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President's Letter

Dear IOFI Colleague:

With the conclusion of our October Board and General Assembly meetings in Berlin, I have seen first hand the great progress being made by our committee volunteers and staff on behalf of the flavor industry. Communication was a key theme in these recent meetings. The IOFI challenge is to communicate effectively on a number of fronts:

Communication with the IOFI Membership

In this regard, we have increased our commitment to internal communication through the IOFI Member Network. This includes:

- **Education and training on flavorings with modifying properties (FMP):** A team from the IOFI RAAC and CWG joined with the Secretariat staff to develop a comprehensive recorded webinar on FMPs and guidelines for their appropriate use. After critical review by a preview team, the webinar is now being finalized. Members can expect to access it via the MN in November. After this Members-only version is released and we gather feedback, the team will develop a version for external stakeholders, available early January 2016.
- **Global poundage** survey communication will commence toward the end of this calendar year, as we inform members of the best ways to prepare for and execute a high quality survey of the global poundage of flavoring materials sold during 2015. The inclusion of LATAM in this survey is a direct result of the enhanced communication among the flavor associations in Latin America, and workshops like the one this year in Buenos Aires supported by IOFI staff and volunteers. Effective planning will make this monumental task a success. IOFI communication will help members around the world



understand the need for the data and the required steps to ensure its efficient collection.

- As a service for members, the RAAC is developing a comprehensive **country list** covering all UN-recognized countries that will explain the regulatory framework governing flavors in countries around the world – and identify areas where little regulation exists or is known. Once it is made available to the broader membership, we will launch an interactive process to leverage knowledge among our members to improve the list. This will benefit all and help to reduce barriers to global trade.
- A new idea under development is a **Member Information** corner on the MN that will include multi-media news and education materials, posted and updated on a regular basis. This will be IOFI's first step towards a social media platform. You can also expect a series of Information Letters in the weeks and months ahead on key topics like the status of ongoing EFSA evaluations, the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Labeling Manual and more.

Of course an important component of Member communication is both your engagement and feedback where necessary to help us continue to improve.

- We are always happy to communicate the good news about new **IOFI members**. This time, we welcome ACHISAF, the recently founded flavor association of Chile that in July 2015 joined the nine other Corresponding members of IOFI. We hope that ACHISAF along with all of our members, Ordinary and Corresponding alike, will recognize the benefits of IOFI membership and help us to recruit even more members to our global community. Part of the agenda for the October IOFI Board meeting included next steps for an individual approach to other potential membership candidates.

Communication with Regulatory Bodies

Communication with those who conduct safety evaluations on our materials or issue guidelines for their use are important audiences for IOFI communication. To that end, IOFI continues to represent the industry at Codex Alimentarius sessions, meeting regulators from many countries and working toward global harmonization of regulations. Other developments include:

- Working with the Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (**JECFA**), IOFI is preparing a list of flavoring materials and the corresponding dossiers for the next round of JECFA evaluations in 2016.
- IOFI has responded to the European Food Safety Authority (**EFSA**) requests for data on the Union List footnoted materials. While disappointed with the EFSA's recent unexpected ruling on perilla aldehyde, our organization continues to share safety data with relevant authorities in Europe and elsewhere. A recent reevaluation of perilla aldehyde by the FEMA Expert Panel gives us confidence that while restricted in Europe, this material will continue to be used safely in other parts of the world.
- Part of IOFI's communication with regulators is to continue to present information about our industry and its mechanisms for safety evaluations; a recent successful example is a workshop conducted in China with **ILSI Focal Point China** with members of our science and advocacy teams.
- Continued efforts to engage stakeholders in **India** and the **Middle East** via RAAC task forces are additional examples.

Communication with Other Stakeholders

Creating awareness of the high quality science that underpins our industry is a goal for IOFI Science Board (**ISB**) communication. The ISB has a strong plan to publish several papers during the next twelve months that focus on exposure methodology, genotoxicity testing and more. The ISB intends to reach out to thought leaders in related

fields to ensure that they know about the rigorous science conducted by IOFI on behalf of its members – and the end users of our products.

