

# ASN Early Career Nutrition Interest Group

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SPRING/SUMMER 2017

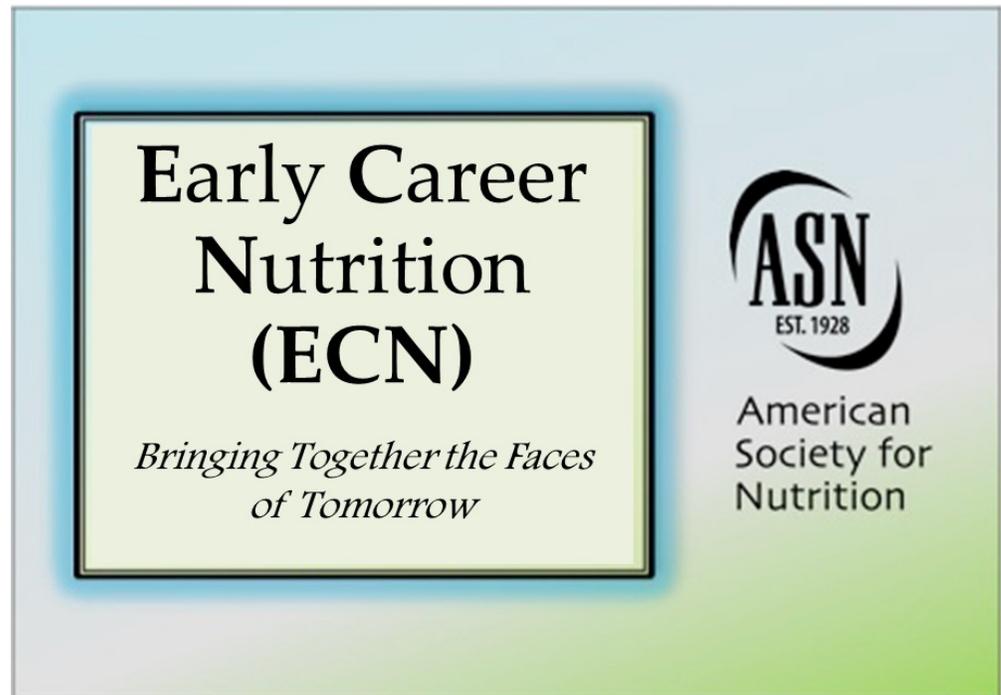
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Nutrition (ECN)  
Interest Group



## Who we are

ASN's Early Career Nutrition Interest Group (ECN) serves as a source of information and support for emerging professionals in nutrition and related disciplines, including postdoctoral fellows, medical residents, and junior faculty.

The primary mission of the ECN Interest Group is to promote and facilitate interaction between early career professionals, ASN, and the nutrition community at-large. The ECN achieves this mission through programming symposia and events focused on early-career members and hosting activities that benefit emerging leaders at ASN's Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting.

The ECN also serves as a springboard for members to become involved in other leadership opportunities within ASN.

## Get involved

Spread the word and the contents of this newsletter to your young professional colleagues with an invitation to join ECN. Membership is our future and provides the resources to maintain the group's activities and technical programming.

Joining the ECN Interest Group is easy—just log-in on the ASN site, click on "Update My RIS, Scientific Councils and Interest Groups," and select ECN as a group you want to join. Please visit our [website](#) for further information.

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## What's new

The ECN Interest Group continues to aim to foster networking and communication among our membership through social media platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter.

Now we have a NEW way to get connected—**NutriLink**, ASN's brand-new online community forum. Exclusively open to ASN members, NutriLink is a perfect way for our members to network and engage in meaningful discussions with other early career professionals as well as the ASN membership at-large.

Want to join the conversation? Visit us on NutriLink today:

<http://nutrilink.nutrition.org/home>

Plus, read more about this innovative new tool in our EB wrap-up of the NutriLink and MentorLink kickoff reception at EB on Page 8!



