**ISSFAL BOARD NOMINATION 2012**

**Candidate Statement**

**Dr Beverly Muhlhausler**

I am an early career researcher with a strong interest in how the nutritional environment, in particular the balance of omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, experienced during the perinatal period impacts on the long term health outcomes of the offspring. I head a laboratory group within the FOODplus research centre at the University of Adelaide, Australia, consisting of 10 students and 3 research staff; the majority of whom are involved in projects relating to fatty acid nutrition. I am currently leading a large clinical study and a number of animal and molecular/biochemistry-based projects in this area of research, have presented my work at numerous national and international scientific conferences, including ISSFAL and have 6 peer-reviewed publications in this area in the past 2 years.

I was first introduced to ISSFAL in 2008, when I attended the Kansas meeting, and was immediately impressed with both the conference and with ISSFAL as an organisation. In 2010, I was the recipient of a New Investigator Award which gave me the opportunity to attend the Maastricht meeting and to meet many of the members of the current board. I was impressed by the vision of the society and the board’s desire to bring new life and greater transparency into the running of the organisation. I made the decision at this meeting that I wanted to become more involved in the running of ISSFAL and to apply for board membership when the opportunity arose. Whilst I am relatively new to the fatty acid field and to the society, this does not diminish my commitment to supporting the growth and development of ISSFAL, and my past experience speaks to my ability to effectively contribute.

I have been actively involved in a number of professional societies and organising committees for scientific meetings. I served on the executive of the South Australian branch of the ASMR from 2003-2008, and was the Chair of the committee in 2006 and 2007. During this time, I was responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of a number of programs, including a professional development workshop for early career researchers, local scientific meeting, public exposition, public lecture and a number of school outreach programs. I was successful in securing over $50,000 in sponsorship in order to support these events, which represented an increase in revenue of over $15,000 from previous years. During my time as Chair, the size of the scientific meeting increased from less than 150 to over 200 delegates. In 2010 and 2011, I was a member of the organising committee of the Australian Endocrine Society’s Annual Scientific Meeting (>600 delegates).

I am strongly committed to fostering early career researchers (ECRs). During my time in the ASMR we significantly increased the attendance of ECRs at our local scientific meeting, established new ECR awards and organised professional development workshops. I served on the ECR committee of the Network for Genes and Environment in Development and was involved in planning the 2009 ECR meeting, which included a series of interactive sessions focussed on career development and social events designed to foster collaboration.

I am confident that my experience in leadership roles in other professional societies, my enthusiasm and commitment will make me a proactive and effective board member who will make an active contribution to reinvigorating the society. I will also provide a voice for early career researchers and work to develop programs to foster professional development and promote interaction between the more senior and more junior members of the society. I would welcome the opportunity to serve ISSFAL as a member of the board and am confident that I will make a positive contribution to the further development of the society.

Dr Beverley Muhlhausler

University of Adelaide, Australia

**My nomination is supported by:**

1. Prof. Susan Carlson, Kansas University, USA
2. Prof. Tom Brenna, Cornell University, Ithaca, USA
3. Prof. Michael James, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Adelaide, Australia