



ILSI News

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Together on the Science: The 2016 ILSI Annual Meeting

2016 ILSI Annual Meeting
22 - 27 January 2016
The Vinoy Renaissance
St. Petersburg, Florida, USA

ILSI Annual Meeting brings people together. Over 300 people from more than 25 countries attended the 2015 meeting where they participated in scientific sessions covering a range of issues, shared emerging and “hot” topics, and discussed how best ILSI and its partners can contribute to the existing body of knowledge.

This coming year’s meeting will be just as productive. Sessions have been organized on eating behavior; the role of open data in achieving nutrition security; the microbiome and health; and more. Experts will exchange perspectives on what we know now and the research gaps ILSI can help close.

One of the most rewarding aspects of an ILSI annual meeting is the ability to get together with colleagues from all parts of the world. Participants discuss what global



scientific trends mean for health and well-being at the regional and local level, and how ILSI can collaborate across geography on common interests and concerns.

Registration for the 2016 ILSI Annual Meeting is open now. Check out the draft program and join us in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA.

[2016 Program and Registration](#)
[2015 Presentations and Session Videos](#)

FAO and ILSI South Africa Join Forces on Food Safety

“Effective food safety and quality management systems are essential not only for safeguarding the health and well-being of people, but also in fostering economic development and improving livelihoods” is how the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) opens its press release on the June 2016 joint FAO–ILSI South Africa microbiological risk assessment (MRA) training workshop. This first-ever, hands-on MRA training in southern Africa goes beyond positioning food safety as an immediate health hazard and correctly places

it within broader context encompassing political cooperation on public health, nutrition security, and economic stability and growth.

Held in Namibia, and co-organized and co-funded by FAO and ILSI South Africa, the four-day workshop also reflects ILSI South Africa’s growing scientific role throughout sub-Saharan Africa. The MRA event with FAO follows on the recently established ILSI and University of Ghana partnership on

see “Food Safety in Africa” on page 2

Questions? Feedback?
We’d love to hear
from you. Contact ILSI
Communications Director
Michael Shirreffs at:
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Latin America Coordination in Focus at SLAN

Founded in 1964, *la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nutrición* (SLAN) is the premier professional association for those working in food and nutrition science and related disciplines in Latin America. Every three years, SLAN organizes an international congress. This year's will be held in the Dominican Republic on 8 – 12 November.

ILSI branches have participated in previous SLAN meetings. The XVII Congress is different in that the Latin American branches and ILSI North America have co-organized three scientific sessions covering energy balance, low-calorie sweeteners, and vitamin D. The branches will also staff a booth displaying information about the regional branches and the larger ILSI network.

The SLAN congress is part of a larger effort to foster more communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration among the branches

in Latin America. While branches in the region have always had success working together in twos or threes, there's been new resolve to expand these partnerships into truly regional activities. In late 2014, ILSI hired Javier Castellanos as a Latin American Branch Coordinator to help facilitate these efforts.

Mr Castellanos, based in Colombia, is working with the branches to identify opportunities and assist in organizing activities that are regional in scope. Michael Shirreffs, ILSI Director of Communications, was able to visit several of the offices in Latin America with Mr Castellanos. When he returned he reported "There is a lot already happening in Mexico and Central and South America. Half the battle is to raise awareness of the interesting work already taking place." Mr Shirreffs has pledged ILSI Communications will work closely with Mr Castellanos and the branches to ensure visibility of their programs.



XVII Congreso de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Nutrición
8 - 12 November
Punta Cana, Republica Dominicana
www.slan2015.com (in Spanish)

For information about ILSI's sessions:
jcastellanos@ilsi.org

The two-year contract for a Latin American Branch Coordinator and the booth space at SLAN is made possible by a generous grant from The Coca-Cola Company.

Contact Mr Castellanos for SLAN program details at jcastellanos@ilsi.org.

Food Safety in Africa

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food safety training, in which ILSI South Africa plays a critical role. The partnership is with the university's Department of Nutrition and Food Science, Food Safety and Nutrition Centre. The Centre provides technical expertise supporting training and education among public health professionals. ILSI South Africa has participated by conducting a number of training modules. ILSI South Africa is also assessing opportunities to expand training into Nigeria and other countries in the region.

