World Bank Gives $1.2 Million for Cooperation on Biosafety

Ilusi Research Foundation and OECD form a New Partnership

In September 2012 the World Bank announced it is providing $1.2 million to fund a collaborative initiative between the Ilusi Research Foundation’s Center for Environmental Risk Assessment (CERA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The new Partnership for Biosafety Risk Assessment and Regulation will strengthen environmental risk assessment (ERA) of agricultural biotechnologies in countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Juergen Voegele, Director of the World Bank’s Agriculture and Rural Development Department, stated the partnership will help developing countries safely access technologies “that have the potential to reduce poverty and promote food security.”

For its part, CERA will help developing country regulators implement ERA processes of genetically modified crops that are culturally relevant and important; for example ERA for cassava – a staple for millions throughout the tropics.

CERA is well qualified to assume this role. Established in 2009, a core platform in its objective to improve ERA of agricultural biotechnologies “so their contributions to sustainable production of food, fuel, and fiber may be safely realized” is to build technical capacity at the local and regional levels. Over the past three years, CERA has convened eight conferences, workshops, and symposia in such diverse countries as Argentina and Vietnam.

The Partnership for Biosafety Risk Assessment and Regulation will focus its initial efforts in Paraguay, Tanzania, Kenya, Bangladesh, and Vietnam. The World Bank grant will be leveraged to raise a targeted $6.5 million in additional funds from public and private sources.

For more information, contact CERA at info@cera-gmc.org. You can read the original World Bank announcement of the partnership online at: World Bank Grant.

Have You Registered for Annual Meeting?

2013 ILSI Annual Meeting
18 - 23 January
InterContinental Hotel
Miami, Florida, USA

Don’t forget to register for the fast-approaching ILSI Annual Meeting.

Register Now

Also be aware the deadline for making your hotel reservations at the special ILSI event rate is 14 December. The InterContinental is likely to be fully booked during the meeting, so don’t delay.

ILSI, ILSI North America, and the ILSI Research Foundation have organized an interesting scientific program on issues ranging from science needed for better food safety to relationships between neurobiology and behavior.

Get details on ILSI North America’s scientific sessions on page 5. Go online to see the full schedule of events:

Scientific Program 2013
Risk-Based Approaches for Food Safety Management

In September 2012, ILSI-India organized a two-day technical workshop to compare existing food safety management systems in India and around the world; review key scientific concepts related to food safety; and conduct training sessions using microbiological and toxicological case studies. ILSI-India’s goal was to raise awareness of the importance of risk-based approaches to enhance more widely used hazard-based approaches for ensuring safety of the food supply.

ILSI-India organized the event into three sessions. In the first, speakers gave an overview of strengths and weaknesses of existing systems and their significance for health of the public in India and elsewhere in South Asia.

The second and third sessions focused on microbiological risk assessment and food toxicology respectively. The toxicology session covered issues ranging from acrylamide to pesticide residues to food packaging contact materials.

As with many of ILSI-India’s scientific events, their September workshop was organized in collaboration with the Government of India; in this case, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and the Ministry of Commerce. For those who were not able to attend the workshop in person, ILSI-India has made video copies of the presentations available to the public through ILSI’s YouTube channel.

Anyone interested in food safety and especially risk-based food safety management within a South Asian context will appreciate these informative video presentations:

ILSI YouTube Channel

New Publications from ILSI-India

ILSI-India is also proud to announce publication of two new nutrition monographs, both of which are available online:

- Functional Foods beyond Basic Nutrition
- Health & Longevity through Chai: The Wonder Beverage

Like and Follow ILSI and Social Media

As part of its effort to better extend the reach of its science, ILSI has created a dedicated YouTube channel where you can see video presentations for many events ILSI organizes or sponsors.
ILSI Europe Launches GUIDEA

ILSI GUIDEA (Guidance for Dietary Intake Exposure Assessment) is an exciting new reference tool that gives concise guidance on the planning, conducting, reporting, and interpretation of exposure assessments. Built as a community-based wiki – where registered users contribute to the resource on an ongoing basis – GUIDEA provides a three-step approach to answer three main questions in exposure assessment:

- What type of assessment is appropriate for which purpose?
- How should assessments be conducted?
- How should assessments be reported so they are accurate, reliable, and useful?

GUIDEA is currently organized around specific modules on data sources, substance groups, calculation methods, and reference material. It also has links to other intake/exposure initiatives and a glossary of terms. For example of content, the section on substance groups describes current practices used in dietary intake and/or exposure estimates. For each substance group, there is a review of information from regulatory bodies; directives or guidance documents; goals in assessing exposure; and selection and description of examples. It also provides a discussion/conclusion section for each.

