ILSI North America

About Us

ILSI North America advances the understanding and application of science related to the nutritional quality and safety of the food supply. The organization carries out its mission by sponsoring relevant research programs, professional education programs and workshops, seminars, and publications, as well as providing a neutral forum for government, academic, and industry scientists to discuss and resolve scientific issues of common concern for the well-being of the general public. ILSI North America's programs are supported primarily by its industry membership.

How We Work

ILSI North America promotes science through the development of:

1) research programs to improve the current state of scientific knowledge;
2) publications (articles, monographs, and conference proceedings) to educate scientists, health professionals, and the public; and
3) meetings, workshops, symposia, seminars, webinars and conferences that identify data gaps and generate new ideas and effective courses of action.

Members are asked each year to identify scientific questions they feel should be considered for some action on the part of the organization.

The results are used to form the basis of a general discussion of emerging or re-emerging topics at the ILSI North America annual meeting. Members are also encouraged to bring forward new issues as they arise at any time during the year.

In the exploration stage, ILSI North America has several avenues by which it addresses a topic: inviting a speaker or panel of speakers to an upcoming meeting; obtaining an expert evaluation of the state-of- the-science; organizing a scientific session on the topic; referral of the topic to an existing committee; or forming a new subcommittee or project committee.

Food, Nutrition & Safety Program

The Food, Nutrition & Safety Program (FNSP) is the primary vehicle by which ILSI North America identifies and initially addresses emerging or re-emerging scientific issues. The FNSP is responsible for the Annual Scientific Program and the selection of Future Leaders.

Basic Nutrition and Beyond

ILSI North America undertakes a variety of initiatives designed to enhance our knowledge of the nutritional quality of the food supply and generate scientific information for dietary guidance. Current ILSI North America nutritional science has a broadened focus on the role of nutrients at risk for chronic diseases, the value of components within foods beyond basic nutrition, and the combined influence of dietary and other lifestyle choices on health and performance.

Food Safety

Topics related to food microbiology and food toxicology have been the pillars of ILSI North America's food safety initiatives. Newer efforts have been designed to address a variety of issues; examples include caffeine and reproductive health, Salmonella in low-moisture foods, nanotechnology, and uses of epidemiological data.

Scientific Committees
(by topic)

Working Group on Caffeine
Carbohydrates
Working Group on Conflict of Interest
Dietary Lipids
Early Nutrition
Energy Balance and Active Lifestyle
Flavonoids
Food & Chemical Safety
Food Microbiology
Fortification
Gut Microbes & Health
Hydration
Low-Calorie Sweeteners
Sodium

ILSI North America Staff

Eric Hentges, PhD
Executive Director joined ILSI North America in 2007. Eric works with members, trustees, science advisors, and staff to extend the organization's contribution to and impact within diverse scientific and health communities.

Sharon Weiss, MS, CAE,
Deputy Executive Director, manages ILSI North America's budget development process and monitors the financial status of the organization. She works closely with the Board of Trustees, the Executive Committee, and the Board Finance Committee. She has also been overseeing a transfer of responsibilities for the Food, Nutrition & Safety Program and ILSI North America's portion of the Annual Meeting to Heather Steele. Additionally, for much of 2011, she oversaw the work of ILSI North America's food safety committees, the Gut Microbes and Health Project Committee, and the Conflict of Interest Working Group.

Marie Latulippe, MS, RD
Senior Science Program Manager joined ILSI North America in 2006. Marie's background in various facets of nutrition and dietetics is a valuable asset to overseeing the work of numerous nutrition-related Committees.

Heather Steele, Mphil
Associate Director, Program Development, first joined ILSI North America in 1993. She manages the Food, Nutrition & Safety Program (FNSP), including the annual meeting scientific program and the emerging issues process, the Board Program Assessment and Strategic Collaborations Committee, as well as technical committees on Hydration and on Energy Balance and Active Lifestyle. Ms. Steele also manages ILSI North America's segment of the Annual Meeting.

Alison Kretser, MS RD
Senior Science Program Manager joined ILSI North America this past August. Alison's background in food and nutrition and her experience in program management, development and committee work is a valuable asset to her work with the Board Committee on Conflict of Interest and Scientific Integrity and Emerging Issues Processing Foods. She also manages the Scientific Committees on Food and Chemical Safety, Food Microbiology and Caffeine.