Communication with External Audiences

A major IOFI communication initiative during the past twelve months has been to address “external communication.” We have a growing concern that external audiences may need our support to understand our industry. A lack of knowledge, often enabled by false and misleading information found on the Internet, could potentially harm our business now and limit its future growth. IOFI has traditionally focused its efforts on internal communication, primarily in a business-to-business mode.

As regional associations have begun to enter the field of external communication, we see an opportunity for IOFI to play a coordinating role in global message development and crisis communication. First steps have been to publish so-called To Whom It May Concern (**TWIMC**) letters that can be shared externally with customers, regulators and other stakeholders.

In the October meeting the Board has approved the creation of a new, cross-regional group, the IOFI Communication Board (**ICB**) that will formalize the collaboration in communication among our members and look for opportunities to speak with a common voice. The development of the ICB was a collaborative effort itself as we sought company and regional association input and carefully balanced the need for regional sovereignty with the chance to be consistent and efficient with our messaging. Look for more about the ICB in the coming months.

You will read more about other science, advocacy and communication developments in this issue of *IOFI Insight*.

In closing, I'd like to remind you: Communication is a two-way street. Please continue to be engaged with IOFI. Learn more about our association and our work on your behalf. As always, thank you for your continued support of IOFI both financially and through the contributions of your people who make our committees and working groups so effective.

Sincerely

Hans Holger Gliewe
IOFI President



Update from Berlin

During the week of October 12, fifty flavor industry professionals descended on the Sofitel Berlin Kurfürstendamm to participate in a series of important IOFI meetings. IOFI Executive Director Jos Stelder reported, "We arranged the schedule to make it convenient for those who serve on multiple committees to minimize their time out of the office. An additional benefit is the great networking that occurs when we get members of the global flavor family together." The following summarizes the meeting highlights including material presented to the IOFI General Assembly (GA) at its meeting later in the week.

On Monday, the IOFI **Global Poundage Survey Committee (GPSC)** met to review plans for the 2015 GPS. Among the conclusions from their meeting:

- Regional associations will distribute their surveys by the end of January with an approximate deadline at the end of June. "The data collection process is a time consuming effort for IOFI members and member associations, but the effort is critical to collect usage and to ensure accurate exposure estimates," reported GPSC Chair Christie Harman.
- The LATAM membership will participate for the first time in the 2015 GPS. The team reviewed best practices to share with the IOFI member associations in the region that represent 90% of the market. LATAM will follow the EFFA model for poundage data collection; companies will send data directly to a regional IOFI collection point, so as not to burden the individual country associations.
- While what is being surveyed is the volume of use of individual flavor ingredients added to food for the calendar year 2015, the data is collected in 2016 with regional and global assessment and validation of aggregated data to follow in 2017. Expected issue date for the final report will be in 2017.
- Details on what is being surveyed were included in the IOFI Information Letter 1523 released in December of 2014. A reminder IL will be provided later this year.

"Global poundage data has become a very useful reference tool."
- Christie Harman

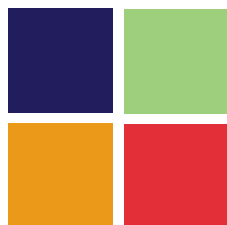


The IOFI GPSC met on Monday October 12. Front row from left: M. Raukko, J. Demyttenaere, Chair C. Harman, A. Figueiredo, U. Parasar, J. Stelder. Back row: V. Vijverman, F. Sekiya, G. Durand, N. Nana, H. Okamura, A. Walter, V. Alvarez-Saavedra, T. Cachet, M. Marchant. Not pictured: J. D. Vora and N. Higley.

Noted GPSC Chair Christie Harman, "Global poundage data is an integral part of JECFA flavor safety evaluations. It has also become a very useful reference tool when we want to check on the importance of specific materials to the industry if we need a decision to support further safety testing."