## Meet the ECN Executive Board



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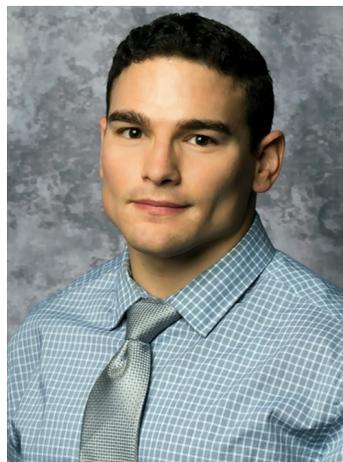


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## Career and Professional Development Advice From the Experts

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For this edition of the newsletter, we sought out 6 leaders in the nutrition field and asked:

What is the key piece of advice you would give to young professionals early in their nutrition careers?

Here's what they had to say:

*"I would suggest to young professionals that they seek input and advice from a variety of mentors and senior investigators as their independent research is starting to take shape. Be open to feedback and to re-tooling an idea to make it sharper and better. Being able to take constructive criticism is so important for both manuscript and grant writing. Seasoned investigators generally want to help early career investigators to make sure that all of you are successful."*

-Marian Neuhouser, PhD, RD  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center  
Past President, ASN

*"Befriend a statistician."*

-Patricia M. Guenther, PhD, RD  
University of Utah

***"Seek out experiences that stretch you.*** You'll know if you are really growing if you are doing something completely new or feel a bit anxious about the outcomes. Personal experiences are just as valuable as those in the workplace and offer the chance to learn from mistakes while managing risk.

***Practice active listening skills all-day and everyday.*** Ask yourself when was the last time you changed your opinion on a nutrition topic based on evidence summarized by someone else. Active listening is a skill to use in overcoming your own confirmation biases."

-Barbara Lyle, PhD  
B Lyle, Inc.

## Advice From the Experts, cont.

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***"Focus on what you love and do well. If you find what gets you excited, you will never dread a day of work in your life. The field of nutrition is broad enough to accommodate basic and applied areas of science; academic-, government- and private-sector careers; and communication needs that range from one-on-one counseling to addressing huge audiences. Play to your strengths and let others do what they do best; this will engender confidence in your own abilities and attract complementary colleagues who will enrich your understanding and productivity enormously."***

-Susan M. Krebs-Smith, PhD  
National Cancer Institute

***"Follow your dreams but be strategic in doing so to fund them. Select mentors who have a track record of helping others to provide assistance, advice and support throughout your career."***

-Barry M. Popkin, PhD  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

***"Over my career, I have had the opportunity to meet, speak and work with many people in countless roles within academe, government, industry. They have had varying levels of enjoyment and success in their careers. To state the obvious, everyone is different. But for the successful, two things in particular have stood out for me. First, they seem to be able to maintain their enormous sense of curiosity about a world that is far larger than their own area of research, and what they learn because of their curiosity informs the science that they pursue. Second, they understand that everyone (and everything) has a story and everyone's story is worth listening to and sharing in. So I would advise you to be guided by your curiosity, and feed it by searching for, listening to, and sharing in the stories that come your way."***

-Richard Black, PhD  
Quadrant D Consulting

## ECN Events at Experimental Biology 2017 Recap

It was great to see so many of you this past April in Chicago at ASN's Scientific Sessions and Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology 2017! ECN led a number of successful events for our members. Programming and events were made possible thanks to support from DuPont Nutrition & Health and Abbott Nutrition, and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to our sponsors.

In case you weren't able to join us this year, here's a brief wrap-up of ECN-related activities at EB 2017.



Our ECN fundraiser selling collapsible water bottles was a huge success!

Miss out? Good news - we have leftover water bottles!

Contact [dpreciado@nutrition.org](mailto:dpreciado@nutrition.org) if interested.

We appreciate your continued support of the ECN Interest Group!

Have a great idea for a fundraiser? Please [let us know!](#)

### **Postdoctoral Research Award Competition—endowed by DuPont Nutrition & Health**

The 7th annual Postdoctoral Research Award Competition, endowed by DuPont Nutrition and Health, was held on Saturday, April 22 at the 2017 Experimental Biology meeting in the McCormick Place Convention Center. After a review of the submitted abstracts, six finalists were chosen to present a 10-minute oral presentation. The session was chaired by Pao Ying Hsiao, ECN chair, and judged by Drs. Alissa Wilson, Young Ah Seo, Aryeh Stein, Nathan Matusheski, and Janos Zemleni.

