ILSI U.S. AND CANADA RESEARCH PROGRAM:

Collaborative Science for Safe, Nutritious and Sustainable Food
Welcome

On behalf of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) and its global federation of entities, I am immensely pleased to announce the launch of the new ILSI research program in the U.S. and Canada, which will address the nutrition, food safety and sustainability issues most important to supporting the public’s health. Spearheaded by an all-new staff, an unparalleled research portfolio, as well as re-envisioned governance and funding models, the ILSI research program in the U.S. and Canada aims to become a leader in clear-sighted, impactful scientific research that is global in scope.

ILSI's research program in the U.S. and Canada offers academics the opportunity to collaborate internationally on their research and expand their professional visibility by networking with other world-renowned experts. ILSI’s infrastructure provides an opportunity for public sector representatives to access research into health threats that present risk to both global and regional populations and supplies a framework to develop research methodologies to help solve these public health challenges. Finally, our program offers its collaborating private sector companies—including startups—visibility, as well as the opportunity to participate in important research projects on nutrition, food safety and sustainability issues.

Working within the global ILSI Federation, these new activities based in the U.S. and Canada will strengthen ILSI’s reach by allowing even greater international collaboration. Together, ILSI entities, initiatives and projects will ensure that the entire organization is addressing complex issues that will benefit the health and well-being of everyone for generations to come.

Stéphane Vidry, PhD
ILSI GLOBAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
All ILSI entities must uphold ILSI's Mandatory Policies, which expressly prohibit them from lobbying, conducting lobbying activities and making policy recommendations. In addition, ILSI explicitly prohibits its member entities from advocating for the commercial interests of their member companies or other parties. Instead, ILSI advances scientific, evidence-based research that can be accessed and utilized by a variety of sectors—from industry to government, academia or other research institutions.

In addition to ILSI's Mandatory Policies, all ILSI activities and research adopt the highest standards of scientific integrity. ILSI believes the best, most reliable science is produced through transparency and strong collaboration. ILSI's trusted experts and volunteers around the world work synergistically and transparently across academia and the public and private sectors to uphold the organization's public service mission.

Please visit ILSI.org to learn more and get involved.
In April 2021, ILSI Global hosted the first all-virtual ILSI Annual Symposium with 838 registrants from 58 countries. This meeting featured engaging sessions and informative presentations about a number of important topics from the microbiome to innovative packaging to alternative proteins and creating more sustainable food systems.

In July 2021, ILSI hosted “Ensuring Healthy Aging Through Supportive Diets,” a United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 Pre-Summit affiliated session. Experts discussed how improved nutrition in aging populations can support immune systems, reduce viral infections, delay cognitive decline, help manage chronic diseases, and reduce the risk of sarcopenia and the loss of muscle mass in older adults. Providing more appropriate, sustainable diets for seniors can also help achieve multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2020, ILSI hosted two webinars on the role of nutrition in supporting immune systems and in the immune response to viral infections.

ILSI is at the forefront of research and emerging issues

Even with all the challenges facing our society during the COVID-19 pandemic, ILSI has continued to provide opportunities for scientists and experts to publish their research, attend state-of-the-art trainings and participate in insightful, innovative events. In 2020, ILSI hosted two webinars on the role of nutrition in supporting immune systems and in the immune response to viral infections.

ILSI Global hosted an important event on healthy aging at the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021 Pre-Summit. I had the privilege to moderate the discussion and introduce the speakers, including the honorable Vice President of Costa Rica, as well as the Assistant Secretary-General from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It was a compelling event and will help encourage greater international scientific cooperation, as well as foster healthy, enjoyable and sustainable lifestyles for older individuals.

Working with ILSI provides many interesting opportunities for collaboration with important international organizations, companies, NGOs, governmental agencies and academics.

Dr. Michael Doyle
FORMER ILSI GLOBAL CO-CHAIR

I had the honor of opening the 2021 ILSI Annual Symposium to a diverse, international audience. On the first day of the online symposium, ILSI had 838 registrants from 58 countries around the world. ILSI’s network of experts only helps to strengthen the organization and its work. The high-caliber research presentations provided insights on emerging topics in food safety, nutrition and sustainable practices. I look forward to the day when experts from the new ILSI U.S. and Canada will present their research to the ILSI community.

Dr. Kerr Dow
ILSI GLOBAL CO-CHAIR

“Working with ILSI provides many interesting opportunities for collaboration with important international organizations, companies, NGOs, governmental agencies and academics.”