On Monday afternoon and Tuesday, the IOFI **Regulatory Advisory and Advocacy Committee (RAAC)** took center stage. New RAAC Chair Ute Woelke commented on the scope of the committee's work: "With 19 agenda items, many with four or five topics, the RAAC covered global and regional issues with extensive contributions from our regulatory experts from around the world." IOFI President Hans Holger Gliewe covered a few of the RAAC items in his letter (see page 1) including education and training on FMPs (flavorings with modifying properties), the IOFI country list of regulatory status currently under development and JECFA and EFSA news. Some highlights of other RAAC topics:

- India: IOFI has ongoing efforts through the India TF to engage the local flavor association (FAFAI), industry representatives and government regulators in anticipation of the development of more global alignment and harmonized regulations. With the successful Chennai workshop in November 2014, IOFI opened lines of communication with key stakeholders. Another workshop is planned for 2016.
- LATAM: The successful Buenos Aires meeting in May 2015 has paved the way for more information exchanges about regulatory matters in the region. (See page 11 for a meeting report.)



- Middle East: The ME TF continues to review existing regulations in the region and explore ways they may be harmonized with Codex. IOFI has been asked by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in an emerging market program; this will likely occur in Dubai in February 2016.
- CDS and NCS: Chemically defined substances and natural complex substances are the focus of two RAAC TFs. These two teams work on specifications demanded by various regulatory authorities around the world. "It is of high relevance for the flavor industry that existing market qualities are in line with authority requirements," noted Woelke. "In some cases, we may ask regulatory authorities for an adjustment of existing specifications." For NCS, the RAAC developed Material Identification Sheets that are being used in concert with the IOFI Science Board's GRAS Reaffirmation process for NCS.



The RAAC members hard at work.



At the GPSC meeting, Board Liaison Antonio Figueiredo (left), Chair Christie Harman and IOFI Executive Director Jos Stelder listen intently to the discussion.

Wednesday morning was allocated to the **Communications Working Group (CWG)** meeting. Chair Donald Wilkes reviewed progress on the development of the IOFI Communication Board (see page 5). In addition to the FMP education & training and the Member Information corner, both described in the President's letter, the CWG discussed other topics including:

- IOFI internal communication: Internal TF Chair Joanne Ferrara reviewed the member communication plan that includes more content on the IOFI MN, more interaction with members to identify topics that need communication support, more information sharing among members and an audit of education & training needs in the future.
- IOFI science: The CWG will strategize with the ISB to find ways to make the IOFI science accomplishments more understandable to the membership.
- IOFI external communication: CWG members Mat Gulick, Christina Witter and Fred Shinnick shared examples of organizations that have faced challenges to their image or market position, and reviewed the effectiveness of communication methods used to address them.
- Regional best practices: Hiroyuki Okamura, Sven Ballschmiede and Gulick discussed the challenges and opportunities in conveying the flavor industry message to external audiences in Japan, Europe and the US respectively.



The 2015 CWG: Front row from left: H. H. Gliewe (guest), C. Witter, Chair D. Wilkes, J. Ferrara, H. Okamura. Back row: S. Ballschmiede, U. Parasar, F. Shinnick, Y. Ohki, M. Aubanel, M. Gulick, N. Nana, J. Verhoeven, K. Babbitt, M. Treisbach, J. Stelder.



Introducing the ICB

In its October meeting, the IOFI Board approved the IOFI Communication Board (ICB), a team that will be drawn from communication experts from IOFI member companies and regional associations.

Modeled on the ISB, the ICB will replace the IOFI External Communication Task Force. The ICB:

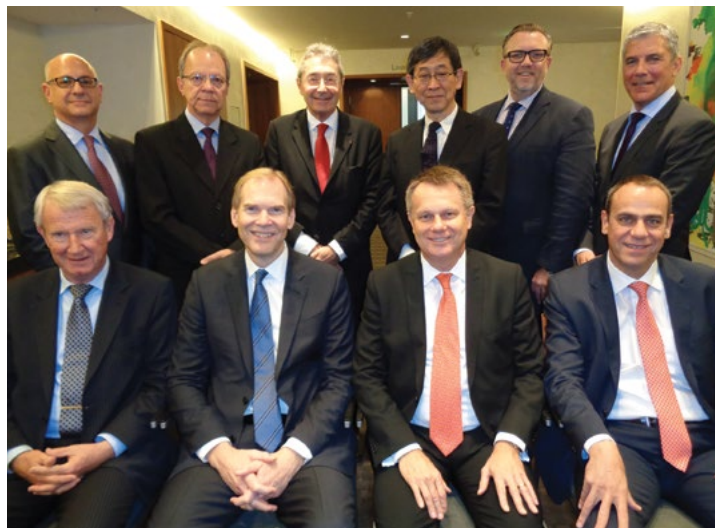
- Represents the interests of the entire industry;
- Develops and coordinates global strategy;
- Is designed to be a collaborative industry model to eliminate communication barriers by “thinking globally while acting locally;”
- Keeps regional sovereignty intact while looking for ways to leverage resources and maintain a consistent global message (for regional implementation) where possible;
- Will address crisis communication in situations of spreading or anticipated global crisis; and
- Reports to the IOFI Board and will make recommendations on budget, staffing and other resource needs.

