



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

June 15, 2020

Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D.  
Director, National Institutes of Health (NIH)  
Bldg. 1  
9000 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, MD 20892

Dear Dr. Collins,

On behalf of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), thank you for participating in ASN's virtual event, NUTRITION 2020 LIVE ONLINE. Your participation helped to make NUTRITION 2020 LIVE ONLINE a worldwide success, convening 29,598 nutrition professionals from 164 countries for the latest nutrition science. Established in 1928, ASN is the preeminent nutrition research and practice organization reaching more than 35 million individuals each year with science-based nutrition information. ASN has more than 7,500 members working in academia, public health, clinical practice, industry, and government who enhance scientific knowledge and quality of life through excellence in nutrition research and practice. ASN is dedicated to bringing together the world's top nutrition research scientists to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition to improve public health. Thank you for partnering with ASN on this virtual event to help make this goal a reality!

ASN, our members, and the entire nutrition research community were excited to learn about the recent release of the Strategic Plan for NIH Nutrition Research ("Strategic Plan"). The Strategic Plan and recent Request for Information related to "Challenges and Opportunities in Precision Nutrition Research" highlight the importance of nutrition research at NIH and that nutrition research is considered a prominent area of scientific pursuit at NIH. Nutrition is an important, cross-cutting research priority that allows for promising interdisciplinary research. Precision nutrition is an important evolving area that builds on community and global efforts to improve the health of the population. As the agency responsible for conducting and supporting 90% of all federally funded basic and clinical nutrition research, the NIH has profound effects on nutrition research and monitoring, and the health of all Americans. ASN greatly appreciates this focus and investment in nutrition research and would be pleased to partner with NIH on opportunities to advance the Strategic Plan.

Given the vital nutrition research being conducted at the NIH, efforts to continue to recruit cutting-edge nutrition researchers to the NIH and to train the next generation of nutrition researchers are of utmost importance. ASN is well-positioned to actively recruit and help trainees from all over the globe acquire the skills and experience necessary to develop careers as nutrition researchers. As a strong advocate for NIH funding, ASN recognizes that some of the most promising nutrition-related research discoveries have been made possible by NIH support. We encourage the NIH to continue to work transparently to implement the Strategic Plan with opportunities for continuous input from the external research community and

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stakeholders such as ASN.

Thank you again for taking part in NUTRITION 2020 LIVE ONLINE and for guiding the NIH's efforts related to nutrition research. Please contact Dr. John E. Courtney, Chief Executive Officer (240-428-3643; [jcourtney@nutrition.org](mailto:jcourtney@nutrition.org)), if ASN may provide further assistance with implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Mattes". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Richard D. Mattes, Ph.D., MPH, RD  
2019-2020 President, American Society for Nutrition