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ASN PRESIDENTIAL SYMPOSIUM TO DISCUSS CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH IN NUTRITION AND EPIGENETICS

April 16, 2009– How do maternal nutrition and early environmental signals affect one’s risk for disease? What can genetic research currently done in animal models tell us about our own predisposition for certain diseases, and does what we eat influence our risk? Two renowned scientists will address this cutting-edge topic at the 2009 American Society for Nutrition (ASN) Presidential Series Session. “Frontiers in Nutrition Research: The Evolution of Epigenetics,” will take place Sunday, April 19, 2009, 8:00-10:00 am CDT, in the New Orleans Convention Center, Nouvelle C as part of ASN’s Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting. The speakers are internationally recognized experts Randy L. Jirtle, PhD, and Kevin D. Sinclair, PhD.

According to ASN President James Hill, this symposium will present the latest research on a timely, and sometimes controversial, topic. “Today’s nutrition researchers continue to find innovative ways to prevent and treat disease, and Drs. Jirtle and Sinclair have much to share with our members on this topic, which represents the cutting-edge of nutrition research,” said Hill.

Dr. Jirtle is Director of the Epigenetics and Imprinting Laboratory at Duke University. As director, he heads a laboratory that looks at how an organism’s response to environmental signals in early life affects the risk for chronic disease in adulthood. The overall objective of his laboratory is to determine the role of epigenetics in the pathogenesis of human diseases and neurological disorders.

Dr. Sinclair is Associate Professor and Reader in Developmental Biology, School of Biosciences, University of Nottingham. His research includes studies on how maternal nutrition affects developmental epigenetics of the embryo. Dr. Sinclair’s particular interests are in ruminant nutrition, such as cattle and sheep, and reproductive physiology.

If you would like to set up an interview with Drs. Jirtle or Sinclair, please contact sprice@nutrition.org. The symposium is made possible by support from GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, Kraft Foods, and PepsiCo.

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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