Dr. Kerr Dow
ILSI GLOBAL CO-CHAIR

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HALLMARKS OF ILSI U.S. AND CANADA

GLOBAL NETWORKING AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
• 300+ members
• Public sector agencies
• Hundreds of academic institutions from around the world
• NGOs, professional associations and foundations

TIMELY, COLLABORATIVE AND MULTI-SECTORAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
• Regional and global representation with other key stakeholders, including collaborating organizations, agencies, institutions, companies and startups
• Global scope to provide global innovations and solutions for consideration
• Participation in cost-sharing and co-building research projects
• Engagement in important pre-competitive, scientific discussions

CONTRIBUTING TO SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE, INTEGRITY AND TRANSPARENCY
• Collaboration across sectors
• Advancement of transdisciplinary research projects
• Provision of science-based solutions to regional and global communities
• Improvement of risk assessment and management
• Identify of knowledge gaps for future research
• Elucidating the health benefits or impacts—of various foods and ingredients
• Improving of food safety and sustainability practices in the food and beverage industries

INCREASED VISIBILITY AND RECOGNITION FOR PARTICIPANTS
• Communication and dissemination of research results and deliverables to key audiences and stakeholders
• Enhanced international recognition of professionals by global companies, governments and institutions
• Enables strong connections for future collaborations or potential funding support

INNOVATIVE FUNDING
• The ILSI U.S. and Canada Research Program is exploring alternative funding models whereby a membership fee is not needed to finance research projects and initiatives based in the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to provide greater participation in ILSI’s public-private partnerships.

Please contact us to learn more about ILSI’s scientific portfolio in the U.S. and Canada, or to collaborate with ILSI on a research project. Our team looks forward to hearing from you!

Email: research@ilsiuscanada.org
Phone: +1 202-659-0074
Website: ilsiuscanada.org

Added value for experts, companies, foundations and institutions

The ILSI U.S. and Canada Research Program seeks research collaborations with organizations, institutions and companies that share our commitment to—and consideration for—improving health, well-being and environmental stewardship. Within the framework of the scientific portfolio presented on pages twelve through fourteen, the list on the following page outlines the numerous opportunities that the ILSI U.S. and Canada Research Program presents to parties supporting ILSI research.
New research proposals have been developed to provide opportunities to contribute to pressing global issues in nutrition, food safety and sustainability, and we seek your collaboration. For more than 40 years, ILSI has published approximately one thousand peer-reviewed articles, and not one has ever been retracted. Now, this new research program will continue ILSI’s legacy of upholding the highest principles of scientific integrity. Helping to accomplish this goal is the ILSI U.S. and Canada Science Board (UCSB). As the inaugural Chair of the ILSI UCSB, I will work with my fellow Board members to oversee the scientific direction of ILSI U.S. and Canada. This includes managing research projects, program planning, as well as the execution of ILSI’s scientific program in the U.S. and Canada.

Dr. Johanna Dwyer
TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER AND JEAN MAYER USDA HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH CENTER ON AGING AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY, CHAIR OF THE ILSI U.S. AND CANADA RESEARCH PROGRAM GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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San Diego State University and Weaver and Associates Consulting LLC., USA

As the inaugural Chair of the new ILSI U.S. and Canada Research Program’s Governance Committee, I will collaborate with committee members to ensure that all of ILSI’s Mandatory Policies are upheld. We will oversee the integrity of the research program’s procedures, communications initiatives, budget, recruitment of supporting organizations, and confirmation that these organizations conform to ILSI’s policies.

Dr. Johanna Dwyer
TUFTS MEDICAL CENTER AND JEAN MAYER USDA HUMAN NUTRITION RESEARCH CENTER ON AGING AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY, CHAIR OF THE ILSI U.S. AND CANADA RESEARCH PROGRAM GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
NUTRITION-FOCUSED RESEARCH PROJECTS

APPLICATIONS OF GLOBALLY HARMONIZED NUTRIENTS
This project will develop a bioavailability algorithm for calcium and introduce published algorithms for iron and zinc bioavailability, develop them for integration into iron and zinc labeling globally, develop a consensus on standardized nutrients’ equivalencies and units for food labeling (e.g., for iron, zinc and calcium), and work with the ILSI federation to determine the needs of other regions around the world.

This project is led by Connie Weaver, PhD, San Diego State University, USA. Watch her brief video.

BIOACTIVES AND FUNCTIONAL FOODS
Few evidence-based recommendations exist for consumption of bioactives, the amounts of ingredients in so-called “functional foods”, or the foods themselves that contain some of these bioactives. ILSI proposes working to provide definitions of functional foods; creating a database of evidence of the composition, health and safety aspects of those functional foods; and developing guidelines for dietary supplements across global regions.

