



# AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANIMAL SCIENCE

## ASAS Board of Directors Statement – December 2023

In 2021, the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) embarked on a journey to enhance representation, amplify the voices, and foster greater inclusivity within the animal science community. Recognizing the importance of this endeavor, ASAS formed a dedicated committee to explore strategies that would resonate throughout the society and industry.

The core mission of this committee was to amplify under-represented voices, increase solidarity among fellow animal scientists, and discern where gaps existed within our community. Our society has long understood that diversity is not just a goal but an essential foundation that enriches the collective experience and knowledge of the field.

One of the noteworthy achievements in our pursuit of these goals has been the consistent growth of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Symposium. Held annually at the ASAS Annual Meeting for the past three years, this symposium has become a vital platform for engagement, dialogue, and collaboration. It has brought together animal scientists from diverse backgrounds, fostering an environment where different perspectives are valued, and new opportunities for cooperation arise.

Despite these commendable strides, we find ourselves facing unexpected challenges. Recent court rulings and governmental orders at both the state and federal levels have generated a wave of uncertainty and anxiety within our community. These developments have also introduced additional obstacles for many animal scientists who may now struggle to fully participate in and pursue their passion for animal science.

In response to these challenges, ASAS wants to unequivocally reiterate its unwavering commitment to its members and its dedication to ensuring that every individual within the animal science community can participate, succeed, and thrive within the discipline. We firmly believe that justice and inclusivity are fundamental principles that must guide our actions and policies. Our society's strength is derived from its diverse membership

To fulfill this commitment, ASAS will work tirelessly alongside its membership and partners to develop and implement initiatives that champion diversity, equity, and inclusion. ASAS invites all its members, partners, and supporters to join together in this vital endeavor. Together, we can ensure that animal science remains a dynamic and thriving field, where every talented individual, regardless of their background or identity, can contribute to our shared mission.

As we navigate these uncertain times, ASAS remains resolute in its pursuit of a more inclusive and equitable future for animal science. We stand united with our members, recognizing that our strength lies in our diversity and our collective commitment to a just and vibrant community of animal scientists.