals.

We will use the Food for Health initiative to continue to advance efforts to identify and work on important research needs to build the scientific basis necessary to define terms and to ultimately establish a structure or framework for establishing special nutritional requirements not encompassed within normal population variation for nutrition-related disease states and medical conditions.

Moving the topic of special nutritional requirements forward will ultimately help to improve the health, wellbeing, and quality of life for the many individuals currently diagnosed with nutrition-related chronic diseases or conditions. Thank you!