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## 2011 ILSI Executive Committee

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## ILSI Mexico and CERA Tackle Problem Formulation to Facilitate ERA

ILSI Mexico and the ILSI Research Foundation's Center for Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Crops (CERA) convened the Symposium on Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Crops in Mexico in March 2011. The event was hosted in cooperation with the government of Mexico, AgroBIO Mexico, and the Agricultural Biotechnology Stewardship Technical Committee (ABSTC). The symposium brought regulators, academic researchers and industry scientists together to discuss the current status of regulations in Mexico and concepts of problem formulation to facilitate ERA.

The symposium included presentations on the current state of biosafety regulation in Mexico, as well as the concepts and practical application of problem formulation in the Western hemisphere.

Recurring themes included the difficulty faced by university and public sector researchers when developing GM plants intended for use in Mexico, the need for clarity in regulatory requirements and experimental evidence required to support risk assessment, and the need for open dialogue between regulators and proponents during the development of GMOs in Mexico.

[\(continued on page 2\)](#)



## ILSI Argentina Helps Launch CISAN

The Council for Food Safety and Nutrition Information (CISAN) is a resource resulting from a partnership among the Argentine Foundation of Nutrition (FAN), ILSI Argentina, and the Argentine Council for Biotechnology Information and Development (ArgenBio). This initiative provides online information on food safety and nutrition important to health professionals, health communicators, and the general public.

**CISAN received more than 1,200 subscribers within the first few days after its launch.**

Launched in April 2011, CISAN presents science and health information in Spanish in an easy-to-use format. Articles, videos, factsheets, and other tools are provided on topics ranging from risk assessment related to foods and ingredients, food production, and nutrition and health.

This useful new tool is available at [www.cisan.org.ar](http://www.cisan.org.ar) (in Spanish). A YouTube tutorial explaining CISAN (also in Spanish) is available at: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrNm\\_j3WMYA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrNm_j3WMYA).

## ERA in Mexico (continued from page 1)

The symposium also presented two case studies for specific GM plants in the context of Mexican regulation: Dr. Francisco J.L. Aragão (EMBRAPA, Brazil) on his work in developing an RNAi mediated virus resistant common bean and Dr. Beatriz Xoconostle Cázares (Cinvestav-IPN/Zacatenco) discussed efforts to develop drought tolerant maize.

### **The workshop emphasized that risk assessment must be considered in the relation to the local agricultural ecosystem and that science, not politics ensures farmers have safe access to the technologies they need.**

During the summary discussions, prevailing sentiment was that the methodology of problem formulation provided a useful tool for risk assessors and those preparing regulatory documents. Participants also strongly emphasized the need to ensure risk assessment has to be grounded in the reality of the agricultural ecosystem in Mexico, and that science, not politics, ensures that Mexican farmers have safe access to the technologies they need. Participants also acknowledged that, in order to be effective and allow for continued progress, risk assessment must proceed according to the law and the regulations established in Mexico and that the dialogue resulting from the symposium would be useful in helping regulators and other interested parties better formulate and address risk assessment in the future.

## ILSI North America Convenes Consensus Workshop on Energy Balance

The ILSI North America Energy Balance and Active Lifestyle Committee convened a consensus-style conference in May 2011 to assess the state-of-the science on understanding energy balance and the development of parameters to help individuals understand and achieve energy balance.

This joint project between ILSI North America, the American Society for Nutrition, and the American College of Sports Nutrition sought to explain “energy balance” in terms of a biological system; to describe how components of energy balance interact with one another; and to identify research needed to improve our understanding of energy balance.

Watch for the results of the workshop to appear soon in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

## ILSI Europe Begins Initiative on Biomarkers

### The Need

There is a strong need for more uniform criteria for the validation of biomarkers in nutrition research. In response, ILSI Europe started a 3-year initiative to identify these criteria. Criteria based on scientific literature will be compared with criteria used in practice in the different fields of nutrition research, and ultimately, a list of biomarkers fulfilling the criteria identified in the initiative will be created.

### Impact of the Project

The lack of consensus markers to use in different fields of nutrition research makes it difficult to compare results from different studies and, in turn, the lack of comparability hinders the ability to conduct evidence-based research. By creating and presenting a consensus list of biomarkers to be used, the initiative will make it easier to compare results from study to study. The overall impact of this initiative will be to take small steps closer toward evidence-based nutrition research.

### A Strong Interest in Biomarkers

ILSI Europe-coordinated initiatives on biomarkers date back to the EU concerted action FUFOS from 1995-97, which established definitions and basic concepts for scientific substantiation of health benefits of foods. The involvement of ILSI Europe in EU funded projects concerning markers has continued over the years and a contemporary project, EURRECA creates best practice guidelines on biomarkers of status with the aim to identify the best way to measure micronutrient status. Moreover, many ILSI Europe task forces have and are still commissioning work on biomarkers in different areas.

