

## Join ACSH Today!

Please donate to the American Council on Science and Health. The propagandists who distort science for political ends never seem to let up, and it's important to keep ACSH going and countering them.

Yes, I want to help the ACSH, as it takes a stand for common sense and truth in science. That's why I'm joining an ACSH Club by making a tax-deductible contribution of:

- \$100 Associate       \$250 Nader-Buster\*  
 \$500 Partner-in-Science\*     \$1,000 President's Club\*  
 \$5,000 Chairman's Circle\*     \$10,000 Leadership Council\*

Another amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\* (Join the Nader-Busters and receive our classic *Holiday Dinner Menu*. Become a Partner-in-Science and also receive ACSH's *Facts versus Fears* report. President's Club members get all of the above plus the ACSH book *America's War on "Carcinogens"*. Membership in the Chairman's Circle entitles you to all of the above, plus special invitations to meet with ACSH leadership. All donors can sign up for the *ACSH Morning Dispatch*, ACSH's daily e-mail about our staff's morning-meeting take on that day's health news.)

Yes, as an ACSH donor add me to the ACSH Morning Dispatch e-mail list. My e-mail address is: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACSH is a 501 (c) (3) organization, so contributions are tax-deductible as permitted by law. (EIN # 13-2911127).

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## WHO FUNDS ACSH?

ACSH's thousands of large and small funders are quite varied. They include private foundations, trade associations, corporations, and a growing array of individuals.

## DO ACSH'S FUNDERS INFLUENCE ITS POLICIES?

No. ACSH is an independent organization whose conclusions stem from, and are consistent with, mainstream scientific findings. ACSH accepts corporate contributions only on a "no-strings-attached" basis and ACSH alone determines its positions and conclusions. Indeed, some corporations have discontinued funding ACSH because they disagree with an ACSH position they evidently considered disadvantageous to them. For example, ACSH has lost substantial financial support from food manufacturers acquired by tobacco companies.

Most supporters understand and respect ACSH's "no-strings-attached" funding policy. We stick to the truth and put science first—that's our whole reason for doing what we do.

[ACSH's *Facts Versus Fears* booklet] serves as a cautionary tale that should help you realize why it is unwise to leap before you look more closely at what any new study actually means.

—Jane E. Brody, columnist, *New York Times*

## HOW DOES ACSH REACH THE PUBLIC DECISION-MAKERS?

ACSH's reports are covered extensively by newspapers, national magazines, popular websites, and TV and radio programs. Moreover, ACSH staffers and advisors often convey ACSH research findings directly to legislators, politicians, and public health leaders.

## WHAT IS ACSH'S MOST IMPORTANT NEED?

In a word, funding—to broaden the issues ACSH investigates, to multiply its publications and staff researchers, to increase its educational outreach efforts, and to counteract more effectively the well-funded, vociferous special interests that promote scientifically unsound public health policies.

[T]he American Council on Science and Health [is] a leading research group devoted to separating bogus health scares from real dangers.

—*New York* magazine

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## AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH

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## Putting Science First



The American Council on Science and Health

ACSH.org  
 HealthFactsAndFears.com  
 TheScoopOnSmoking.org  
 Riskometer.org

ACSH's mission is to ensure that peer-reviewed mainstream science reaches the public—and the decision-makers who make public policy—in order to foster a scientifically sound and sensible public health policy for the American people.

## WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH?

**We fight the unscientific, over-hyped nonsense that pervades our culture.**

Founded in 1978, the American Council on Science and Health, Inc. (ACSH) is a national consumer-education consortium that specializes in analyzing and reporting on issues concerning the relationships of food, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, lifestyles, the environment, and human health. ACSH is an independent, not-for-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c) (3) organization. All contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law.

ACSH's nucleus is a board of more than 350 authorities—physicians, scientists, and policy experts—representing a spectrum of disciplines, who review ACSH's prospective publications and participate in its special events and educational activities.

By simply exposing the lack of evidence behind many health claims... [ACSH's website] provides a soothing antidote to the endless miracle cures and health fears being shopped in ads and news stories each day.  
—Benedict Carey, *Los Angeles Times*

## WHAT IS ACSH'S PRIMARY GOAL?

**ACSH's primary aim is to help American consumers distinguish significant health hazards from hypothetical or trivial health risks.**

ACSH further seeks to ensure that both individual health decisions and public health policies are based on sound scientific evidence rather than on hyperbole about risk, fears, guesswork, lobbying, and/or propaganda.

Putting health risks in proper perspective – and educating journalists, legislators, and others about them – is what the American Council on Science and Health is all about.