Please join us in congratulating our finalists and overall winner:

#### Finalists:

**Ambika Satija** – Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

**Xian Wu** – Jean Meyer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University

**Kelly Sheppard** – The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital

**Mahsa Jessri** – University of Toronto

**Manish K. Saraf** – Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center



*Pictured from L to R: Pao Ying Hsiao (session chair), Jason L. Robinson, Kelly Sheppard, Manish K. Saraf, Ambika Satija, Xian Wu, Ratna Mukherj (representative from DuPont Nutrition and Health)*

#### Overall Winner:

**Jason L. Robinson** – USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center, Baylor College of Medicine  
Presentation title: Diminished Citrulline-Arginine-Nitric Oxide Production Rates are Associated with Necrotizing Enterocolitis Incidence in Premature Pigs

## ECN @ EB 2017

### **ECN-sponsored Symposium:**

#### **Thriving, Not Just Surviving: Skills Essential to Leveraging Your Scientific Career**

This well-attended super-sized workshop, co-sponsored by ECN and the Student Interest Group, was designed to help our members gain leadership skills. The session featured 6 expert speakers as well as a networking break to encourage attendees to meet new faces and practice the skills being discussed.

The workshop opened with a discussion about the “Imposter Syndrome,” a pattern of explaining away your accomplishments and persistently feeling that your successes are un-deserved. How should we deal with this? The key is to recognize that getting help is a good thing and to accept that you don’t have to be perfect.



Next up, tips from the experts about mentoring. Many of us are looking for a single “guru” mentor, but there are so many aspects of being an early career professional that one mentor cannot cover them all. Know your goals before approaching a new mentor, identify what aspects of the mentoring relationship are most important to you, and seek those qualities in your mentor. Remember, it is never too early, or too late, in your career to have a mentor.



We then learned simple steps for changing your outlook and overcoming fears about networking. Be prepared to share about yourself by having your “elevator speech” ready. But, think of networking as an exchange – make sure to learn about the other person. Aim to diversify your network, by connecting with people from different disciplines. Be sure to follow-up with people you meet to establish these new contacts into your network.

The discussion then turned to strategies for how to be an effective mentor when you are still a mentee. Be willing to listen, but also willing to reveal information about yourself. Being open and sharing relatable stories about your experiences can make you a better mentor, in formal and informal mentoring relationships.

Next, we learned strategies for building leadership skills for team management. Use a planning framework to identify purpose, principles, and values of the team. Continually seek out opportunities for leadership development. Work on active listening, dealing with ambiguity, negotiating, being politically savvy, and priority setting.

The session closed with secrets for how to prioritize your time and learn when to say “no” (and when to say “yes”). Take the time needed to articulate and prioritize your core values and life goals. The key to being a happy, effective person is to focus your effort into supporting your values and important roles. As an early career professional, numerous opportunities will come your way – learn to say “no” to tasks that don’t fit with your values and don’t nurture or advance your main roles.



## ECN @ EB 2017

### **ECN and Student Interest Group Speed Mentoring Event & ECN Networking Event**

This year marked another successful speed mentoring event for early career and student members. Akin to musical chairs, at the ring of the bell, attendees found a chair in one of 15 groups and were able to hear from and ask questions of a range of mentors until the bell rang again and a new round began. Mentors were drawn from academia and industry and spanned postdoctoral fellows to established professionals. Speed networking was followed by an informal event at which early career and student members and mentors could continue their conversations.



We received many positive comments from attendees, who greatly appreciated the mentors making the time to share their experiences. We also received suggestions from attendees to help maximize their time with mentors so they can absorb even more of their valuable advice—we'll look at ways to make this happen next year so stay tuned.

Thank you to Christopher Ford and the other ECN and SIG members who helped out with the event, and particularly to the mentors who made it a success.