During the next two months, ICB Terms of Reference will be developed. Once the Board approves the ToR, IOFI will initiate the process to look for professionals to volunteer for this new committee.

The **IOFI Board** met on Wednesday afternoon. Initial Board topics dealt with membership and approval of proposed/renewed representation on key committees including:

- IOFI Science Board (ISB): Sheldon Li (IFF), Jürgen Schnabel (Givaudan) and Luis Valerio (FEMA). Schnabel will become ISB chair in 2016.
- IOFI Regulatory Advisory and Advocacy Committee (RAAC): Kenji Saito (JFFMA), Victoria Alvarez-Saavedra (Virginia Dare) and David Tonucci (Givaudan). Ute Woelke will continue as RAAC chair in 2016.
- IOFI Communications Working Group (CWG): Kristina Babbitt (Firmenich).

Noted Stelder, “The Board considered budget and membership issues that were brought forward to the General Assembly the next day for a vote. In addition, the Board reviewed presentations from the science, advocacy and communication teams, including major accomplishments for 2015 and priorities for 2016.”



IOFI Board met in Berlin. Seated from left: Executive Director J. Stelder, Vice President H. Smith, President H. H. Gliewe, Treasurer M. Haeni. Back row: M. Graber, A. Figueiredo, J. Mane, H. Okamura, C. Millington, D. Wilkes. Not pictured K. Somekawa.

As reported in IOFI Information Letter #1541, IOFI held its 52nd GA meeting on Thursday, October 15. The GA voted on the following Membership/Operations issues:

- Reappointed to the IOFI Board for a three year period from 2016-2018 are Matthias Haeni (IFF), Chris Millington (Firmenich), and Jean Mane (EFFA), while Donald Wilkes remains available for another year as the representative for Far East. They join Hans Holger Gliewe (Symrise), Mauricio Graber (Givaudan), Ken Somekawa (Takasago), Antonio Figueiredo (LATAM), Hiroyuki Okamura (JFFMA) and Howard Smith (FEMA) who continue their current terms as Board members.
- Board officers for the coming year are: President Hans Holger Gliewe, Vice President Howard Smith and Treasurer Matthias Haeni.
- The IOFI GA confirmed the Corresponding membership of nine associations: AFFI (Indonesia), CAFEPa (Argentina), CAFFCI (China), FFAANZ (Australia/New Zealand), FFAS (Singapore), FMAC (Canada), KFFA (Korea), SAAFFI (South Africa) and SNI (Peru), while welcoming ACHISAF (Chile) as IOFI's tenth and newest Corresponding member.
- The Board continues its work to attract new company and association members for IOFI.
- The GA approved the 2016 operating spending budget of €4,788,000. Dues contribution will remain unchanged at €4,600,000 with 55% of funding coming from Ordinary Company members and 45% from Member Associations.

“The GA received detailed updates from the committee chairs about meetings held earlier in the week, along with reports on other IOFI standing committees,” said Stelder. “The **ISB** had just completed its meeting the previous week, so Chair Ben Smith discussed several key focus areas for the science team.” These included:

- New concepts for flavor assessment approaches;
- Process and material prioritization, including the use of a responsibility matrix to clarify ISB interactions with other IOFI committees and a protocol to determine the best way to fund scientific studies – from IOFI, via a consortia or other sources based on the commercial relevance of a material;
- Proactive testing and data gap analysis;
- Use of *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches;
- Revision of the Cramer Hall Decision Tree;
- Genotoxicity testing; and
- Average survey derived intake levels versus use levels.

In reflecting on the recent work of the IOFI science team, Smith noted that “Most of the time we are protecting commercially relevant substances, and in the EFSA testing program we have had successes, most recently on Maltol.” He added, “We are getting materials through; 40 were cleared by EFSA this year.”