—Steve Forbes

## WHAT ARE ACSH'S MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES?

ACSH plans, develops, and publishes books, booklets, brochures, and video logs on critical health topics. ACSH maintains comprehensive websites (ACSH.org, HealthFactsAndFears.com, Riskometer.org, and TheScoopOnSmoking.org) that provide commentary on the latest-breaking health and science news stories, with links to our latest feature articles, outside-venue editorials, and press releases on current health and science events.

ACSH's research staff and scientific advisors represent ACSH on radio and television and in various conferences. They regularly contribute letters to the editor, op-eds, and other articles to America's major newspapers, magazines, and Internet sites. Moreover, ACSH conducts colloquia, panels, scientific seminars, and public conferences on a wide variety of subjects, participates in legislative and regulatory hearings, and provides internships for students in health-related fields.

ACSH [has a] tradition of promoting sound science, cost-benefit analysis, and good epidemiology; exposing activist- and media-driven health scares about chemicals, mysterious illnesses, unhealthy foods, and improbable risks.

—the Heritage Foundation's *Insider*

## WHAT DISTINGUISHES ACSH FROM OTHER HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS?

Unlike so-called consumer-advocacy groups that misrepresent science and distort health priorities, for decades ACSH has produced and disseminated reliable, scientifically sound critiques of current health issues, watching out for scares and groundless fads. Our raison d'être is to champion the primacy of science and technology in the furtherance of human health and our current, enviably high standard of living.

## WHAT TYPES OF ISSUES DOES ACSH INVESTIGATE?

ACSH covers wide-ranging contemporary health issues, including cancer, AIDS, tobacco use, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, nutrition, food safety, pesticides, and other environmental chemicals, biotechnology, disease prevention, medical screening, radiation, and so-called "alternative medicine," as well as terrorism preparedness and, with the help of our new "Riskometer" website, the general problem of rationally prioritizing health risks.

## DOES ACSH TAKE STRONG POSITIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH POLICIES?

Yes. For instance, ACSH has long and vigorously advised the American public, the media, and policymakers about the dire health consequences of cigarette smoking—the nation's top preventable killer. ACSH has likewise dealt with the major health hazards of alcohol abuse, unsafe sex, and underuse of protective technologies such as seat belts, bike helmets, and smoke detectors.

American Council on Science and Health offers credible advice from professional scientists. Their advice might not always be popular but almost definitely accurate!

—About.com

## WHAT KINDS OF HEALTH MISINFORMATION HAS ACSH DEBUNKED?

ACSH has shown that many alleged health hazards sensationalized by the media—such as traces of chemical residues in food and water—pose no proven health risks. ACSH has earned a reputation for being "ahead of the curve" on health policy issues. In 1989, when extremist environmentalists called the agricultural chemical Alar a cancer threat to children, ACSH alerted the public to the fact that the scare was scientifically without merit. Similarly, in 2003, when the media hyped acrylamide as a "carcinogen" found on French fries and other foods, ACSH scientists were among the first to debunk that myth. The scientific community and regulatory agencies later came to the same conclusion. ACSH was the only organization to speak up against the ban on trans fat at the pivotal New York City Department of Health hearing that preceded the ban.

The list of the ACSH's accomplishments is long, and lately some politicians in Washington—for a change—have begun to listen to ACSH's plea to examine the science before imposing new regulations.

—Ogden Newspapers

## HOW RIGOROUS IS ACSH'S PEER REVIEW PROCESS?

Prospective ACSH position papers are drafted by researchers on its staff and/or by independent, freelance scientists or science writers. Each ACSH position paper then undergoes a prepublication review by several experts in fields related to its subject. This process compares favorably with that used by America's most prestigious scientific and medical journals.



Risk Expert Elizabeth Whelan: Her Band of Scientists Fights Fearmongers, False Claims

—front-page headline, *Investor's Business Daily*

Rachel Carson's apocalyptic *Silent Spring* has had an enormous effect on America's health and environment policy for the past generation, but the sound-science vision of Dr. Elizabeth Whelan and her American Council on Science and Health is now making great strides to providing a countervailing force.

—*Human Events*

My admiration and thanks to the Council for its leadership and contribution to public health. Your organization continues to serve as a model for us all.

—Cynthia Callard, Executive Director, Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada

I just want to thank you for all the information you provide. It's great to get well-balanced and well-thought-out information.

—D. Levine, Contributing Editor, *Physician's Weekly*

**ACSH fights the worry. With the help of ACSH, we don't have to worry about political threats to our health.**

—P.J. O'Rourke

For more information contact:

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