### **ASN NutriLink and MentorLink Kickoff Reception**

ASN NutriLink is the new online community forum for ASN members to connect with one another, collaborate on ideas, and engage in meaningful discussions. The website was opened to the general ASN membership in March 2017, and its usership has been steadily growing. During the first 2 months, nearly 800 ASN members logged on at least once.



**ASN NutriLink**  
JOIN THE NUTRITION CONVERSATION  
Connect | Collaborate | Engage

April 23 marked the official launch of one of ASN NutriLink's most exciting features, [MentorLink](#). This tool will be a pathway for members of all career stages to find new mentors or mentees within their discipline. Interested individuals first fill out a profile with demographics such as workplace type, research interests and communication preference. Then, they may search our database for mentors or mentees that fit the criteria they are looking for, or wait for a potential match to find them.



Dozens of members attended the ASN NutriLink and MentorLink Kickoff Reception during EB 2017. ASN staff had the opportunity to mingle with attendees and answer any ASN NutriLink and MentorLink related questions.

Overall, we are thrilled with the level of activity so far on ASN NutriLink. We greatly appreciate the overwhelming amount of positive feedback and constructive criticism we have received, and we look forward to having more members join the conversation on ASN NutriLink soon!

## Should nutrition scientists take food-industry funding?

*Industry funding of nutrition research is an important issue where there are diverse opinions. ASN is a welcoming place encouraging discussion from members with all perspectives on topics including this one. ASN members share a common unifying goal of advancing nutrition science to promote the public welfare. Working together we can and we will continue to disclose potential conflicts of interest and advance the field for the public benefit. Dr. Mary Ann Johnson, ASN President*

We are honored to have Dr. Marion Nestle, Ph.D, M.P.H, as an advisor for the ECN interest group. In this special guest column, we invited Dr. Nestle to share her wisdom about conflicts of interest, either real or perceived, with regards to sponsorship by food companies.



Marion Nestle, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Paulette Goddard Professor of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health  
New York University

As a newly appointed advisor to ASN's Early Career Nutrition (ECN) group, I am pleased to be asked to explain why I do not think it a good idea for nutrition scientists, practitioners, and societies to be funded by food, beverage, and supplement companies (collectively, the food industry) for research that is in any way related to their products. If we do, we run the risk of appearing as if our interests are conflicted. More than that, we risk being conflicted—influenced to be less critical or silent about nutrition issues related to the donor's products. There is no getting around it: whatever the reality of the relationship, taking money from a for-profit food company makes us appear to be supporters of whatever products the company sells.

Source: <http://www.foodpolitics.com>  
Photo by Lou Manna

I worry a lot that financial ties between food companies and ASN tarnish its reputation and ours. It troubles me when critics outside our profession view us as "on the take" and publish reports exposing ASN's financial ties to companies that have a marketing stake in what we study or say about their products. When ASN meetings are sponsored by food companies, it makes these financial ties seem normal. ASN provides a platform for industry-sponsored sessions such as the one this year on the benefits of Stevia, but you can bet they don't include speakers who might say anything critical. Sponsorship excludes that possibility.

Most of what we know about the effects of sponsorship comes from a very large body of research on funding by the cigarette, chemical, pharmaceutical, and medical device industries. The results of this research are remarkably consistent: they demonstrate that industry funding influences the design, interpretation, and outcome of research. Nutrition is late to this type of investigation, but several recent studies show that studies funded by the food industry almost invariably favor the interests of the sponsor. Publication bias against negative studies explains only a small part of these findings.

## Guest column by Dr. Marion Nestle, cont'd

Investigators who take such funding insist that it has no effect on the design, conduct, interpretation, or publication of their research. This insistence is consistent with another large body of research demonstrating that gifts have a profound influence on attitudes, behavior, and action—but that recipients are blind to these effects. The medical literature shows that even small gifts—pens and pads—are enough to influence prescription practices, and that larger gifts have even greater effects. But the influence occurs below the radar of critical thinking. It is unintentional, unconscious, and unrecognized.

