



# ILSI News

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## Final Countdown to 2014 Annual Meeting

2014 Annual Meeting  
17 – 22 January  
Southampton, Bermuda

Each year researchers from around the globe come together at ILSI Annual Meeting to discuss the latest science related to topics important to human and environmental health. This year's program is no different and features sessions on food choice behavior, nutrigenomics, and concerns related to arsenic contamination in the food supply.

This year, the ILSI Research Foundation's Center for Integrated Modeling of Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition Security (CIMSANS) is also hosting a special session on the progress it has made since its official launch earlier this year. In particular, CIMSANS has been able to raise awareness of nutrition security as distinct from food security at major international meetings on climate change.



*Bermuda is known for its unique architecture.*

Join center director Dave Gustafson, PhD, on Sunday, 19 January immediately after the ILSI Assembly of Members to learn the latest about how CIMSANS is playing a major role in ILSI's efforts to address the challenges the world faces in feeding a growing population.

The annual meeting program is online:  
[ILSI 2014 Annual Meeting Program](#)

## Science at a Crossroads: Can the Scientific Community Meet Growing Challenges?

ILSI North America is proud to announce their 2014 Annual Meeting keynote speaker is Arturo Casadevall, MD, PhD, Chair of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. In addition to being recognized for his research, Dr. Casadevall is also highly regarded for his insights on challenges facing the scientific community.

Dr. Casadevall's keynote lecture "Science at a Crossroads" will take place on Sunday morning, 19 January at the Joint Meeting of the ILSI North America Assembly of Members and the Food, Nutrition & Safety Program.

Join ILSI North America to hear Dr. Casadevall describe internal and external threats to the scientific enterprise and, importantly, what we can do about them.

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Questions? Feedback?  
We'd love to hear from you.  
Contact Michael Shirreffs at:  
[mshirreffs@ilsi.org](mailto:mshirreffs@ilsi.org)

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*Presentation abstracts will be online soon. We'll send an announcement the moment they are posted to the ILSI website.*

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## ILSI Research Foundation on the Importance of Open Data

To develop better solutions, it is important to understand what data is most helpful to both developing and developed countries, and to identify critical data gaps. Translational tools, including integrated models, will contribute to answering critical questions.

Conceptual tools, including qualitative scenario planning, will help increase communication with regional stakeholders on national resource management, production, food systems, gender asymmetries, institutions and markets in the future.



In October 2013, the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Research Foundation held a symposium entitled “Open Data: The Foundation for Better Decision Making” in Washington, DC. The symposium explored opportunities and challenges for identifying, promoting, and applying open scientific data to better inform decision-making, and prospects for improved public-private collaboration in this area. Academics, industry professionals, and government representatives were in attendance.

The symposium was divided into two panel discussions. The first, Open Data for Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition Security, was chaired by Mark Rosegrant, International Food Policy Research Institute. The panelists included Dona Dickinson, Northrop Grumman; Thomas Hertel, Center for Global Trade Analysis at Purdue University; and Jim Jones, Florida Climate Institute at the University of Florida.

Sue Meek of the Australian Academy of Sciences chaired the second panel discussion on “The Open Data Movement in the Field of Risk Assessment.” Pedro Arraes, Government of Brazil; Roger Beachy, Washington University; and Paul Hendley, Phasera, were the panelists.

Concluding remarks were provided by Eija Pehu, Agriculture and Environmental Services, the World Bank. While the discussions were wide-ranging, four key messages emerged:

- Open data will enhance transparency and empower agricultural solutions;
- Sharing open data contributes to quality decision-making;
- Challenges for participating in the open data movement do exist but can be overcome;
- There are coordinated international efforts.

## ILSI Board Trustee Featured on Singapore TV

Earlier this December, Geoff Smith, ILSI Board Trustee and President of ILSI Southeast Asia Region, was interviewed on Channel NewsAsia about the importance of food safety harmonization. Coinciding with the second annual conference of the Global Food Safety Partnership, Mr. Smith explained the importance of cooperation across national borders for both regional economic growth and human health.