ILSI Europe points out much of the information and many of the case studies provide a European perspective. ILSI Europe is actively encouraging experts from around the world to join their GUIDEA wiki community to contribute data at the international level. Visit GUIDEA online today:

ILSI GUIDEA

New Publications

ILSI makes all of its scientific findings and conclusions publicly available through an active publications program. In addition to articles in peer-reviewed journals, ILSI and its entities publish monographs, white papers, proceedings, and books. Check out our extensive list of titles online: ILSI Publications

New Titles in the ILSI Brasil Publication Series

ILSI Brasil announces three new volumes have been added to its publication series:

Vol 20: Funções Plenamente Reconhecidas de Nutrientes: Proteína (Recognized Nutrient Functions: Protein)

Vol 21: Funções Plenamente Reconhecidas de Nutrientes: Vitamina C (Recognized Nutrient Functions: Vitamin C)

ILSI Brasil is also pleased to announce a Portuguese translation of the ILSI Europe Monograph: Nutrition and Immunity in Man (pictured left). Contact ILSI Brasil for copies of these publications at: publicacao@ilsi.org.br

Guía para la Evaluación de Riesgo Ambiental de Organismos Genéticamente Modificados

Guide to Environmental Risk Assessment of Genetically Modified Organisms

Available in both Portuguese and Spanish, this publication is divided into two parts. The first section reviews the latest science related to risk assessment; the second uses case studies of five plants and a yeast to illustrate risk assessment scenarios. Recommendations in the guide meet standards set by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

The publication is available online:

Portuguese version
Spanish version
ILSI Europe

Consumer understanding, interpretation and perceived levels of personal responsibility in relation to satiety-related claims

This article summarizes a study on whether and how consumers may (over) interpret satiety claims, and whether and to what extent they recognize the role of personal efforts to realize weight loss benefits.

Following means-end chain theory, the researchers explored the extent of inference-making to higher-level benefits than actually stated in various claims. Respondents (N = 1504) in UK, France, Italy, and Germany participated in the study via web-based questions and tasks.

The majority of these respondents correctly interpret satiety-related claims; i.e. they largely limit their interpretation to what was actually stated. They do not expect a “magic bullet” effect, but understand that personal efforts are required to translate product attributes into potential weight control benefits.

Less-restrained eaters were at lower risk for over-interpreting satiety-related claims, while respondents with a stronger belief that their weight is something that they can control accept more personal responsibility, and better understand that personal efforts are required to be effective in weight control. Overall, these results indicate there is likely to be a relatively low level of consumer misinterpretation of satiety-related claims on food products.

Contact ILSI Europe for copies of this article: publications@ilsieurope.be

Benefit Risk Analysis for Foods (BRAFO): Qualitative and Quantitative Comparison of Human Health Risks and Benefits of Foods and Food Components
A Boobis et al. Food and Chemical Toxicology 2012; 50:S683-S736

The European Commission supported the three-year project Risk Benefit Analysis for Foods (BRAFO). The project’s goal was to evaluate current methodologies for benefit/risk assessment of foods and to propose an assessment methodology that could be applied to a wide range of foods.

Project results, including the detailed BRAFO methodology and its application to a series of case studies, are presented in this supplement.

Available online: BRAFO Summary

Food Ingredients Promoting Oral Health

The authors summarize the current science related to how the foods we eat impact oral health; in both causing and preventing oral diseases. For example, this journal supplement looks at the role of fermentable carbohydrates in caries development as well as specific food ingredients shown to contribute to healthy teeth.

Available online: Oral Health
ILSI North America Annual Meeting
Scientific Sessions

2013 ILSI Annual Meeting
18 - 23 January
Miami, Florida, USA

Register Now!

The ILSI North America Program Planning Committee has organized sessions covering diverse topics, summarized here. Check online for the full schedule of events that also includes sessions planned by ILSI and the ILSI Research Foundation.

2013 Schedule of Events

ILSI North America Session
Monday, 21 January
8:30 am - Noon
Mind & Body - Understanding the Connection between Neurobiology and Food Behavior

This session will give an overview of individual, social, and environmental influences on eating behavior, covering three levels of regulation – homeostasis; reward; and cognition – and their neural basis. Presentations will address how connections between neurobiology and behavior can improve our understanding of food choice, food addiction, and brain health.

Speakers include Stephen Woods, University of Cincinnati; Paul Breslin, Monell Chemical Senses and Rutgers University; Nicole Avena, University of Florida and Princeton University; and Fernando Gómez-Pinilla, University of California, Los Angeles.

ILSI North America Session
Monday, 21 January
2:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Food: Balancing Risk and Benefit – Challenges and Limitations for Risk Management

Presentations in this session will explore ways to improve risk management by reviewing current practices, discussing limitations to existing and proposed approaches, and identifying what’s needed to develop a new, more holistic food/nutrition risk management paradigm. Risk-benefit communication will also be covered.

Speakers include Richard Williams, George Mason University Mercatus Center; Robert Buchanan, University of Maryland; Alicia Carriquiry, Iowa State University; and Baruch Fischhoff, Carnegie Mellon University.

ILSI North America Session
Tuesday, 22 January
8:30 am - Noon
Move It! – Looking at Health Consequences of Physical Inactivity

While the focus is often on the health benefits of physical activity, this session looks at newer scientific interest in the negative health consequences of physical inactivity beyond overweight and obesity. It will explain how “too much sitting” is not the same as “too little exercise.”

Speakers include Steven Blair, University of South Carolina; Marc Hamilton, Pennington Biomedical Research Center; John Blundell, University of Leeds; and James Levine, Mayo Clinic.

The 2013 ILSI Annual Meeting will be held in Miami, Florida, USA

Visit the ILSI website for details: Annual Meeting