What most troubles me is the lack of questioning of industry penetration into our societies and research. I think we should be raising questions about ASN's involvement with companies whose profits might be affected by our opinions or research results. Should ASN have competed to manage the industry-funded Smart Choices program that ended up putting a seal of approval on Froot Loops? Does it make sense for ASN to endorse public policy statements promoting the benefits of processed foods or opposing "added sugars" on food labels? Is it reasonable for ASN to argue on social media that it is inappropriate to question industry funding of research? Must ECN sessions at the annual meeting really be funded by companies such as PepsiCo (last year) or Abbott Laboratories? These actions send the message that ASN is an arm of the food industry and that we uncritically support what it makes, sells, or does.

But let's turn to a more immediate concern: research funding. As early investigators, you face intense pressures to bring in external grants to pay for your studies, overhead, and maybe even your salaries. Government funding for many areas of nutrition research is declining. These pressures are real. But just as real are the effects of industry funding on research.

From March 2015 to March 2016, I posted summaries of industry-funded studies on my blog. During that year, I collected 168 studies. Of these, 156 yielded results favoring the sponsor's interests. I only could find 12 studies that did not. This was a casually collected convenience sample but it did allow one conclusion: it is easier to find industry-funded studies with positive results than those with negative results. Nevertheless, recent systematic studies come to the same conclusion. Studies funded by Coca-Cola, for example, are far more likely to conclude that its products have no effect on obesity or type 2 diabetes than do studies funded by government or foundations.

**VIEWPOINT**

**Marion Nestle, PhD, MPH**  
Department of Nutrition, Food Studies, and Public Health, New York University, New York

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### Corporate Funding of Food and Nutrition Research: Science or Marketing?

Opinion

The longstanding influence of food industry funding on nutrition research, researchers, and professional societies threatens the credibility of nutrition science. So much research is sponsored by industry that health professionals and the public may lose confidence in basic dietary advice. Although most journals now require authors to disclose who pays for their work, disclosure—even done diligently—is not sufficient to alert readers to the extent to which industry funding influences research results and professional opinion. As is well established from experimental and observational research, drug company gifts and grants can have substantial effects. To recipients, however, these effects are almost always unconscious, unintentional, and unrecognized, making them especially difficult to prevent.<sup>1</sup>

Medical schools and medical journals have increased efforts to minimize and manage conflicts of interest with industry. But from my observations, nutrition researchers, journals, and professional societies, like medical researchers, often fail to realize that food industry funding may affect their work and its credibility.

Two recent investigative articles in the *New York Times* illustrated the concerns about biases introduced by industry funding. The first<sup>2</sup> described the support by Coca-Cola of academic researchers who founded a new organization, the Global Energy Balance Network, to promote physical activity as a more effective method than calorie control (eg, from avoiding sugary soda) for preventing obesity. The second<sup>3</sup> analyzed emails obtained through open records requests to document how Monsanto, the multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation, on the one hand, and the organic food industry, on the other, recruited professors to lobby, write, and testify to Congress on their behalf.

Both articles<sup>4</sup> quoted the researchers named in these reports as denying an influence of industry funding and lamenting the paucity of university research funds and the competitiveness of federal grants. Despite leaving their organizations open to accusations that they have sold out to industry,<sup>5</sup> officers of nutrition research societies tell me that they cannot function without industry funding of journals and conferences. They have a point. Although the investment by federal agencies in food and nutrition research has increased steadily since the early 1990s, US Department of Agriculture grants are diminishing, and the National Institutes of Health are funding fewer researchers at state agricultural colleges. Investigators have a hard time obtaining grants for projects related to food composition, food technology, nutrients, and nutrient metabolism as federal agencies have understandably shifted priorities toward research on obesity, genetics, and chronic diseases.<sup>6</sup>

Food companies, such as Quaker Oats, used to support basic research conducted by in-house scientists, but Unilever and Nestlé (no relation) are among the very few companies that continue to do so. Instead, food companies outsource research, much of which can appear as designed for marketing purposes. Recently, in preparation for what I intend to be a more systematic analysis of corporate funding of nutrition research, I began collecting a convenience sample of studies funded by food and beverage companies or trade associations as they appear in journals I happen to be reading. I sort them by whether their results do or do not favor the interests of the sponsor, and post examples online at my blog, <http://www.foodpolitics.com>.<sup>7</sup>