The MRA training in Namibia attracted a significant amount of media attention, both traditional and on Twitter. In addition to the FAO press release, a video report from a local TV broadcaster described the event and its significance in detail. In the video, ILSI South Africa's executive and scientific director, Prof Lucia Anelich stresses the important catalytic role the trainees have in fostering risk assessment programs in their home countries.

[FAO Press Release](#)
[Namibian Broadcasting Video](#)



Technical Capacity for Biosafety Risk Assessment

contributed by Libby Williams
Communications Manager, ILSI Research Foundation

In 2012, the ILSI Research Foundation's Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA) embarked on an exciting new collaborative program, the three-year Partnership for Biosafety Risk Assessment and Regulation (PBRAR). The purpose of the program was "to strengthen the technical capacity of developing country stakeholders to better promote the harmonization and rationalization of biosafety regulations in their countries when considering the adoption of agricultural biotechnology".

The PBRAR provided a number of "firsts" for the foundation: its first grant from The World Bank's Development Grant Facility; its first tri-lateral partnership with the OECD's Environment Directorate and the World Bank's agriculture and environment divisions; and its first biosafety capacity building project to include both in-person as well as e-learning training modalities. Most importantly, it also allowed CERA

to work with an impressive array of scientists in the eight countries that joined the PBRAR, six of which were also firsts for CERA: Colombia, Kenya, Paraguay, Tanzania, Uganda and Uruguay. Bangladesh and Vietnam were the exceptions to this rule, as CERA has worked in both prior to 2012.

Now that the PBRAR has come to a close, CERA has also had its first external program review as required by the World Bank. This has provided the Research Foundation with an opportunity to reflect on what was accomplished during the three years of the project. Some of the tangibles, like publications and activities, are represented below (and additional detail can be found here). The external review has touched on some of the other, harder to quantify, outcomes from the Partnership, including:

- Improving the efficiency of national regulatory systems in several targeted countries through

establishing effective partnerships with national regulators for the sharing of technical expertise on environmental risk assessment and procedures to enable more efficient decision making within national regulatory systems.

- Increasing the evidence base for regulatory decision making by producing and disseminating technical publications, including two crop biology documents on cassava and common bean, developed jointly with OECD; and biosafety training materials, including two online training courses.
- Enabling regulators from several developing countries to participate substantively in regional and global deliberations on biosafety regulations, notably within OECD technical working groups and in meetings of the parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

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ILSI Argentina Instrumental to PBRAR Success in Paraguay

The success of the PBRAR in Paraguay was due in no small part to the partnership between the ILSI Research Foundation and ILSI Argentina, and the leadership provided by Dra Carmen Vicién, University of Buenos Aires, and Dra Clara Rubenstein, ILSI Argentina.

The program was able to build on ILSI Argentina's previous technical training activities in Paraguay, and the branch's network of scientists and partner organizations meant that program implementation was able to start immediately after the strategic plan co-developed with the Ministry of Agriculture was adopted.

The advances in science require constant adaptation of regulatory institutions in order to facilitate methodical access to biotechnology. In this sense, I can point out, there has been an improvement of the capabilities of a large number of participants and the updates of the regulatory framework that are being implemented as a result of the activities that are being developed in the framework of the Partnership Program. Finally, it can be mentioned that this Program has particular interest for Paraguay because it is a country whose agriculture has adopted products derived from modern biotechnology in a relatively short time, doubling the area of soybean planted, which passed from a million and a half hectares in 2004 to over three million in 2013. The performance of corn and cotton, which have been recently approved, can be similar to that of soybean.

Santiago Bertoni, Director Unidad de Comercio Internacional e Integración del Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería del Paraguay

Nutrition Reviews® Does It Again!

Nutrition Reviews is now ranked #4 for impact factor!