### Timeframe

The timeframe for the initiative is 3 years. The first publication on criteria used in different fields of nutritional research will be ready in early of 2012. A workshop for finding consensus criteria from those found in the literature and the ones used in practice is planned for mid-2012. Current task forces involved in the initiative: Addition of Nutrients to Food, Appetite Regulation, Metabolic Imprinting, Nutrient Requirements, Nutrition and Immunity, and Probiotics.

For more information on this important new initiative, contact:

[info@ilsieurope.be](mailto:info@ilsieurope.be)

## New Publications

### ILSI Europe

#### **The Biological Relevance of Direct Antioxidant Effects of Polyphenols for Cardiovascular Health in Humans Is Not Established**

P Hollman et al. *Journal of Nutrition*. 2011 vol. 141 no. 5 989S-1009S

Human studies provide evidence for beneficial effects of polyphenol-rich foods on cardiovascular health. The antioxidant activity of polyphenols potentially explains these effects, but is the antioxidant activity a reliable predictor for these effects? An International Life Sciences Institute Europe working group addressed this question and explored the potential of antioxidant claims for polyphenols in relation to cardiovascular health by using the so-called Process for the Assessment of Scientific Support for Claims on Foods project criteria. In this process, analytical aspects of polyphenols, their occurrence in foods, dietary intake, and bioavailability were reviewed.

This article is available online: [Polyphenols and Cardiovascular Health](#)

#### **Evaluation of the Risks Posed in Europe by Unintended Mixing of Food Crops Developed for Food Use and Food Crops Developed for Non-Food Uses**

D. Turley et al. A Report in the ILSI Europe Report Series, 2011

The report, commissioned by the ILSI Europe Environment and Health Task Force, includes consideration of pathways of unintended commingling, and the risks (assuming there is an identified hazard) this may present to neighboring or subsequent food crops following cultivation of FCNFCU, plus potential food chain hazards arising from various unintended commingling risks, including potential mixture with food crops or crop by-products during storage, transport and processing.

This review does not consider risks to the environment, gene flow, worker exposure or risks associated with unintended consumption of the crop in the field by animals or humans. In the case of traits introduced by GM, such risks are addressed through legislation granting approval to cultivate GM crops.

This work complements work by EFSA to assess risks associated with the development of genetically modified plants for non-food uses, and the European Medical Agency (EMA) in developing procedures to deal with the use of higher plants to produce active substances for pharmaceutical use.

This publication is available online at: [Evaluation of Risks](#)

Find more ILSI publications at: [www.ilsi.org/pages/publications](http://www.ilsi.org/pages/publications)

The Quarterly Newsletter of the International Life Sciences Institute®

### ILSI Research Foundation

#### **Ten Years of TAKE 10!®: Integrating physical activity with academic concepts in elementary school classrooms**

D Kibbe, et al. *Preventative Medicine*. 2011.01.025

Current literature supports the link between physical activity (PA) or fitness and a child's ability to achieve academically; however, little structured activity time is incorporated into elementary school classrooms. This paper explores the impact of a classroom-based PA program, TAKE 10!, and health-academic integration through existing state and federal policy and programming.

#### **Classroom-based physical activity, cognition, and academic achievement**

J Donnelly et al. *Preventative Medicine*. 2011.01.021

There is increasing evidence for the association between physical activity, cardiovascular fitness, fatness, and cognitive function during childhood and adolescence. Evidence also suggests that these variables are linked to academic achievement. Classroom-based physical activity provides a viable approach to improve fitness, body mass index (BMI), cognitive function, and ultimately academic achievement. This article finds the impact of physically active academic lessons of greater intensity may provide larger benefits for body mass index and academic achievement.

Contact Debra Kibbe for more information on both of these publications: [dkibbe@ilsi.org](mailto:dkibbe@ilsi.org)

### ILSI Southeast Asia Region

#### **Seminar on young child nutrition: improving nutrition and health status of young children in Indonesia**

M. Isabelle and P. Chan. *Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition* 2011;20(1):141-147

ILSI Southeast Asia Region, together with Indonesian Pediatric Society, held the seminar "Improving Nutrition and Health Status of Young Children in Indonesia" in 2009. The continuation of child growth from fetal stage is of paramount importance; and maternal and child health should be a central consideration in policy and strategy development. Clinical management of nutrient deficiency and malnutrition, as well as strategies and education to improve feeding practices of young Indonesian children were discussed in the seminar. This report highlights important information presented at the seminar.

The abstract (in English and Chinese) is available here:

[Nutrition and Health Status of Young Children](#)

## The 11th Asian Congress of Nutrition (ACN) 13 – 16 July 2011 Singapore

Focusing on the theme of “Nutritional Well-being for a Progressive Asia: Opportunities and Challenges”, ACN 2011 will address the many critical social and nutritional issues relevant to the Asian region, where changes in infrastructure, technology, economics and communications are rapid. Nutrition experts from around Asia and the world will share the latest science and research, and participants will include nutritionists, dietitians, researchers and public health professionals.