Between March and October 2015, I identified 76 industry-funded studies. Of these, 70 reported results favorable to the sponsor's interest. Despite ongoing requests to readers of my blog to help me identify funded studies reporting results contrary to a funder's interest, I have found only 6. This discrepancy is consistent with the results of systematic investigations of industry sponsorship, such as one on the role of sugar-sweetened beverages in obesity.<sup>8</sup> In general, independently funded studies find correlations between sugary drinks and poor health, whereas those supported by the soda industry do not.<sup>9</sup> In the studies I collected, companies or trade associations promoting soft drinks, dairy foods, eggs, breakfast cereals, pork, beef, soy products, dietary supplements, juices, cranberries, nuts, and chocolates supported the study itself; the investigators, or both. These studies all found significant health benefits or lack of harm from consuming the foods investigated, results that can be useful for deflecting criticism of a company or promoting its products.

Mars Inc, for example, the maker of chocolate candies such as M&Ms, funds studies on the effects of cocoa flavanols on arterial function and blood pressure. One such study, published in September 2015,<sup>10</sup> concluded that these compounds "improved accredited cardiovascular surrogates of cardiovascular risk, demonstrating that dietary flavanols have the potential to maintain cardiovascular health even in low-risk subjects." The study investigators,<sup>11</sup> one of whom is employed by Mars, followed well-established scientific protocols in conducting the research. Science is not the issue here. Marketing is the issue. The question is why Mars would fund a study like this and assign one of its employees to help design and write it. In this instance, the answer is obvious. Mars issued a press release "Cocoa flavanols lower blood pressure and increase blood vessel function in healthy people" and noted these results in a full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* on September 27, 2015. Neither the press

JAMA Internal Medicine January 2016 Volume 176, Number 13

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To learn more, read Dr. Nestle's article: Nestle M. Corporate Funding of Food and Nutrition Research: Science or Marketing? *JAMA Intern Med* 2016;176(1):13-4.

## Guest column by Dr. Marion Nestle, cont'd

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Because we are generally unconscious of the influence of financial ties, it is easy for us to deny the influence or argue that nonfinancial interests—preferences for hypotheses and desires for career advancement—are just as biasing. Yes they may be biasing, but all scientists have them. In contrast to financial ties to industry, it is not possible to eliminate nonfinancial biases and still do science.

I am often asked whether there is a way to take money from food companies and maintain intellectual independence and professional reputation. I regret that I cannot think of any viable way to do that. The ASN has appointed a “Truth” commission to examine this issue and I look forward to its report. In the meantime, I am hoping that you will give thought to the potential conflict of interest and reputational loss that you risk with food industry ties. You must figure out for yourself whether you think the risks are worth taking.

If you do decide to engage with industry, you will need to disclose it. Most journals now require authors to reveal who pays for their work, but even when done diligently, disclosure is not sufficient to alert readers to the extent to which industry funding influences research outcome and professional opinion. Yes, disclosure is uncomfortable, perhaps explaining why so many studies identify frequent lapses. It is likely to become more uncomfortable. In response to a petition from the Center for Science in the Public Interest (which I co-signed), the National Library of Medicine has announced that it will henceforth add funding disclosures and conflict-of-interest statements to PubMed abstracts.

It is only fair to tell you how I handle these issues. My disclosure statement says: “Dr. Nestle’s salary from NYU supports her research, manuscript preparation, Website, and blog at <http://www.foodpolitics.com>. She also earns royalties from books and honoraria from lectures to university and health professional groups about matters relevant to this topic.” I also on occasion speak to food industry groups. When I do, I accept reimbursements for travel expenses but ask that honoraria be donated to the NYU library’s food studies collection. This policy, imperfect as it may be, is the best I can do. I ask only that you think seriously about these issues and figure out for yourself how best to deal with them. I am happy to discuss these matters and am most easily reached at [marion.nestle@nyu.edu](mailto:marion.nestle@nyu.edu).

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## ECN Recipe Box

### **Tabbouleh Salad**

Looking for a twist on traditional tabbouleh? Try this favorite recipe from ECN board member **Chris Ford**. Chris wanted to make a higher-protein version of tabbouleh salad, so he loaded up the dish with chicken and feta.