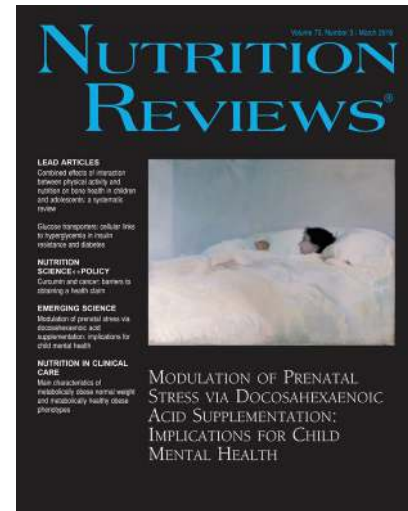
ILSI is very proud to announce Nutrition Reviews has once again improved its Impact Factor to 6.076 (from 5.541 in 2013) and its ISI Journal Citation Reports® ranking to 4 of 77 journals (from 5/78 in 2013 in the Nutrition & Dietetics category).

This is the 6th year in a row *Nutrition Reviews* has improved its impact and ranking. The new numbers reflect the journal's continued position as the most highly ranked, monthly, all-review journal in its field, and help demonstrate ILSI's firm commitment to the dissemination of the highest-quality scientific knowledge. Join us in congratulating Editor Naomi Fukugawa and her editorial team.

Published in partnership with Oxford University Press, *Nutrition Reviews* is a monthly peer-reviewed journal specializing in the publication of authoritative literature reviews on topics in nutrition science, food science, clinical nutrition, and nutrition policy. Articles outline both the biological and practical nutritional implications of a timely topic, so readers obtain a clear understanding of both the topic's nature and its relevance.

Nutrition Reviews and Oxford University Press are offering a special "virtual" issue available without charge for a limited time. The online only issue explores science behind nutrition and brain development and function.

Read these articles and subscribe: [Nutrition and Brain Function](#)



ILSI's Online Video Library Continues to Grow

ILSI's online video library, hosted on a dedicated YouTube channel, continues to grow. Here are some interesting numbers:

- ILSI has over 350 videos in its library
- there are currently 269 subscribers to the ILSI YouTube channel who get updates whenever new videos are posted
- ILSI videos have been viewed over 27,173 times since 1 January 2014
- viewers have spent 145,719 minutes watching ILSI videos (that's just over 2,400 hours) since 1 January 2014

Videos made by ILSI-India and ILSI North America dominate the top 10 most watched. The number one watched is from ILSI North America's scientific session *Precision Nutrition*

from the 2014 Annual Meeting: "[Nutrigenomics, Dietary Requirements, and Personalized Nutrition](#)," by Steve Zeisel, MD, PhD (2,213 views).

The second most watched video is from ILSI-India: "[Satellite Remote Sensing For Climate Variability](#)" by M.V.R. Sesh Sai, PhD, from ILSI-India's 2013 International Conference on Climate Change (1,495 views).

The purpose of ILSI's video library is to extend the reach of science. It allows people who were unable to attend the event in-person to hear and see the information presented. Because the videos are included in YouTube, Google, and other search engines, it has the potential to reach people who may not be familiar with ILSI and our work.

The most recent videos added to the library are ILSI North America's four sessions at the International Association for Food Protection 2015 Annual Meeting. They are listed, with links, on ILSI North America's website: [IAFP Videos](#)

Get notification of new videos as soon as they get posted. Subscribe to ILSI's YouTube channel today!

YouTube



Recent Publications

ILSI Argentina

Recommendations from the workshop on Comparative Approaches to Safety Assessment of GM Plant Materials: A road toward harmonized criteria?

Bartholomaeus, A et al. *GM Crops & Food: Biotechnology in Agriculture and the Food Chain*, Vol 6, Issue 2

These proceedings describe the recommendations stemming from an international workshop held in 2013 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The article is Open Access via the journal: [Comparative Approaches](#)

ILSI Brasil

Funciones Plenamente Reconocidas de Nutrientes Vitamina D

The latest addition to ILSI Brasil's report series on nutrients and food ingredients is a Spanish translation of the same title originally published in Portuguese. This report is available here and others in the series (most in Portuguese) are available online: [Vitamin D](#)

