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ASN PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM TO ADDRESS LEPTIN AND OBESITY

March 31, 2008– The 2008 American Society for Nutrition *Presidential Symposium*, “Leptin: Weight Management and Beyond,” will take place Sunday, April 6, 2008, 8:00 am PDT, in the San Diego Convention Center Room 6A as part of Experimental Biology 2008. The speakers include the following internationally recognized experts: Jeffrey Friedman, MD, PhD, Rockefeller University Professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, and Director of the Starr Center for Human Genetics; Christos Mantzoros, MD, DSc, Harvard Medical School; Sadaf Farooqi, PhD, University of Cambridge, UK; and Joel Elmquist, DVM, PhD, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. ASN President Joanne R. Lupton, PhD, will open the symposium, which is sponsored by a grant from Danone Institute International. “We’re very fortunate to have such acclaimed researchers speak on this topic at a time when obesity news is ubiquitous,” said President Lupton.

Dr. Friedman was the first person to identify and explain the function of leptin, a hormone secreted by fat cells that balances food intake and energy expenditure. Dr. Mantzoros is a recognized expert on obesity and diabetes. Another expert in obesity, Dr. Farooqi, identified the first single gene defect to cause human obesity. In his research, Dr. Elmquist has made advances in identifying the pathways in the brain involved in maintaining energy homeostasis.

With funding donated by Groupe Danone, Danone Institute International develops programs that encourage cooperation and collaboration within the international nutrition community and facilitates the sharing of knowledge and experience between local Danone Institutes. The goal of the Danone Institutes is to develop programs which address local public health nutrition issues. Today, more than 220 renowned experts in diet and nutrition are involved in this unique international network known as Danone Institute International.

*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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