This project is led by April Stull, PhD, Baylor University (Waco, TX), USA. Watch her brief video.

THE MULTIPLE FACES OF PERSONALIZED-PRECISION NUTRITION
ILSI proposes evaluating best practices and developing the definitions for, and principles of, personalized/precision nutrition—including how to document the benefits and risks—as a steppingstone to assessing the readiness of personalized nutrition in food product development, food marketing and nutritional therapies.

This project is led by Jose Ordovas, PhD, USDA-Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging (Tufts University, USA). Watch his brief video.

HEALTHY AGING, GERIATRICS, AND SARCOPENIA
This ILSI project will identify nutrient requirement changes with age, as well as valid and reliable screening and assessment tools for geriatric-related conditions and diseases, such as sarcopenia. ILSI will analyze its findings, along with the recommendations from existing authoritative bodies on the prevention, screening, diagnosis, progression and treatment of sarcopenia across global regions.

This project is led by Roger Fielding, PhD, Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging, USA. Watch his brief video.

OPEN DATA SHARING FOR CLINICAL FOOD AND NUTRITION TRIALS
Effective January 2023, the U.S. National Institutes of Health will require the open sharing of individual participant-level data from clinical trials supported by public funds. ILSI aims to develop requirements, standards and best practices for managing, tracking and sharing data from clinical food and nutrition trials, with the goal of addressing quality linked to the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) attributes of the data.

This project is led by Michael I. McBurney, PhD, University of Guelph (Canada) and Tufts University (USA). Watch his brief video.

Scientific activities and research topics

NUTRITION
• Applications of Globally Harmonized Nutrients
• Bioactives and Functional Foods
• The Multiple Faces of Personalized-Precision Nutrition
• Healthy Aging, Geriatrics, and Sarcopenia
• Open Data Sharing for Clinical Food and Nutrition Trials

FOOD SAFETY
• Risk Assessment of Cell-Based Cultivated Food Products
• Food Safety at The Interface Between Food, Water, Agriculture, and the Environment: Where the Action Takes Place

SUSTAINABILITY
• The Impact of Climate Change on Food Safety, Sustainability, Security and Nutrition
• Understanding the Relationship Between Soil Health and Human Health
FOOD SAFETY-FOCUSED RESEARCH PROJECTS

RISK ASSESSMENT OF CELL-BASED CULTIVATED FOOD PRODUCTS
This ILSI project takes a scientific approach to monitor the integrity and safety of cultivated meat, as well as hybrid and adulterated foods. The goal is to explore a presently unknown territory and prepare and develop a benchmark for what the risks are in each step of the process for the benefit of the consumer’s safety, the regulatory landscape, and the industrial production of these novel foods.
This project is led by Helene Tournu, PhD, ILSI Global, USA. Watch her brief video

FOOD SAFETY AT THE INTERFACE BETWEEN FOOD, WATER, AGRICULTURE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT: WHERE THE ACTION TAKES PLACE
This ILSI proposal focuses on the emerging need of cross-disciplinary activities in controlling foodborne pathogens, harmful chemicals and other contaminants, including microplastics, at the intersection of food, water and agriculture. The identification of future research needs, as well as team building to bring together interdisciplinary and collaborative scientists, are the main goals of this project.
This project is led by Lee-Ann Jaykus, PhD, North Carolina State University, USA. Watch her brief video

SUSTAINABILITY-FOCUSED RESEARCH PROJECTS

THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON FOOD SAFETY, SUSTAINABILITY, SECURITY AND NUTRITION
This ILSI project aims to bring together interdisciplinary teams to identify future challenges to the safety, sustainability and nutritional content of the food supply that can be directly linked to climatic factors, such catastrophic weather events, rising sea levels, drought or flooding. Understanding these risks and their likely consequences will pave the way for proactive changes in how global regions will safely and sustainably grow and process nutritious foods in the future.
This project is led by Lee-Ann Jaykus, PhD, North Carolina State University, USA. Watch her brief video

UNDERSTANDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOIL HEALTH AND HUMAN HEALTH
Product developers and agencies are encouraging the adoption of soil health practices. However, the impact of these changes in food production practices on the safety and nutritional value of crops is not yet well understood. This ILSI proposal aims to identify the research gaps and priorities, as well as establish an active network with agricultural research stations and nutrition/safety experts to address these knowledge gaps.
This project is led by Shawna Lemke, PhD, SLL Consulting & Services, LLC, USA. Watch her brief video

ILSI envisions a future where its thought leadership positively impacts health and sustainability through decisions informed by science, and provides input to overcome global food challenges through collaboration across sectors.
Please visit ILSI.org to learn more and get involved.