He provided an update on the NCS GRAS re-evaluation project noting, “The first cluster has been completed, thanks to companies that sent information. The next call is being reviewed now and will go out soon.” The ISB plans to include a list of FAQs about the NCS project in its next call for data.

Smith emphasized the need to “strengthen collaboration and connections” globally as the industry moves forward. He cited the visit to the ILSI Focal Point China meeting that ISB members Sean Taylor and Jürgen Schnabel undertook in July (see story page 15) as a way to positively influence perceptions about the science and safety of flavorings.

Note: A recap of the ISB’s 32nd meeting, held in early October, is available on the IOFI MN.

Final GA updates included reports from GHS and SHE:

- The joint IOFI/IFRA **Globally Harmonized System (GHS)** TF will deliver an updated Labeling Manual for public consultation within the next few weeks.
- The joint IOFI/IFRA **Safety, Health and the Environment (SHE)** committee continues its work on education and training related to respiratory health in the workplace, fire prevention/safety and carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) chemicals handling.

2016 Objectives

Science

- **Protecting commercially relevant substances:** Via continued testing, engagement with the IOFI/EFSA TF for the EFSA testing program and maintenance on the EU Union List, protecting the industry critical substances remains one of the top goals of the ISB.
- **Strategies for data gap fill-in:** The ISB has identified a small number of industry-essential substances for which no genotoxicity data exists. The ISB intends to investigate the use of both *in silico* predictions and *in vitro* screening assays to further narrow this list to identify substances for which concern could be raised by authoritative bodies, and to begin preliminary *in vitro* testing to address these data gaps.
- **Furthering thought leadership:** The ISB aims to publish four to five peer-reviewed articles in 2016, using a combination of industry and external expert authorship as appropriate.
- **NCS FEMA GRAS re-evaluation project:** This continues with proposed data collection focusing primarily on four major NCS clusters in 2016: the mint NCS cluster, the cinnamyl-substance NCS cluster, the eugenol NCS cluster, and the allylalkoxybenzene cluster.

Advocacy

- Finalize **IOFI Country List 2016**, one centrally maintained database to determine permitted flavoring substances on a global level.
- Establish more efficient **collaboration between RAAC and CWG**.
- Contribute to the harmonization of flavor related **Codex Standards**.
- Increase **LATAM activity levels** including GPS.

Communication

- Based on Board approval of ICB, develop **terms of reference, identification of proposed ICB candidates and transition** from External TF with full budget recommendations and work plan for 2017.
- **Implement internal communication** plan that includes more **two-way communication** with members and an emphasis on **news and education** on the IOFI Member Network.
- Demonstrate effective **coordination of regional communication** during the ICB transition period.



IOFI Treasurer Matthias Haeni presents at the GA.

Concluding his review of the week's meetings, Stelder noted the extraordinary effort of Management Assistant Natalie Vantricht who was responsible for the meeting logistics. "Natalie did a wonderful job keeping track of the meeting schedules, meals, breaks and the needs of the many attendees from around the world of flavors." Stelder was also pleased with the level of participation and the interaction among the IOFI volunteers and staff. "We had an aggressive timetable and the meetings were long but productive." He added, "For those who were able to be in Berlin on Wednesday night, we had a special treat – a visit to the German Reichstag, the seat of government. Our group was able to walk all the way up to the top of the glass dome for a nighttime view of the capital." Such memories will remain when the work continues...



Natalie Vantricht was still smiling on the last day of the Berlin meetings.

