

International Life Sciences Institute Code of Ethics and Organizational Standards of Conduct

Statement of Purpose

The goal of the International Life Sciences Institute's (ILSI) Code of Ethics and Organizational Standards of Conduct is to assure that ILSI members, scientific advisors, consultants, other key stakeholders in ILSI scientific activities, and users of ILSI's scientific work products are aware of the ethical principles guiding the organization's structure and the tenets behind the organization's adherence to rigorous, peer-reviewed scientific investigation and scientifically balanced, evidence-based work products. All scientists who work with ILSI shall be provided with a copy of this document.

Introduction

The International Life Sciences Institute is an international organization that seeks to promote the public health through the advancement of peer-reviewed scientific investigation and application of evidence-based decision-making in the areas of nutrition, food safety, toxicology, risk assessment, and the environment. ILSI accomplishes its mission through support of scientific research, publications, and workshops and conferences. The principles listed below provide a framework to guide ethical decision-making. (Note: Reference below to policies applicable to "ILSI" includes ILSI, ILSI branches, and the ILSI Research Foundation.)

Principle 1. Scientific Integrity

All ILSI projects must have a primary public purpose and benefit, and must address issues of broad public health interest.

The ILSI and ILSI branch Boards of Trustees must be composed of at least 50% public sector members (primarily academic); the remaining trustees represent ILSI's member companies. ILSI's trustees serve in a voluntary capacity; they are not paid for their time.

ILSI 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 Committees, etc.). All ILSI-supported research shall be conducted to meet the highest standards as well as all applicable legal standards.

ILSI encourages publication of all research results, regardless of outcome. ILSI entities shall not control the content of publications of research grantees or commissioned authors, but shall encourage academic freedom.

All ILSI research grantees must include language in their grant-related publications identifying the sponsor and providing appropriate sponsor contact information.

All ILSI committees and task forces must have scientific advisors from academia or government to ensure multi-sector input and balance, and ILSI will only undertake activities for which there is broad interest and support.

Members of ILSI committees or task forces who are in attendance at meetings, symposia, or workshops must identify themselves on registration forms and materials by their primary affiliation (i.e., employer).

ILSI will be transparent in the disclosure of its funding sources.

Principle 2. Conflict of Interest/Bias

ILSI 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.

With respect to publications, grant reviews, and expert panels, ILSI expects the scientists with whom it works to disclose any potential conflicts of interest. ILSI may ask scientists to excuse themselves from an activity.

Scientists who work with ILSI are expected to act in accordance with their own institution's conflict of interest policies and with applicable laws, as well as to comply with the conflict of interest policies of any journal or organization with which they may work, including ILSI.

Principle 3. Advocacy

Advocacy of any kind is strictly limited to promotion of the use of evidence-based science as an aid in decision-making. ILSI does not conduct lobbying activities.

Principle 4. Publications

ILSI-sponsored manuscripts must undergo stringent peer-review by qualified reviewers. Editors and reviewers will treat manuscripts under review as confidential. Scientists are expected to recuse themselves as editors or reviewers of a manuscript if past or present connections with the author(s) preclude an objective evaluation of the work.

All ILSI publications, including proceedings from workshops or symposia sponsored by ILSI branches or entities will utilize appropriate attribution language to denote funding sources and sponsors, and ILSI entities shall provide contact information in all publications they produce for anyone interested in obtaining additional information about the organization or the specific sponsors of a particular project.