#### **Ingredients:**

Canned chickpeas	15 oz
Great northern white beans	15 oz
Fat-free feta cheese	16 oz
Green onions	1 bunch
Fresh chopped parsley	1 bunch
Kraft Olive Oil Italian Dressing	32 tbsp
Grape tomatoes	24 oz
Minced garlic	8 tbsp
Chopped watercress	4 cups
Boneless skinless chicken breast	40 oz



#### **Preparation Instructions:**

Cook, cool, then chop (1" pieces) 40 oz of boneless skinless chicken breast. Strain and rinse canned beans and place in a large mixing bowl.

Wash hands thoroughly, then crumble feta cheese into large mixing bowl. Finely chop green onions, watercress and parsley (you may use a blender to puree the parsley if desired), then add to bowl. Add 8 cloves of fresh minced garlic. Cut, lengthwise, 24 oz of fresh grape tomatoes, then add along with chicken to mixing bowl.



Finally, add 32 tablespoons of Kraft Olive Oil Italian Dressing, then incorporate all ingredients (by hand or using a large spoon).

Chill 30 minutes, then serve. Makes 8 servings.

### **Nutrition Facts**

Serving Size: 1 meal

Amount Per Serving

Calories 549      Calories from Fat 119

% Daily Values\*

<b>Total Fat</b> 13.25g	<b>20%</b>
Saturated Fat 1.691g	<b>8%</b>
Polyunsaturated Fat 0.293g	
Monounsaturated Fat 0.146g	
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 117.5mg	<b>39%</b>
<b>Sodium</b> 1344.38mg	<b>56%</b>
<b>Potassium</b> 303mg	
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 56.28g	<b>19%</b>
Dietary Fiber 15.22g	<b>61%</b>
Sugars 11.91g	
Other Carbohydrate 0g	
<b>Protein</b> 58.2g	

Vitamin A 30%      Vitamin C 73.88%

Calcium 26.62%      Iron 22.84%

\* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

## Save the date for next year's ASN meeting: June 9-12, 2018!

We are excited to spread the word about the first ASN stand-alone meeting in Boston next summer! To get updates with the latest info about this ground-breaking event, sign up [online](#).



ECN is already hard at work planning events for Nutrition 2018 to encourage networking and foster career development among our members. This stand-alone meeting offers more flexibility in programming we can offer, so please [let us know](#) your "musts" for the meeting next year!

## Get involved!

You can help us extend and improve opportunities: [contribute to the Postdoc/Young Professional Fund](#), which is dedicated to support early-career activities. No gift is too small to have an impact! Submitting your contribution is easy and convenient online!

Near the end of your postdoc and looking for a new job? Make sure to check out the [ASN job board](#).

*Interested in writing an article for the newsletter? Know someone great for the Member Spotlight?*  
Send an email to **Jennifer Poti** ([poti@unc.edu](mailto:poti@unc.edu)) to let us know!

*We are happy to publish on any topic that might be of interest to our readers.  
Plus, getting involved with ASN by participating in activities like the newsletter is a great way to increase your visibility within the field of nutrition!*

ECN is continually seeking opportunities for sponsorship. Sponsorship enables us to carry out our mission to provide networking and career advancement opportunities for ASN young professionals.

ECN has begun to engage in discussions regarding real or perceived conflicts of interest in regard to sponsorship by food and pharmaceutical companies. ASN has established a [committee](#) to consider these issues and develop policy. We welcome your feedback and thoughts about these important issues.

If you or your organization would like to assist in our fundraising efforts, please contact ASN staff member **Michelle Hendley** ([mhendley@nutrition.org](mailto:mhendley@nutrition.org)). All donation amounts are appreciated! Contributing partners will be recognized in the ECN newsletter, as well as other ASN communications and the ASN website ([www.nutrition.org](http://www.nutrition.org)). There is great potential for your organization to develop lifelong relationships with emerging experts in the field of nutrition through collaborations with ECN.



**American Society for Nutrition**  
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