Interview with CWG Chair and IOFI Board Member Donald Wilkes



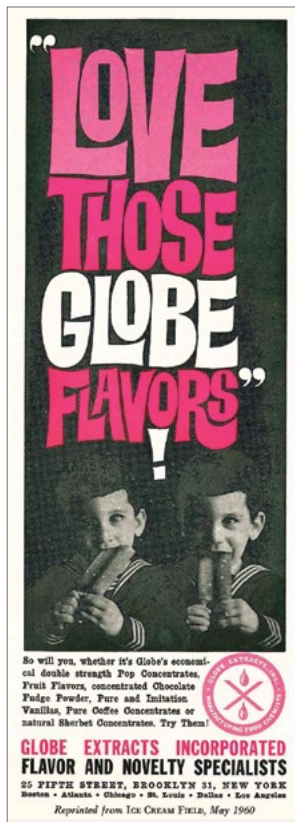
To his roles as IOFI Board Asia Pacific representative and Communications Working Group (CWG) Chair and Board Liaison, Donald Wilkes brings over 40 years of industry experience dating back to his teens working for his family's flavor business. Wilkes founded his company Blue Pacific Flavors in 1993, serving as president and CEO. A FEMA Board member and active in the Institute of Food Technology and other related associations, he has been quoted in industry articles in top tier consumer and business publications such as the New York Times and Entrepreneur magazine. Wilkes is an advocate for the flavoring industry and understands the power of new media in molding consumer opinions about industry products.

IOFI Insight: How did you get started in this business?

Donald Wilkes: As a 13-year old, I worked for my Dad, David Wilkes, a pioneer in the flavor business who founded and ran Globe Extracts (now part of Firmenich USA). I worked my way up from pulling jugs to compounding, apprenticing with a senior flavorist, then sales and eventually became general manager. Prior to starting Blue Pacific Flavors, I consulted with Asian food and beverage companies through my food technology licensing business, Wilkes and Associates, Inc.

Q: You've had your finger on the pulse of Asia for a while.

DW: In the early 1990s, I was fascinated with the breathtaking opportunities in East and Southeast Asia resulting from the seismic economic growth and population density. My work created a unique opportunity to build long-term relationships and help clients develop world-class products. Twenty years later, I have a fairly substantial multi-cultural network in Asia.



D. Wilkes (right) with his brother in an early ad for his Dad's business.

spreads today means we have to be more transparent and proactive to manage communication issues. In our industry, most associations have been business-to-business focused, leaving communication with the consumer to fall to others, like consumer packaged goods companies. It hasn't been part of the association mandate to communicate externally.

At IOFI, our focus was on internal communication as a way to engage members and convey the value of IOFI membership. Today, our increasing global awareness, driven in part by the emergence of the Asian market and external communication challenges in North America and Europe, has propelled IOFI to enhance the dialogue and collaboration between member associations and our global organization. The vision is to have unified global messaging where possible while respecting the sovereignty of member associations and companies.

“Because of globalization, the flavor industry needs to have a unified way to manage messaging, while supporting global and regional economic interdependency and sustainability.”

– Donald Wilkes

Q: What aspects about Asia are important to know?

DW: Understanding the diverse cultural complexities and evolving regulations in Asia is critically important. It's a key region for our industry for both flavoring development and production. IOFI knows this and thinks globally, focusing a lot of effort to support harmonized regulations.

Look at how the landscape in Asia has changed in recent years! There has been a tremendous socioeconomic shift that affects the industry. Throughout Asia, we need to address and engage new members while meeting the needs of existing members.

Q: As Chair of the CWG, what drives your passion to improve IOFI external communications?

DW: I have a sense of urgency about how we address external communications. The way news

Q: Has the consumer changed?

DW: Consumers seem to “know” more now, as they are influenced and educated online. But many people are illiterate about science – and Internet sources don't seem to “need” science to drive their influence. NGOs come in all shapes and sizes and many are challenging our industry to be more transparent.

When we think about external communication, we need to make the consumer the centerpiece. Much of this is driven by millennial consumers' core values and beliefs: the right to know what is in their food and where it comes from.

“We need to recognize that the smallest voice can look like the voice of millions in the new information Internet Age.”

– Donald Wilkes

Q: What does this mean for IOFI communications?

DW: As an industry, we need to adapt and become more transparent. We need to be more proactive. We have a wonderful story to tell, but we'll continue to be challenged if we allow others who have their own agenda tell our story for us. Communicating scientific messages without acknowledging consumer interests as a counterbalance will not resonate with the general public. We need to develop innovative communication methods that can influence the dialogue and deliver clear messages that will challenge misleading articles. We have the facts and can build great content; we just have to get the right people in place to execute the plan.

The IOFI global platform we are developing will ultimately engage with consumers and NGOs and provide a better way to tell our story.

Q: Will IOFI volunteers continue to play a role?

