The North American branch of the International Life Sciences Institute is a public, nonprofit scientific foundation that advances the understanding and application of science related to the nutritional quality and safety of the food supply. The organization carries out its mission by sponsoring research programs, workshops, seminars, and publications, as well as providing a neutral forum for government, academic, and industry scientists to discuss and resolve scientific issues of common concern.

ILSI North America promotes science through the development of research programs that are intended to improve the current state of scientific knowledge in order to identify data gaps, generate new ideas, and chart effective courses of action.

Our ongoing work is currently accomplished by 13 Technical and Project committees, based upon a two or three year staggered schedule, and invites interested scientists and discussants to serve as the strategic framework for the committee’s research program.

In addition, each year members are asked to identify scientific questions they feel should be addressed by the organization. Their feedback forms the basis for research programs that are intended to arise from emerging or re-emerging issues at the ILSI North America Annual Meeting.

ILSI North America uses several approaches to address an issue that is deemed to merit further exploration, including: an invited panel of speakers for an upcoming meeting; obtaining an expert evaluation regarding the state-of-the-science; or organizing a special scientific session on the topic.

Scientific Committees (by topic)

- Bioactives: Flavonoids, Phenolics and Carotenoids
- Caffeine
- Carbohydrates
- Conflict of Interest and Scientific Integrity
- Dietary Lipids: Energy Balance and Active Lifestyle
- Emerging or re-emerging Issues at the Baseline
- Food Microbiology: Microbes for Disease Control
- Functional Foods
- Genomics:
- Health and Performance
- Low-Calorie Sweeteners
- Meeting; obtaining an expert evaluation
- Nutrition Education
- Obesity
- Partnership for Policy, Practice, and Prevention
- Plant Genomics
- Process
- Public Health: Diet and Policy
- Scope
- Scientific Committees (by topic)
- Scientific Integrity
- Technological Innovation: New and Novel Foods
- Toxicity
- Water Quality
- The Food, Nutrition, & Safety Program (FNSP) is the primary vehicle by which ILSI North America identifies and initially addresses emerging or re-emerging scientific issues. The FNSP is responsible for the Annual Meeting Scientific Program and the Future Leaders research awards program.

Nutrition

ILSI North America undertakes a variety of initiatives designed to enhance its knowledge of the nutritional quality of the food supply and generate scientific information for decision makers. Current ILSI North America nutritional science has a broadened focus on the role of nutrients in chronic diseases risk, the value of components within foods beyond basic nutrition, and the combined influence of dietary and other lifestyle choices on health and performance.

Food Safety

Topics related to food microbiology and food toxilogy have been the pillars of ILSI North America’s food safety initiatives. Newer efforts have been designed to address a variety of issues: including caffeine and reproductive health, Salmonella in low-moisture foods, nanotechnology, and uses of epidemiological data.

Conflict of Interest

The Working Group’s current focus is on conflict of interest in public-private partnerships (PPPs). In 2013 ILSI North America was asked by USDA/ARS to join the agency, along with the Agriculture Technology Innovative Partnership (ATIP) Foundation, to establish the “Branded Food Products Database for Public Health” PPP. The three partners bring complementary capabilities, resources and expertise to the partnership with the goal of ensuring that comprehensive, food composition industry data will be made available to government, industry, and the scientific community by enhancing the USDA National Nutrient Database. There has been an unprecedented willingness and interest among stakeholders to become involved in the work of the PPP with the shared goal of enhancing the health of the public through increased nutrient knowledge of the nation’s food supply. The Working Group will continue to identify opportunities to disseminate and promote its growing body of knowledge regarding PPPs and other issues related to conflict of interest.

2014 Annual Meeting