Mr. Smith also described ILSI’s role bringing together researchers from many sectors to identify and resolve scientific and health questions of common concern. Congratulations, Geoff!



## ILSI Videos Help Extend the Reach of the Science

ILSI-India Workshop on Biotech Safety Assessment

ILSI-India in cooperation with the ILSI International Food Biotechnology Committee and the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India (DBT), organized a workshop on biotech safety assessment.

Held in New Delhi in September, the event featured speakers from India, The Netherlands, and the United States covering topics on allergenicity, protein toxicology, and stacked events. Case studies on Bt cotton and Bt brinjal (eggplant) were also presented.

This technical workshop on safety assessment of biotechnology-derived crops is part of ILSI-India's ongoing efforts to help improve safety assessment methods throughout South Asia.

View video presentations and access PDF of present slides online: [ILSI-India Workshop](#)

Since formally launching its YouTube channel in July, ILSI videos have been viewed more than 5,000 times, for a total of over 23,000 minutes watched. ILSI-India's series on biotech safety assessment are the latest to be added to a growing video library.

## ILSI Focal Point in China 20 Year Retrospective

In the last issue of *ILSI News*, we congratulated ILSI Focal Point in China on 20 years of providing science that helps improve the health of millions throughout Asia.

ILSI Focal Point has produced a "retrospective" booklet on the many ways it makes a difference (available in English and Chinese) and a corresponding video interviewing some of the many scientific leaders responsible for the branch's success.

View these resources to get a sense of ILSI Focal Point in China's past, present, and future.

[ILSI Focal 20 Year Retrospective](#)

## New Publications

### ILSI Europe

Impact of Diet Composition on Blood Glucose Regulation  
WR Russell, et al. *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition*, 2013

Around 366 million people worldwide have diabetes and this is projected to reach 552 million by 2030. This review shows that dietary components can have significant effects on blood glucose modulation. More prevention, including nutritional guidance, might limit this dramatic increase of diabetes and therefore its impact on health and longevity of the population.

Available online to journal subscribers or for purchase: [Glucose](#)

### ILSI HESI

A public-private consortium advances cardiac safety evaluation: Achievements of the HESI Cardiac Safety Technical Committee  
JB Pierson et al. *Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods* 68(1), 7-12

The ILSI HESI Technical Committee Working Groups facilitated the development of a variety of platforms for resource sharing and communication among experts that led to innovative strategies for improved drug safety. The positive impacts arising from these Working Groups are described in this article.

Available online: [Cardiac Safety](#)

### ILSI North America

Insights and Perspectives on Emerging Inputs to Weight of Evidence Determinations for Food Safety: Workshop Proceedings  
Heidi Bialk, et al. *International Journal of Toxicology*, November/December 2013 vol. 32 no. 6

This workshop aimed to elucidate the contribution of computational and emerging in vitro methods to the weight of evidence used by risk assessors in food safety assessments. Given the need to act quickly or proceed cautiously as new data emerge, this workshop also focused on identifying ways to communicate in silico and in vitro data.

Available online to journal subscribers or for purchase: [Weight of Evidence](#)

## Publications

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### ILSI North America (continued)

Are Dietary Bioactives Ready for Recommended Intakes?

PC Gaine, et al. *Advances in Nutrition*, September 2013

Research has shown that numerous dietary bioactive components that are not considered essential may still be beneficial to health. The dietary reference intake (DRI) process has been applied to nonessential nutrients, such as fiber, yet the majority of bioactive components await a recommended intake. Despite a plethora of new research over the past several years on the health effects of bioactives, it is possible that the field may never reach a point where the current DRI framework is suitable for these food components. If bioactives are to move toward dietary guidance, they will likely require an alternative path to get there.

Available online: [Bioactives](#)

Strategies to Optimize the Impact of Nutritional Surveys and Epidemiological Studies

D Webb, et al. *Advances in Nutrition*, September 2013

The development of nutrition and health guidelines and policies requires reliable scientific information. Unfortunately, theoretical considerations and empirical evidence indicate that a large percentage of science-based claims rely on studies that fail to replicate. This publication summarizes EB2013 session “Strategies to Optimize the Impact of Nutrition Surveys and Epidemiological Studies” focused on the elements of design, interpretation, and communication of nutritional surveys and epidemiological studies to enhance and encourage the production of reliable, objective evidence for use in developing dietary guidance for the public.

