



American Society for Nutrition  
*Excellence in Nutrition Research and Practice*  
www.nutrition.org

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was wonderful to see so many of you at EB. Thank you for taking the time to stop me in the elevator or at a session and let me know your thoughts on what we're doing right and how we can improve. One of the real highlights for me was the President's symposium on leptin. I don't think we could have gotten a better group of scientists to present. Thanks to our keynote speaker, **Jeffrey**



**Friedman** (pictured), and to the others, and to all of you for the wonderful attendance at 8 am for the standing room only crowd. Another highlight was the Awards Ceremony. Our advance planning on one slide per awardee, award in the hand of the sponsor, specific seating, photographs the night before and complete information in the program paid off and we actually finished in record time!

Thanks to Anne Meyers and John Courtney for this (and for tolerating a dress rehearsal with Anne's phonetic spellings). Also, each awardee gave heartfelt but appropriately brief remarks. We've had some pressure to eliminate awardee remarks altogether in the interest of time, so if you want to keep the remarks and felt that the length of the session was acceptable this year please let us know. With very few exceptions I heard nothing but glowing comments on the science at this year's meeting. Please thank Janet King, Chair of the Scientific Program Committee, for the outstanding job that she has done and (thankfully) will continue to do next year. Our Business Meeting was a time to reflect on all that we have done this year, including the development of a strategic map which was previewed in several committee meetings. Jim Hill, our incoming President, has an ambitious agenda which is directly targeted to this map, but knowing Jim he will exceed his stated agenda.



### Select sessions and photos from EB to be available online

Whether you were unable to join us in San Diego this year, or just could not make all the sessions you wanted to attend, stay tuned to [www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org) in the coming weeks as we will make available to members the nine select sessions from EB that were recorded. Check back to view these exciting symposia and workshops. In addition, a full photographic montage will be available online soon.

### ASN members explore advocacy and federal nutrition research funding

"When do we get mad?" asked John Edward Porter to ASN members gathered in San Diego to attend the special public policy session at EB. Porter rounded out a program, featuring a distinguished panel of officials from the National Institutes of Health, who discussed opportunities for nutrition research at the federal level. Porter coached ASN members on how to be better advocates for nutrition and science, and, in asking the above question, he noted that scientists often are reluctant to speak up for research funding with elected officials. After six straight years of "miniscule" funding increases for research, now more than ever their voices need to be heard.

Dr. Elizabeth Wilder of the NIH Office of Portfolio Analysis and Strategic Initiatives (OPASI) provided an overview of trans-NIH initiatives, including the Roadmap, and explained the role of OPASI. According to Wilder, nutrition is relevant to 75 percent of the Roadmap programs, and she encouraged ASN members to articulate the major challenges for nutrition research, what is needed and cannot be done with present resources, and bring them to NIH for consideration. She also encouraged ASN members to maintain fluid communication with the NIH at multiple levels.

Dr. Griffin Rodgers, Director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK), explained where and how nutrition research is conducted across NIH and within NIDDK. NIH funds nearly \$1 billion in nutrition research annually, two thirds of which is funded through NIDDK, the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute. The number of dollars and projects dedicated to nutrition research at NIH has steadily grown over the last decade, and according to Rodgers, now is a good time for new investigators to apply to NIDDK.

View Dr. Wilder's and Dr. Rodgers' presentations on the Public Affairs ["Resources"](#) webpage, and see tips from John Edward Porter under ["Get Involved."](#)



### **Listen to a podcast on nutrition profiling**

This year's PIC Symposium, "Nutrition profiling: Global policies and perspectives," focused on current global perspectives on the 2005 recommendation of the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee to develop a scientifically valid definition for "nutrient density," and it sought to evaluate nutrition profiling systems as they are being introduced in the US, the European Union, and globally. Speakers provided regulatory and industry perspectives and controversies on what criteria are necessary for foods to meet the definition of nutrient-dense foods, and they discussed the needs of the regulatory agencies, industry, and the consumer.

During EB, we spoke with Greg Miller, past co-chair of the Public Information Committee and Chair of this year's Symposium. [Listen to the podcast](#) of the interview describing challenges and next steps in profiling.

### **Award winners and sponsors recognized**



ASN annually administers more than 20 awards. This year's award recipients, honored at EB, are listed on our [website](#).

ASN would also like to thank the [following organizations and individuals](#) who provided support for the 2008 Annual Meeting.

**Planning for EB 2009: Call for Late-Breaking proposals!**

ASN's Scientific Programs Committee is already planning for the 2009 Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology, scheduled for April 18-22 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Submit your late-breaking symposium proposals by September 1, 2008. [The application form](#) is on our website.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of you for making our annual meeting such a success. Without your active participation in the scientific and social programs, all the hard work of planning would be for naught. It was a pleasure to introduce in person to all of you our hard working Executive Board at the business meeting and, of course our wonderful staff. Without this staff, under John Courtney's excellent leadership, we would have a lot of terrific ideas but greatly diminished ability to implement them. Put New Orleans on your calendars now!

*Joanne R. Lupton*

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