DW: Yes. We are getting more global communication experts involved in our external communication initiatives. We have an extremely talented group at IOFI member companies globally who are participating in this process.

Our CWG and task force volunteers are committed and have contributed countless hours to IOFI and their “home” associations. I certainly thank them for their efforts and we hope to continue to rely on them as we roll out our global effort.





Regional News

Welcome to IOFI's Newest Member: Chile's ACHISAF

Approved by a vote of the IOFI General Assembly in July 2015, the Asociación Chilena de Sabores y Fragancias AG (ACHISAF) of Chile joined IOFI as its tenth Corresponding association member. ACHISAF is a new organization itself, formed in March 2015 as a direct result of members' observations of the work of similar associations in the region, including ANPFA (Mexico), ABIFRA (Brazil), ANDI (Colombia) SNI (Peru) and CAFEPA (Argentina). Initial members are representatives from eight national and international companies with flavor and fragrance manufacturing and marketing operations in the Republic of Chile.

The founding members of ACHISAF are: Aromex, Cramer, Duas Rodas, Floramatic, Givaudan Chile, IFF Chile, Mane Chile and Symrise Chile. These firms are involved primarily in the food, cosmetics, pharmaceutical, perfumery and cleaning agent industries.

According to its statutes, ACHISAF's objectives are "to promote the rationalization, development, investment and protection of the common activity of its members." This includes "the manufacture, production, elaboration, distribution, development, research, purchase, sale, import and export of all kinds of flavors, blends of flavors, fragrances, colorants, aroma chemicals and natural products whether processed or not, related to the activities described above, or that aim to contribute to any one of these."



Founding members of ACHISAF met in March 2015: (from left) Juan Elizalde and Andres Berndt (Cramer), Vicente Saez and Ricardo Rubio (Attorney consultants), Carlos Santelices and James Medina (Floramatic).



Also present at the founding of ACHISAF included: (from left) Alexandro Juárez (Mane Chile) Gustavo Perazzo (IFF Chile), Arturo Matile and Thomas Mühlhäusser (Duas Rodas), Renato G. Rezenede (Symrise).



ACHISAF member Ximena Carrasco (Aromex) signs the agreement forming the association.

Members of the ACHISAF Board are: President Alexandro Juárez Salomo (Mane Chile), Vice President Andrés Berndt Briceño (Cramer), Secretary: Sebastián Ferrari Doyle (Givaudan), Treasurer: Thomas Rainier Mühlhäusser (Duas Rodas) and Director: Guido Rezenede de Castro (Symrise).

Signing members at the organization's formation on March 20, 2015 in Santiago de Chile included Ximena Carrasco Alvarado (Aromex), Gonzalo Alfredo Perazzo (IFF Chile) and Aurelio Plana Alastruey (Floramatic).

The group plans a brainstorming session in December to set its objectives and activities for 2016.



ACHISAF had a competition to create its organizational logo (left). The winning image was selected at the association's meeting in September.

-Thanks to ACHISAF for contributing to this story.

An Introduction to ANFPA

Asociación Nacional de Fabricantes de Productos Aromáticos

México City, March 1969. An enterprising group of manufacturers of aromatic products understood their historical role to unify criteria and policies to guide a flourishing and growing industry. It was not an easy task. In these early days, they had to overcome many obstacles, misunderstandings and differences of opinion.

Success depended on their capacity to stand together in unity and cooperation. Under such conditions and with those objectives in the minds of its founders, the National Association of Manufacturers of Aromatic Products (ANFPA) was born. The photograph below marks this occasion.



Since then ANFPA has established itself as an institutional channel, where views and concerns of its members have converged. Their opinions, proposals, experiences, research and generous volunteer contributions concern not only business and industry issues, but the social needs of its members as well.

Today ANFPA is an organization that helps its members stay up-to-date and prepared to grow in a global market, ready to face new challenges including demanding quality and safety standards and many scientific and regulatory requirements around the world. In addition to flavorings, ANFPA members are active in fragrances and natural and synthetic dyes.



Another photo from the archives - ANFPA Board 1975-1977. From left: Jorge Ebrard Maure, Carlos Gonzalez, Eduardo Mendez, José Farres Blasi, Edgar Steiner, Francisco Medina Fernandez, Jean Pierre Enice and Luis Alberto Frías Morales.