Available online: [Epi Studies](#)

### ILSI Research Foundation: CERA

Environmental risk assessment of GE plants under low-exposure conditions  
A Roberts, et al. *Transgenic Research*, November 2013

The requirement for environmental risk assessment (ERA) of genetically engineered (GE) plants prior to large scale or commercial introduction into the environment is well established in national laws and regulations, as well as in international agreements. Since the first introductions of GE plants in commercial agriculture in the 1990s, a nearly universal paradigm has emerged for conducting these assessments based on a few guiding principles.

Available online: [Low-exposure](#)

### ILSI Research Foundation: CIMSAANS

Climate adaptation imperatives: global sustainability trends and eco-efficiency metrics in four major crops – canola, cotton, maize, and soybeans  
DI Gustafson, et al. *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, October 2013

Supplying our world’s growing nutrition needs in more sustainable ways has become an urgent global imperative, given the constraints of finite resources and the challenges of accelerating climate change. The authors present national-level eco-efficiency metrics in several representative production countries during the most recent decade (2000–2010) for four important crops: canola, cotton, maize, and soybeans.

Available online: [Climate adaptation](#)

### ILSI Research Foundation: RSIA

Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes in Polymer Matrices Phase 2.5 Report—Comparison of Existing Studies of Release Measurement for MWCNT-Polymer Composites  
R Canady et al. *NanoRelease Consumer Products Monograph Series*

This monograph is the result of Phase 2.5 of the NanoRelease project and provides a path forward for methods development through the review of the specific strengths and limitations of existing test methodologies for measuring release of MWCNTs from polymer matrices.

Available online: [Carbon Nanotubes](#)

### ILSI South Andean

Nutrition Reviews en español

Produced by ILSI South Andean, Nutrition Reviews en español is a free, Spanish-language, online-only edition of select translations from ILSI’s leading peer-reviewed journal Nutrition Reviews. Each review article is specially selected and translated to convey important advances in nutrition science to Spanish-speaking audiences. Issues are produced monthly and available exclusively from ILSI South Andean.

The most recent article discusses if and how food marketing contributes to obesity rates.

Available online: [El marketing de alimentos](#)

## Upcoming Meetings

### Risk, Perception, and Response Conference

ILSI Research Foundation Center for Risk Science Innovation and Application and the Harvard School of Public Health

20 – 21 March 2014  
Boston, MA, USA

Limited attention, emotional reactions, and difficulties in processing risk-related information, among other factors, may lead individuals to act in ways that impair their health or welfare. For example, warnings about mercury in fish can lead people to decrease their overall fish consumption and hence their consumption of healthful omega-3 fatty acids. Concerns about autism can lead to vaccine avoidance, increasing the individual's risk of disease and the risk of transmission to others.

Such behaviors may result from incomplete, inaccurate, or ineffective risk communication, or may occur even if the risk is well-communicated. Choice architecture, popularized by Thaler and Sunstein's Nudge, also affects behavior.

To promote welfare-enhancing decisions, better understanding of these causal factors is needed, together with innovative approaches for overcoming them.

Draft program and abstracts are available online: [Risk Perception](#)



### Save-the-Date for these Important Meetings

ILSI Europe 2014 Annual Symposium  
Brussels, Belgium  
20 – 21 March 2014

Reunião Anual ILSI Brasil 2014  
Águas de São Pedro, Brasil  
2 – 4 April 2014

ILSI-HESI Annual Meeting  
**Celebrating 25 Years!**  
Washington, DC  
10 – 11 June 2014

ILSI North America Mid-Year Food,  
Nutrition & Safety Program Meeting  
Washington, DC, USA  
23 July 2014

Visit the [ILSI website events page](#) for a complete list of the many exciting conferences, workshops, and special sessions planned for 2014: [ILSI Meetings](#)