

ASN Implementation: Best Practices in Nutrition Science to Ensure and Keep Trust

Read the *AJCN* publication, [Best Practices in Nutrition Science to Earn and Keep the Public's Trust](#), for additional background on an independent panel's 6 recommendations regarding how the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) could work collaboratively with various stakeholders while maintaining transparency and scientific rigor in nutrition science, which are based on a comprehensive literature review. We take this opportunity to thank the members of the Panel. Following publication, ASN members and nutrition stakeholders provided input on the recommendations and ASN committees developed implementation plans for each of the recommendations, taking into consideration the stakeholder feedback received. Learn more regarding this initiative at <https://www.nutrition.org/trust>. ASN is committed to ensuring transparency and objectivity in all of our practices as a Society, as well as in the entire field of nutrition science, and will now start to implement the following best practices:

- **ASN will implement Recommendation #1** to develop a rigorous, transparent approach to co-sponsoring and managing all activities financially supported by “entities and/or individuals at interest” (often those with a financial stake in the outcomes of the funded work).
 - *Principal implementing group:* An independent advisory group, whose charge will be approved by the ASN Board of Directors, will manage all ASN activities co-sponsored or supported by “entities and/or individuals at interest”.
- **ASN will NOT implement Recommendation #2** as written: ASN publications should include a front-of-the-publication label that describes 1) the type of evidence presented in the study, 2) the study finding's most proper use(s), and 3) the quality of evidence. *However*, ASN journals are taking a number of related steps such as establishing a statistical review board to review all clinical trials to enhance the integrity of the science published in ASN journals.
- **ASN will implement Recommendation #3** to bolster its efforts to engage the public and media in a more effective dialogue among its members, the media and the public.
 - *Principal implementing group:* ASN staff with guidance from the ASN Public Information Committee and oversight by ASN Implementation Advisory Group
- **ASN will implement Recommendation #4** to develop guidelines for its members to manage and conduct nutrition research funded by entities/individuals at interest (often those with a financial stake in the outcomes of the funded work). In addition, ASN will establish a code of conduct for its members. An enforcement system including an investigative process for violations of the ASN member code of conduct will also be determined.
 - *Principal implementing group:* ASN Committee on Advocacy and Science Policy with assistance from ASN staff and oversight by the ASN Implementation Advisory Group

- **ASN will implement Recommendation #5** to commission independent audits conducted by an independent third party to determine ASN's adherence to adopted policies and practices intended to heighten and maintain public trust in nutrition science.
 - *Principal implementing group:* ASN staff to hire independent third-party auditor with oversight by ASN Implementation Advisory Group

- **ASN will implement Recommendation #6** to develop comprehensive COI disclosure statements that cover financial and other sources of bias and conflicts of commitment that serve as a model in nutrition science for use by its members, other stakeholder groups and staff.
 - *Principal implementing group:* ASN Committee on Advocacy and Science Policy with assistance from ASN staff and oversight by the ASN Implementation Advisory Group

The first implementation update report will be provided to the ASN Board of Directors in February 2020. Please direct all inquiries to trust@nutrition.org.