



Code of Conduct

Introduction

The Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS) is a non-profit, charitable scientific organization that catalyzes food and nutritional sciences in support of public health. IAFNS must always act in the service of the public good rather than in the service of any single sector's interests. To achieve its mission, IAFNS brings together scientists from government, academia, industry and other sectors to work collaboratively to deliver scientific research, publications, workshops, conferences and other scientific activities. IAFNS receives substantial funding from industry collaborators, and critically important financial and in-kind support from international organizations, government agencies, academic institutions and private foundations as well. The contributions of time, money and expertise that IAFNS receives from multiple sources are provided upon the shared understanding that IAFNS's work is scientifically rigorous, scrupulously neutral, and free from improper influence by the sources of its funding.

This Code of Conduct outlines the Core Values and principles which guide us and all of the individuals who collaborate with us.

- All scientists who work with IAFNS shall be provided with a copy of this document.

Core Values

Public Benefit

- Our projects and other scientific activities must address issues of broad public health interest with an aim to improve and benefit the public.

Collaboration

- We believe that engaging industry, government and academic scientists makes research stronger and minimizes bias.

Transparency

- We are committed to full disclosure of our funding of research and sharing research methods and data of projects we support with the scientific community.

Scientific Integrity

- Our multi-sector structure is designed to prevent any single interest from dominating. We commit to publishing our research results regardless of outcome.

Principle 1. Scientific Integrity

- IAFNS believes that ensuring balance of perspectives is the most appropriate way to ensure that the impact of any potential conflict of interest or bias is minimized and does not exert an undue influence on the scientific process.
- All IAFNS sponsored research shall be designed objectively and according to accepted principles of scientific inquiry. The research design will investigate an appropriately phrased hypothesis and/or question, rather than favor a particular outcome. The research will be under the control of the scientific investigators, not IAFNS.
- IAFNS actively encourages publication of all research results, regardless of outcome. IAFNS shall not control the content of publications of research grantees or commissioned authors, nor shall IAFNS dictate to which journal(s) funded investigators submit their work.
- IAFNS shall only support animal and human subject research that has been approved by the appropriate bodies responsible for ensuring humane and ethical treatment of the animals or human subjects (e.g., Institutional Review Boards, Ethical Clearance Committees, Animal Care and Use Assurance Committee).



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Principle 2. Supporting Science and Evidence-based Decision Making

- IAFNS is committed to, and supports, science and evidence-based decision making in food and nutrition. IAFNS shares information broadly and may provide evidence-based scientific information to decision-makers.
- IAFNS is not a lobbying organization and does not conduct lobbying activities.

Principle 3. Transparency

- All IAFNS publications, including manuscripts from funded research projects and proceedings from workshops or symposia sponsored by IAFNS, will utilize appropriate attribution language to denote funding sources and sponsors.
- The funding sources for all IAFNS meetings, symposia, conferences, seminars and workshops will be fully disclosed in meeting materials.
- IAFNS encourages the practice of open science, including depositing data and methodology in a public repository.
- With IAFNS sponsored research, researchers will guarantee accessibility to all data and statistical analysis by appropriate auditors/peer reviewers.
- IAFNS Trustees must declare any potential bias or interest, including but not restricted to financial interests, and may be asked to recuse themselves from voting on issues that might be construed as conflicts of interest.
- With respect to IAFNS publications, grant reviews, and expert panels, IAFNS expects the scientists with whom it works to declare any relevant relationships (financial and non-financial competing interests). IAFNS may ask scientists to excuse themselves from an activity based on such a declaration.

Principle 4. Collaboration

- All IAFNS committees and task forces must have scientific advisors from the public sector to ensure multi-sector input and balance. IAFNS will only undertake activities for which there is broad interest and support from multiple sectors.
- IAFNS Board of Trustees must be composed of at least 50 percent public sector members. IAFNS trustees serve in a voluntary capacity; they are not paid for their time. (IAFNS may reimburse the reasonable and necessary costs of attending official functions of IAFNS.)

Principle 5. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- IAFNS is committed to modeling equity, diversity and inclusion for the entire food and beverage ecosystem, and to maintaining an inclusive environment with equitable treatment for all.
- IAFNS sees diversity, inclusion and equity as connected to our mission and critical to ensure the well-being of our staff and the community we serve.