



Guiding Principles for Managing and Conducting Nutrition Research Funded by Entities at Interest

Key Terms

Entities at interest: External individuals or groups (including but not limited to: individuals, foundations, public/private partnerships, academic institutions, commodity organizations, industry, trade associations, government agencies, and other scientific, medical, or not-for-profit organizations) with a stake (financial, commercial, or otherwise) in the outcomes of a planned co-sponsored or managed activity/ program/ partnership with ASN or the ASN Foundation.

Overview

Members of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) receive support, both financial and in-kind, from various stakeholders to conduct nutrition research. In this document, Guiding Principles are presented to help ASN members and other nutrition researchers transparently conduct and communicate nutrition research that has been financially supported by entities at interest.

ASN recognizes that nutrition researchers may engage in collaborative, purposeful, transparent relationships with entities at interest as a means to advance nutrition science and encourages them to transparently communicate balanced, science-based information as a result of such research and work. Relationships with entities at interest should in no way jeopardize a researcher's objectivity, autonomy, credibility, priorities, or actions. As an authoritative, independent, and trusted voice in nutrition science, ASN has developed Guiding Principles for Managing and Conducting Nutrition Research Funded by Entities at Interest to help ASN members and other nutrition researchers minimize bias, enhance transparency, and manage any potential conflicts of interest when working with others.

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In the conduct of nutrition research, all relevant parties should:

- require that all researchers make clear statements regarding all their affiliations, sources of funding, and real or perceived conflicts of interest;
- conduct or sponsor nutrition research that reflects rigor, quality, and transparency in accordance with the ASN Guiding Principles for Membership;
- conduct or sponsor research that is factual, transparent, and designed objectively; according to accepted principles of scientific inquiry, the research design will investigate appropriately

¹ Adapted from Rowe S, Alexander N, Clydesdale F, Applebaum R, Atkinson S, Black R, Dwyer J, Hentges E, Higley N, Lefevre M, et al. Funding food science and nutrition research: financial conflicts and scientific integrity. *Nutr Rev.* 2009;67(5):264-272. doi:10.1111/j.1753-4887.2009.00188.x

phrased hypotheses and/or questions and the research will test the hypotheses and/or answer the questions, rather than favor a particular outcome;

- require the study design, the research itself, and data analysis and interpretation to remain in the control of the scientific investigators;
- not offer or accept remuneration geared to the outcome of a research project;
- prior to the commencement of studies, ensure that there is a written agreement that the investigative team has the freedom and obligation to attempt to publish the findings;
- require, in publications and conference presentations, full disclosure of all relevant conflicts of interest;
- not participate in undisclosed paid authorship (publications or presentations) arrangements; and,
- guarantee accessibility to all data and control of statistical analysis by investigators and appropriate auditors or reviewers.

The Guiding Principles for Managing and Conducting Nutrition Research Funded by Entities at Interest are provided as a resource for ASN members and other nutrition researchers to increase the transparency of nutrition research conduct and communication and to minimize perceived or real conflicts of interest. While adherence to these Guiding Principles is voluntary, it is strongly encouraged that all nutrition researchers follow these Guiding Principles, or similar principles their place of employment or funding bodies may provide, in an effort to maintain and enhance the integrity of the field of nutrition science.