**ISSFAL BOARD NOMINATION 2012**

**Candidate Statement**

**Prof. Dr. C. von Schacky, FAHA, FESC**

My name is Clemens von Schacky, 56 years old, and I have been a member of ISSFAL for 14 years. I have served on the Board of Directors from 1997-2001 and the last 4 years. I am a clinical cardiologist and Head of Preventive Cardiology at the University of Munich, and am the founder/director of Omegametrix, a laboratory offering fatty acid analyses. I have a long-standing interest in omega-3 fatty acids.

During my research career, I took omega-3 fatty acids from bench to bedside, and my publications in medline attest to this:

- About a dozen metabolites of omega-3 fatty acids were described by me for the first time to be formed by humans

- the fact that omega-3 fatty acids affect human gene expression was described by me for the first time

- omega-3 fatty acids mitigate the course of coronary atherosclerosis, as we found in a randomized, placebo-controlled, double-blind, two year double blind intervention study, using an angiographic endpoint

- As a member of the German National Guideline committee on cardiovascular prevention, I managed to have omega-3 fatty acids included.

In recent years, I invested substantial work into the Omega-3 Index. The Omega-3 Index was invented, defined, and developed by WS Harris and myself, and represents the percentage of eicosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid in red cell membranes. An integral part of the definition is the standardized analytical methodology, which we took to the level of Clinical Chemistry, by applying strict quality assurance measures, like constancy checks, plausibility testing and proficiency testing together with the other participating laboratories in the US and in South-Korea. The idea of standardizing fatty acid analysis received a warm welcome in the scientific world, resulting in numerous collaborations with some of the most prestigious groups around the world. As of today, 80 publications in international journals, about 10 submitted manuscripts, and some 50 ongoing research projects reflect this phenomenon. Already now, the Omega-3 Index fulfils many criteria for a new biomarker for cardiovascular risk. Among the other areas currently investigated are psychiatry, and child development.

Other research interests are in the area of cardiovascular prevention, and we designed or participated, and are still participating in, large scale randomized intervention studies like SCIMO, PHOREA, OPAL, METEOR, EUROPA, ADVANCE, ORIGIN, BEAUTIFUL, and a large number of others.

Taken together, I bring to ISSFAL expertise in omega-3 fatty acids plus expertise in clinical trials, together with an eye for the commercial potential of research ideas.

ISSFAL has managed to grow to become the most important scientific society in the fatty acid field. In my personal opinion, this was largely due to an intelligent leadership. I am proud to have been able to contribute to this development. For the future, ISSFAL will need to further its ideas and will need to position itself in a changing world. For this, ISSFAL will need innovative approaches, like

- collaborations with large scientific societies to introduce ISSFAL symposia into meetings of large scientific societies

- some commercial activities, like an “approved by ISSFAL” stamp on nutrition products containing large amounts of EPA and DHA. I see a need for this, since the European Union is considering alpha-linolenic acid and marine fatty acids comparable.

- ISSFAL should issue more statements, targeting specific topics. In the days of e-mail, this could be done cheaply and effectively, using the current statement policy.

- ISSFAL could become more active in counselling on study protocols. Many publications in the field do not contain definitions of primary endpoints, estimates of study size, asf. This leads to inconclusive trial results.

As a member of the Board of Directors as a whole to decide on my suggestions, I will further these and similar ideas.

These are my conflicts of interest: My research in the omega-3 field has been funded by government agencies and research foundations, other research by a large number of pharmaceutical companies. I gave talks for Solvay, a company marketing Omacor in several countries. As mentioned, I founded Omegametrix in Martinsried, close to Munich, Germany, a laboratory offering fatty acid analyses.

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2. Dr. Norman Salem, DSM Inc. USA
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