ILSI will be supporting a symposium session on Functional Foods, highlighting topics such as the development and evolution of functional foods in Asia, the scientific substantiation of functional foods, as well as latest research evidence on key functional foods and their benefits. ILSI will also have an exhibition booth at ACN 2011 to showcase its global scientific publications.

Visit ACN for more information: [www.acn2011.com](http://www.acn2011.com)

## 6th International Conference on Nutrition and Aging

**6th International Conference on Nutrition and Aging: Advanced  
Aging and Wellness – from Food Supply to Dietary Habits**

28 – 30 September 2011

Tokyo, Japan

ILSI Japan's 6th International Conference on Nutrition and Aging will explore topics on the extreme aging of society; food selection among the elderly; food culture; physical activity and nutrition; and mental function. A satellite session to the conference will be held to commemorate ILSI Japan's 30th anniversary. Congratulations to ILSI Japan for 30 years of success!

Detailed information on the conference is available at:

[Second Announcement and Preliminary Program](#)

## Calendar of Events

### The EURRECA 5th Integrating Meeting

20 – 23 June 2011

Budapest, Hungary

[EURRECA Events](#)

### ILSI Southeast Asia Allergen Exposure Management: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

22 June 2011

Melbourne, Australia

[Program and Registration Details](#)

### The 11th Asian Congress of Nutrition

13 – 16 July 2011

Singapore

[www.acn2011.com](http://www.acn2011.com)

### ILSI Japan 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Nutrition and Aging

28 – 30 September 2011

Tokyo, Japan

[Preliminary Program](#)

### ILSI Europe Symposium

“Health Benefits of Foods - From  
Emerging Science to Innovative  
Products”

5 – 7 October 2011

Prague, Czech Republic

[Health Benefits of Foods](#)

### ILSI Europe International Symposium on Food Packaging – Scientific Developments supporting Safety and Innovation

14 – 16 November 2012

Berlin, Germany

[First Announcement](#)

Visit ILSI's consolidated  
Calendar of Events for additional  
meetings worldwide:

[ILSI Calendar of Events](#)

## ILSI HESI Implements a Bold New Logo

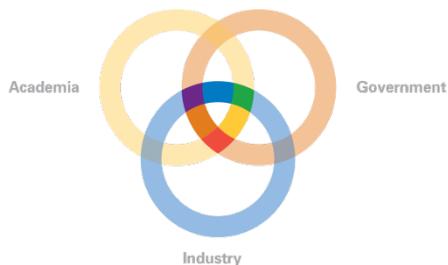
In 2010, the ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI®) carefully evaluated the meaning of our “brand” to clarify the value HESI contributes to the scientific community.

We reaffirmed the global nature of our organization and our commitment to providing the best science for regulatory and policy decision-making in relevant fields, to helping enhance approaches to the safety assessment of drugs and chemicals, and to contributing to improved public health.

HESI does this by providing a forum for collaboration among scientists from academia, industry, and government. While we recognize this tripartite approach is fundamental to all of our activities from start to finish, we also actively engage technical experts and thought-leaders from all sectors of society. This strengthens our science by ensuring a diversity of input and a balance of perspectives.

**The design of the new HESI logo is a clear reflection of our belief in the essential value of the tripartite approach.**

[www.hesiglobal.org](http://www.hesiglobal.org)



# HESI

## ILSI Takes the Together Counts! Pledge

On 28 April, the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation launched a social media campaign called “Together Counts” – a challenge to inspire families to take two simple steps toward a healthier and happier life: Eat meals together and share regular physical activities together.

The ILSI Research Foundation’s TAKE 10! to the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation coalition is part of TAKE 10!’s strategic commitment to partnerships to achieve healthier lifestyles through small behavior changes.

Visit the Together Counts website to learn more and to take the pledge!



[www.togethercounts.com](http://www.togethercounts.com)

## People News

### UAB Honors David Allison

The Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, Birmingham, has recognized David Allison with its highest honor; the appointment to Distinguished Professor.

Dr. Allison has been active with ILSI for over a decade and currently serves on the ILSI North America Board of Trustees. His expertise in obesity has been especially helpful to ILSI’s obesity and weight management programs.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Allison.

### In Memoriam

It is with great sadness we note the passing of Ian Munro of Cantox Health Sciences, Inc in April 2011 after a three-year battle with cancer.

Dr. Munro was the founding shareholders of Cantox in 1985 and led Cantox as President from 1990 to 2006. He was an internationally recognized authority on toxicology with more than 35 of years experience dealing with complex issues related to risk assessment. Dr. Munro contributed to ILSI programs for more than 20 years.