Design of quality indicators for oral nutritional therapy

Verotti, C et al. *Nutrición Hospitalaria*, 2015;31(6):2692-2695

The authors explore the feasibility of quality indicators in oral nutritional therapy (QIONTs). Twelve new QIONTs were developed and approved for clinical practice by experts. A Portuguese abstract is provided, but the full article is in English: [Oral Nutrition](#)

ILSI Europe

Postnatal growth in preterm infants and later health outcomes: a systematic review

Ong, KK et al. *Acta Paediatrica* 2015;104(10):974-986

This review summarizes available evidence on postnatal growth in preterm infants in relation to potential neurodevelopmental benefits and adverse metabolic outcomes. It also identifies critical postnatal windows during which growth might influence these outcomes. The article is available online: [Postnatal Growth](#)

Low-grade inflammation, diet composition and health: current research evidence and its translation

Minihane, AM et al. *British Journal of Nutrition* 2015; 114:999-1012.

A coalition of experts explain how nutrition influences inflammatory processes and help reduce chronic diseases risk. Available online: [Inflammation](#)

Relevance of microbial finished product testing in food safety management

Zwietering, M et al.

In this review, the relevance of end-product testing is described and evaluated for three case studies: canned food; chocolate; and cooked ham. The relevance of testing both of end-products and the production environment is discussed. Available online: [End-product Testing](#)

Towards microbial fermentation metabolites as markers for health benefits of prebiotics

Verbeke, K et al. *Nutrition Research Reviews* 2015; 28:42–66

The goal of this publication is to move towards a definition of 'healthy metabolic signatures' that might comprise integrated measures of metabolite patterns in different matrices. Available online: [Metabolites](#)

Guidance on Best Practices on the Risk Assessment of Non Intentionally Added Substances (NIAS) in Food Contact Materials and Articles

Koster, S et al. *LSI Europe Report Series* 2015; 1-70

Non Intentionally Added Substances (NIAS) are unexpected and potentially harmful substances that may migrate from packaging materials to food products. This report describes NIAS and how risk assessment principles can be applied in their mitigation. Available online: [NIAS](#)

ILSI North America

Higher dietary anthocyanin and flavonol intakes are associated with anti-inflammatory effects in a population of US adults

Cassidy, A et al. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 102(1): 172-181

In their study, the authors used an inflammation score that integrated 12 individual inflammatory biomarkers for the examination of associations with intakes of different flavonoid classes. The article is Open Access via the journal: [Flavonols & Inflammation](#)

Publications

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ILSI North America

2015 Science Trend Report: Insights & Implications for the Future

An ILSI North America white paper

This report captures megatrends related to select food and nutrition science areas compiled from multiple available public sources and includes commentary on the implications of emerging events. Available online: [Megatrends](#)

ILSI Research Foundation

Extreme Weather and Resilience of the Global Food System

Final Project Report from the UK-US Taskforce on Extreme Weather and Global Food System Resilience, The Global Food Security programme, UK

ILSI Research Foundation's Dave Gustafson, PhD, contributed to this report which presents evidence for growing risk of a global food system that is vulnerable to production shocks caused by extreme weather. Available online: [Extreme Weather](#)

Proposed criteria for identifying GE crop plants that pose a low or negligible risk to the environment under conditions of low-level presence in seed

Roberts, A et al. *Transgenic Research* 10.1007/s11248-015-9899-z

This paper proposes a set of scientific criteria for identifying GE crop plants that are expected to pose a low or negligible risk to the environment under LLP conditions in seed in order to facilitate regulatory decision making. Available online: [LLP](#)

Biosafety

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- Bridging agriculture and the environment contributed to PBRAR's success. PBRAR was considered by the reviewer to be one of the few biotechnology and biosafety programs that created bridges between the agricultural sector and the environmental sector. This was reflected in its design and its implementation, with PBRAR playing a bridging role in participating countries through its ability to work with ministries of agriculture and environment, as well as other stakeholders.

- Extending global public goods. PBRAR has produced global public goods as part of its excellent communications, documentation and knowledge management component. These products will enable the results of the partnership to be spread more widely than the immediate participants and over a longer period of time.

As with many capacity building projects, sustainability of any gains made under PBRAR will really depend upon the importance placed

on biosafety risk assessment and regulation by governments and other key stakeholders in the partner countries. CERA will continue to monitor this closely, but remains optimistic that the impact of the PBRAR will not end even though the program has come to a close.

