



CODE OF ETHICS & ORGANIZATIONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the International Life Sciences Institute's (ILSI) Code of Ethics and Organizational Standards of Conduct is to assure that ILSI members, scientific advisors, consultants, other key stakeholders in ILSI scientific activities, and users of ILSI's scientific work products are aware of the ethical principles guiding the organization's structure and the tenets behind the organization's adherence to rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific investigation and scientifically balanced, evidence-based work products. All scientists who work with ILSI shall be provided with a copy of this document.

Introduction

The International Life Sciences Institute is an international organization that seeks to promote [the] public health through the advancement of peer-reviewed scientific investigation and application of evidence-based decision-making in the areas of nutrition, food safety, toxicology, risk assessment, and the environment. ILSI accomplishes its mission through support of scientific research, publications, and workshops and conferences and other scientific activities. The principles listed below provide a framework to guide ethical decision-making. (Note: Reference below to policies applicable to "ILSI" includes ILSI, ILSI branches, and the ILSI Research Foundation.)

Principle 1. Scientific Integrity

All ILSI projects must have a primary public purpose and benefit, and must address issues of broad public health interest.

The ILSI, ILSI branch and ILSI Research Foundation Boards of Trustees must be composed of at least 50 percent public sector members (primarily academic); the remaining trustees represent ILSI member companies. ILSI's trustees serve in a voluntary capacity; they are not paid for their time and are not personally eligible to receive grants from the ILSI entity on whose Board they sit.

ILSI shall only support animal and human subject research that has been approved by the appropriate bodies responsible for ensuring humane and ethical treatment of the animals or human subjects (e.g., Institutional Review Boards, Ethical Clearance Committees, Animal Care and Use Assurance Committee, etc.). All ILSI-supported research shall be conducted to meet the highest scientific standards as well as all applicable legal standards.

All ILSI sponsored research shall be conducted objectively and transparently so that the structure of the research is presented factually and without bias; be verifiable and reproducible.

ILSI encourages publication of all research results, regardless of outcome. ILSI entities shall not control the content of publications of research grantees or commissioned authors, but shall encourage academic freedom.

All ILSI research grantees must include language in their grant-related publications identifying the sponsor and providing appropriate sponsor contact information.

All ILSI committees and task forces must have scientific advisors from academia or government to ensure multi-sector input and balance, [and ILSI will only undertake activities for which there is broad interest and support.] All compensation (honoraria) provided to advisors must be disclosed by the advisors to the committee or task force overseeing the work.

Members of ILSI committees or task forces who are in attendance at meetings, symposia, or workshops must identify themselves on registration forms and materials by their primary affiliation (i.e., employer).

ILSI will be transparent in the disclosure of its funding sources.

Principle 2. Conflict/Declaration of Interest/Bias

ILSI believes that ensuring balance of perspectives is the most appropriate way to ensure that the impact of any potential conflict of interest or bias is minimized and does not exert an undue influence on the scientific process.

To this end, ILSI operates with transparency, conducts activities objectively, and is accountable to all stakeholders.

ILSI trustees must declare any potential bias or interest, including but not restricted to financial interests, and may be asked to recuse themselves from voting on issues that might be construed as conflicts of interest.

With respect to publications, grant reviews, and expert panels, ILSI expects the scientists with whom it works to [disclose] declare any potential [conflicts of] financial interest. ILSI may ask scientists to excuse themselves from an activity based on such a declaration.

Scientists who work with ILSI are expected to act in accordance with their own institution's conflict of interest policies and with applicable laws, as well as comply with the conflict of interest policies of any journal or organization with which they may work, including ILSI.

Principle 3. Advocacy

Advocacy of any kind is strictly limited to promotion of the use of evidence-based science as an aid in decision-making. ILSI does not conduct lobbying activities.

Principle 4. Transparency in Meetings and Publications

The purpose of and funding sources for all ILSI sponsored meetings, symposia, conferences, seminars and workshops will be fully disclosed in meeting materials.

All invited presenters will provide declarations of financial interest to be disclosed if relevant at the time of the meeting (orally or in the meeting materials).

All ILSI publications must reflect the high standards of the organization. ILSI-sponsored manuscripts must undergo stringent peer-review by qualified reviewers. Editors and reviewers will treat manuscripts under review as confidential. Scientists are expected to recuse themselves as editors or reviewers of manuscripts if past or present connections with the author(s) preclude an objective evaluation of the work.

Authors of ILSI-sponsored publications shall make full, signed disclosures of financial and/or other interests (e.g., industry relationships, advisory relationships, or other conflicts of interest) that would reasonably appear to affect the contents of the article.

All ILSI publications, including proceedings from workshops or symposia sponsored by ILSI branches, the Research Foundation or international committees will utilize appropriate attribution language to denote funding sources and sponsors, and ILSI entities shall provide contact information in all publications they produce for anyone interested in obtaining additional information about the organization or the specific sponsors of a particular project.