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ASN SUPPORTS NOMINATION OF FRANCIS COLLINS AS NIH DIRECTOR

July 9, 2009– The American Society for Nutrition (ASN), the premier research society dedicated to nutrition science, praised the nomination of Francis Collins, MD, PhD, by President Obama to serve as the next Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “Dr. Collins is an outstanding choice for this important position. We believe his leadership is just what the agency needs at this critical time for biomedical research,” said ASN President James O. Hill, PhD. “ASN looks forward to working with him and we urge the Senate to confirm him quickly.” Collins, a physician-geneticist noted for his landmark discoveries of disease genes and his leadership of the Human Genome Project, served as Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) at the National Institutes of Health from 1993-2008.

Approximately 90 percent of federal nutrition research funding, nearly \$1 billion annually, comes from NIH, and this funding is across multiple Institutes and Centers. Among ASN’s top priorities for public policy and advocacy is increased funding for NIH and especially, increased allocation within NIH of dollars to nutrition-related initiatives.

The American Society for Nutrition (ASN) is the preeminent professional organization for nutrition research scientists and clinicians around the world. ASN is dedicated to bringing together the top nutrition researchers, medical practitioners, policy makers and industry leaders to advance our knowledge and application of nutrition. Founded in 1928, ASN publishes The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition (AJCN) and the Journal of Nutrition (JN). Visit ASN online at www.nutrition.org.

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