For more information, contact Libby Williams: llwilliams@ilsi.org

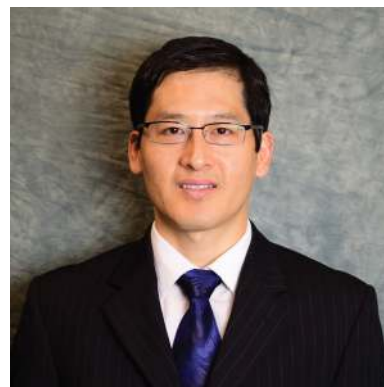
[PBRAR Summary Report \(PDF\)](#)

Welcome Dr Han

The ILSI Research Foundation is pleased to announce that Xianglu Han, PhD, has joined the foundation as a Scientific Program Manager for the Center for Safety Assessment of Food and Feed. Dr Han, who earned his PhD in toxicology at the University of Rochester, has held fellowships at both Dow Chemical

Company and the US Food and Drug Administration. Most recently he was a Project Toxicologist with Arcadis Company. At the ILSI Research Foundation, Dr Han will help design and implement programs on safety assessment of food and feed crops.

Join us in welcoming Dr Han to ILSI.



Recent Events

Foro Alimentos Funcionales

18 September 2015

Bogotá, Colombia

ILSI Nor-Andino held a forum on functional foods in which presenters compared scientific substantiation of claims in different markets and reviewed the evidence related to fiber-rich foods and weight management and the effects of certain functional ingredients on glycemic response. Presentations in Spanish are available online: [Alimentos Funcionales](#)

ILSI Europe Convenes a CE Course on TTC at EuroTox

13 September 2015

Porto, Portugal

ILSI Europe designed a continuing education course to provide an overview of the basic principles of the tiered Threshold of Toxicological Concern (TTC) approach in determining potential cancer and non-cancer effects of potentially hazardous materials. Presentations used in the course are available online: [TTC](#)

9th Seminar on Nutrition Labelling, Claims and Communication Strategies

4 - 5 August 2015

Manila, The Philippines

This seminar was part of a series on nutrition labeling and claims organized by ILSI Southeast Asia Region. In addition to reviewing scientific substantiation of health claims, the seminar discussed challenges to harmonization of nutrition labeling among the diverse nations comprising the ASEAN region. The program also explored how nutrition information panels and front-of-pack displays may influence consumer behavior.

Presentations from the seminar are online: [Nutrition Labeling](#)

Upcoming Events

FENS 2015: 12th European Nutrition Conference

20 - 23 October 2015

Berlin, Germany

ILSI Europe is convening two sessions at this event: [ILSI at FENS](#)

ILSI Southeast Asia Region

Symposium on Sugar and Sweeteners: Science, Innovation and Consumer Guidance

27 - 28 October 2015

Singapore

[Program Information](#)

ILSI Nor-Andino

Symposium on Food Security and Biotechnology

4 November 2015

Ibagué, Colombia

[Program and registration](#) (PDF in Spanish)

Latin American Congress of Nutrition (SLAN)

8 - 12 November 2015

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

[SLAN Website](#) (in Spanish)

contact Javier Castellanos for information on ILSI sessions at SLAN:

jcastellanos@ilsii.org

ILSI Brasil Workshop

Neuroscience Brain and Nutrition

1 - 2 December 2015

São Paulo, Brazil

[Save-the-date information](#)

ILSI Annual Meeting

22 - 27 January 2016

St Petersburg, Florida, USA

[Program information and registration](#)

ILSI Europe

2016 General Assembly and Annual Symposium

9 - 10 March 2016

Brussels, Belgium

[Save-the-date information](#)

ILSI Southeast Asia Region

4th Asia-Pacific International Conference on Food Safety and

7th Asian Conference on Food and Nutrition Safety

12 - 14 September 2016

Penang, Malaysia

[Save-the-date information](#)

ILSI Europe

6th International Symposium on Food Packaging

16 - 18 November 2016

Barcelona, Spain

[Program and important deadlines](#)