**ISSFAL BOARD NOMINATION 2012**

**Candidate Statement**

**Professor Bill Harris**

Biosketch

I hold a PhD in Nutritional Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota, and have been doing research omega-3 fatty acids and cardiovascular disease since the late 1970’s when I was a post-doctoral fellow with Dr. William E. Connor at the Oregon Health Sciences University. In 1986 I became Director of the Lipid Research Laboratory at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), and in 1996, I moved the laboratory to the Mid America Heart Institute, both in Kansas City, MO. I was on the faculty at both KUMC and at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine. In 2006 I moved to Sioux Falls, SD and became the Director of the Cardiovascular Health Research Center at Sanford Research/USD, and in 2011, took a position as Sr. Scientist at Health Diagnostic Laboratory, Inc. (Richmond, VA). Over the last 32 years, I have been the principal investigator on 5 omega-3 related NIH grants, and I am currently evaluating the predictive power of omega-3 blood levels as a possible new risk factor for cardiovascular and neuropsychiatric diseases. In 2004 I and my colleague Clemens von Schacky proposed that the “omega-3 index” be considered a new cardiovascular risk factor, and in 2009 founded a company (OmegaQuant, LLC) to offer the omega-3 index test to researchers, clinicians and the public. The test was acquired by Health Diagnostic Laboratory in 2011 and is now available to physicians nationwide for use in routine patient care. I retain an academic appointment Research Professor of Medicine at the Sanford School of Medicine, University of South Dakota in Sioux Falls.

Statement

As my entire career has been focused on omega-3 (and more recently, omega-6 and trans fatty acids), my interest in and support of ISSFAL has been long standing. I’ve been a member of ISSFAL , Committee for ISSFAL 2008 in Kansas City. With the remarkable financial success of the first truly “pharmaceutical grade” omega-3 product (Omacor/Lovaza), and with at least 4 companies planning to bring new products into the pharma space, omega-3s are becoming mainstream. In addition, with the availability of a new blood test, the HS-Omega-3 Index, for use in routine clinical care (which is being covered by third-party payers), interest in the health effects of omega-3 is poised to grow exponentially. I would be honored to have the opportunity to serve another term on the ISSFAL board.

Professor William S. Harris

University of South Dakota, USA

**My nomination is supported by:**

1. Professor George E. Billman, Ohio State University, USA
2. Seth Baum, MD, Boca Raton Regional Hospital, USA
3. Robert Block, MD, University of Rochester, USA