Jackie Bessette, BS
Assistant Manager Communications and Membership joined ILSI North America in 2009. Jackie leads the organization's communications initiatives and membership development activities, while supporting the Board Membership and Communications Committees.

Sarah Waybright, MS, RD
Science Program Associate joined ILSI North America in May 2011. Sarah works with the nutrition-related committees with particular focus on the Low-Calorie Sweetener, Gut Microbes and Health and Sodium Committees.

Courtney Kelly, BA
Executive Assistant joined the organization in 2007. She supports Sharon Weiss, Marie Latulippe, while working closely with the Food, Nutrition and Safety Program, Future Leaders Award Program, nutrition-related committees and the ILSI North America Annual Meeting.

Amanda Thackaway, BS
Executive Assistant joined ILSI North America in August 2011. She supports the Executive Director, the Board of Trustees and Alison Kretser regarding select committee activities. Amanda also supports the organization's project management initiatives and database maintenance.

Pauline Rosen, BA
Scientific Program Assistant joined ILSI North America in 2001. She currently supports Alison Kretser, Heather Steele, and select committees.

Scientific Advisors & Liaisons

Food Nutrition & Safety Program
Paul Breslin, *Monell Chemical Senses Center/Rutgers*
Fergus Clydesdale, *University of Massachusetts at Amherst*
Mario Ferruzzi, *Purdue University*
Jennifer Fisher, *Temple University*
Lee-Ann Jaykus, *North Carolina State University*
Johanna Lampe, *Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center*
Katherine Tucker, *Tufts USDA HNRCA*

Technical Committee on Carbohydrates
Suzanne Harris, *International Life Sciences Institute*
Julie Miller Jones, *St. Catherine University*
David Klurfeld, *USDA/ARS - Beltsville Human Nutrition Research*

Technical Committee on Dietary Lipids
David Baer, *USDA/ARS - Beltsville Human Nutrition Research*

Project Committee on Early Nutrition
Stephanie Atkinson, *McMaster University*
Catherine Field, *University of Alberta*
Layla Esposito, *National Institutes of Health*

Committee on Energy Balance & Active Lifestyle
David Allison, *University of Alabama at Birmingham*
James Hill, *University of Colorado Health Sciences Center*
John Jakicic, *University of Pittsburgh*

Project Committee on Flavonoids
John Erdman, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*
Allison Yates, *USDA/ARS - Beltsville Human Nutrition Research*

Technical Committee on Food & Chemical Safety
Sabine Francke-Carroll, *FDA/CFSAN*
Richard Canady, *ILSI Research Foundation*
Joseph Hotchkiss, *Michigan State University*

Technical Committee on Food Microbiology
Peter Gerner-Smidt, *Centers for Disease Control & Prevention*
LeeAnne Jackson, *Food and Drug Administration*
Marguerite Neill, *Brown University*
Martin Wiedmann, *Cornell University*

Project Committee on Fortification
Regan Bailey, *National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements*
Johanna Dwyer, *Tufts Medical Center*

Committee on Gut Microbes and Health
Kathy Ellwood, *FDA (retired)*
Mary-Ellen Sanders, *International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics*

Technical Committee on Hydration
Ann Grandjean, *University of Nebraska Medical Center*
Suzanne Harris, *International Life Sciences Institute*

Project Committee on Low-Calorie Sweeteners
Rebecca Brown, *National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disorders*
Adam Drewnowski, *University of Washington*
Daniel Raiten, *National Institute of Child Health and Human Development*

Technical Committee on Sodium
John DeSimone, *Virginia Commonwealth University*
Suzanne Harris, *International Life Sciences Institute*
Christine Taylor, *National Institutes of Health*

ILSI North America Members

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BENEO-Group
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Campbell Soup Company
Cargill, Incorporated
The Coca-Cola Company
ConAgra Foods, Inc.
National Starch LLC / Corn Products International Inc.
Danisco USA
The Dannon Company, Inc.
Dr Pepper Snapple Group
DSM Nutritional Products AG
General Mills
H.J. Heinz Company
The Hershey Company
Kellogg Company
Kraft Foods, Inc.
Mars, Incorporated
Martek Biosciences Corporation
McNeil Nutritionals, LLC
Mead Johnson & Company, LLC
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Nestlé USA
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