

ISSFAL Board of Directors Candidate Statement: Ken Stark, PhD

Background:

I was fortunate to be trained by three ISSFAL fellows through the undergraduate teachings of Stephen Cunnane at the University of Toronto, PhD training with Bruce Holub at the University of Guelph and postdoctoral training with Norman Salem Jr. at the NIH. I decided to pursue a career in academia and research in fatty acids and lipids at the 2000 ISSFAL Congress in Tsukuba, Japan based on the experience. I have attended every ISSFAL Congress since and these meetings have greatly enhanced my career. For example, interactions with Lotte Lauritzen and Camilla Dramsgaard at the 2006 Congress in Cairns, Australia has led to a very productive collaboration. Currently, I am Canada Research Chair in Nutritional Lipidomics and a Full Professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Canada.

Personal Statement:

The ISSFAL mission “...to increase understanding through research and education of the role of fatty acids and lipids in health and disease” is well aligned with my own interests. My research program combines my nutrition training with a strong commitment to analytical excellence and innovation. I use my expertise in fatty acid analysis and fatty acid blood biomarkers to determine the impact of dietary fatty acids on levels observed in various biological tissues. I have served as a member of the ILSI North America Fatty Acid Best Practices working group to define guidelines for fatty acid analyses in clinical studies. My recent contributions to the literature include a global survey of EPA+DHA blood levels (*Prog Lipid Res*) and fatty acid determinations in the COPSAC fish oil in pregnancy asthma study (*New Engl J Med*). At the University of Waterloo, I have considerable experience in educational techniques through teaching biochemistry and nutrition in large undergraduate classes.

ISSFAL must continue to evolve to remain the research authority on fatty acids and lipids in the scientific community. However, it is important to retain the close-knit and interactive community in order to and inspire students and young investigators as they are the future for the field. My nomination is supported by Norman Salem Jr., Tom Brenna, and Richard Bazinet.

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