

ASN Foundation Seeks Funding to Establish New Award Endowments

DJPI Trainee Achievement Awards

In honor of Dr. Doug J. Paddon-Jones' commitment to young investigator research in the areas of dietary protein, muscle metabolism, and healthy aging



Dr. Doug J. Paddon-Jones ("DJPI"), Professor and Sheridan Lorenz Distinguished Professor in Aging and Health at the University of Texas Medical Branch, was a leading expert in the field of dietary protein, muscle metabolism, and aging. An active member of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), Dr. Paddon-Jones received the Vernon Young International Award for Amino Acid Research in 2006. He also presented frequently at ASN meetings, served as an abstract reviewer, and was active within activities of the Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism Research Interest Group.

Dr. Paddon-Jones's distinguished research program broadly focused on the regulation of muscle metabolism, muscle mass and function in healthy and at-risk populations. A primary research area included the effects of amino acid and/or protein consumption on acute markers of anabolism, particularly during times of physical inactivity (bed rest) with aging. Some of his key discoveries include the findings that physical inactivity greatly accelerates the loss of muscle mass and function in middle aged and older adults; that nutritional support through amino acid/leucine/whey supplementation may partially preserve muscle health during periods of inactivity; and that consuming higher amounts of total protein from high-quality sources at meals is optimal to promote health across the life course. His contributions in this regard not only established targeted nutrition strategies for skeletal muscle preservation and sarcopenia treatment interventions, but also provided several foundational discoveries that shaped subsequent research lines in the field of amino acid and protein research.

Dr. Paddon-Jones had an awe-inspiring way of explaining research findings in a meaningful, practical, and ingenious way that would engage an entire room full of students, colleagues, and public attendees. He also had a strong passion and desire to mentor the 'next generation' of nutrition scientists and was often seen lingering in the poster halls interacting with students and post-doctoral fellows regarding their current research findings.

Dr. Paddon-Jones passed away, abruptly, on August 12, 2021, from Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. While our hearts are saddened by this tragedy and a life taken too soon, we continue to smile and appreciate all of the insight and encouragement Dr. Paddon-Jones provided to so many others over the years.

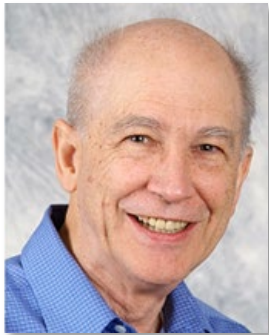
Given Dr. Paddon-Jones's contribution to dietary protein, muscle metabolism, and aging research as well as his strong commitment to mentoring students, particularly through ASN, we would like to honor Dr. Paddon-Jones through the creation of trainee awards granted through the ASN Foundation (ASNf) to

graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who are currently engaging in research related to dietary protein, muscle metabolism, and healthy aging.

These awards will annually recognize one graduate student and one post-doctoral fellow for outstanding research related to dietary protein, muscle metabolism, and/or healthy aging. The awards will include a cash award and a complimentary meeting registration.

Funding Need: Several colleagues who worked closely with Dr. Paddon-Jones in a variety of capacities including members of the *Protein Summit Steering Committee* are working with the ASNF to raise \$100,000 in funding which is needed to create a new endowment for this award program. Donations are being sought from individuals and corporate partners and we believe that this funding goal is achievable given the large community of people who valued Dr. Paddon-Jones as a mentor, colleague, collaborator, and friend.

Jean-Pierre Habicht Lifetime Achievement in Global Nutrition Research Award



Since 1994, the ASN Foundation has awarded to one senior nutrition scientist each year the *Kellogg Prize for Lifetime Achievements in International Nutrition*. Twenty-seven of our distinguished colleagues have received this award recognizing their outstanding contributions to global nutrition research.

This award has been supported by the Kellogg Company, providing annual funds for a cash award and the student prizes, but the company is no longer able to do so. Given this opportunity to re-envision the award, the Foundation would like to name the award in recognition of one of our leading global nutrition scientists who exemplifies outstanding lifetime achievement.

Dr. Jean-Pierre Habicht was the first scientist to receive this award. Dr. Habicht's contributions to global nutrition are unparalleled in their importance and influence. He has advanced global nutrition through his conceptual thinking, methodological developments, conduct of innovative research, training of a large cadre of excellent scientists, and superb leadership in collaboration with many institutions. For these reasons, the Society is willing to henceforth adopt as the name the **Jean-Pierre Habicht Lifetime Achievement in Global Nutrition Research Award**, contingent on availability of new funds

Funding Need: To endow this award in our friend Jean-Pierre's name and ensure that funds are available annually and in perpetuity, the ASN Foundation needs to raise \$100,000. We believe that this funding goal is achievable given the large community of people who value Dr. Habicht as a mentor, colleague, collaborator, and friend.

The intent is to have both award program fully endowed by the end of 2022 (or earlier if possible), or the ASNF would then annually spend down from the amount raised through this fundraising effort to honor Drs. Paddon-Jones and Habicht with the named awards until those funds are depleted. Payment schedules can be established for pledges. Contact Keith Dillon, Vice President of ASN Foundation at kdillon@nutrition.org to discuss options. **To donate now, [please click here](#).** When doing so, please indicate that the donation is for either the Doug Paddon-Jones (DJPJ) award fund or the Jean-Pierre Habicht award fund.