ANFPA is a very loyal Ordinary Member of IOFI. Its mission is to be a representative of the legitimate interests of its stakeholders, who in turn must be drivers of the economy, regulatory changes and fair global commerce.

ANFPA knows its true value is threefold: as an integrator of technical and commercial talent in the industry; in its role as a link with the Mexican government; and for its contribution to the related industries and the international organizations to which it belongs, contributing the experience and knowledge of its members and partners.

ANFPA believes in the honorable values of fair competition, ethical cooperation and social responsibility as the unquestioned basis for growth and development of our industry, which the association seeks to bring up to the levels of excellence within the international community.

In the industry it serves, ANFPA is always looking for ways to encourage innovation and incorporate new technology and production efficiencies without compromising fair labor practices, strict quality control and professional ethics.

Last but not least, ANFPA has a commitment to end-users. They have become a focal point for our members as we develop better products, safer procedures and better working conditions while caring for natural resources. All this is aimed at a better flavored world.

- Many thanks to ANFPA's Technical Director Maria del Carmen Vega Sandoval for her contributions to this article.



IOFI RAAC LATAM Technical Working Group Meets

On May 18-19, 2015, the IOFI RAAC LATAM TWG met in Buenos Aires, Argentina. With nearly 20 representatives from six LATAM IOFI member associations, the meeting provided an opportunity for the IOFI Secretariat and RAAC members to meet face to face and discuss issues in the region. IOFI Regulatory & Advocacy Director Thierry Cachet was pleased with the level of participation at the meeting: "Each member of the TWG came prepared to discuss key topics like the 2015 Global Poundage Survey (GPS), Codex Alimentarius, use of flavorings with modifying properties in LATAM, the classification of flavorings according to local regulations and more."

Planning for the GPS took up a significant amount of the meeting time. Added Cachet, "We discussed the methodology for data collection and the timeline for the project. The group decided to use the EFFA collection and validation model for the 2015 survey."

Across LATAM there have been changes in trade alliances, including a newly organized economic block called the "Pacific Alliance" formed by Mexico, Peru, Colombia and Chile. The addition of Venezuela to the Mercosur group and the establishment of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have introduced additional hurdles to regional harmonization of regulations affecting the flavor industry. "Despite these challenges, we have a strong core group intent on working together in the region," noted Cachet.

Each association shared updates on its country's regulations and engaged in constructive discussions on common issues. Priorities for the group in the months ahead include more work on the Mercosur Technical Regulation concerning Flavorings (Mercosur/GMC/ RES N° 10/06), monitoring emerging regulations (e.g., in Colombia), alignment of regulations with Codex and ongoing efforts to increase the approval by reference of the IOFI Global Reference List.

While work continues via conference calls and email exchanges, the group plans its next face-to-face meeting in May/June 2016 in Bogota, Colombia or in Mexico City. Concluded Cachet, "We have accomplished a lot in a very short period of time thanks to the dedication of our associations in this region. We now look forward to a successful LATAM implementation of the GPS in the year ahead."



Members of the LATAM TWG met in May. Front row from left: V. Pagano, U. Woelke, X. Agrelo, I. Oropeza, A. Valenca, B. Lajus, C. Boffuzzi, L. Paniagua, R. Franco. Back row: A. Juarez, J. Elizalde, M. Sarria, T. Cachet, R. Franca, A. Figueredo, J. Pantaleon, E. Vargas, P. Tesouro, G. Durand.

IOFI Participates in CAFFCI Meetings



T. Cachet and J. Yi represented IOFI in Wuxi, China. IFRA's P. Sivac (left) also participated.

IOFI Regulatory & Advocacy Director Thierry Cachet and Assistant Regulatory Manager Jing Yi attended the annual meeting of IOFI China member association CAFFCI from September 15-18 in Wuxi, China. More than 400 participated in the conference, including CAFFCI members, regulators and scientists.

During the meeting, CAFFCI held its 9th Flavor Fragrance Forum – China Workshop. Noted Cachet "This year the forum was organized in the format of panel discussions with different topics. IOFI was invited to give comments at the end of each panel discussion, as the foreign expert." Two topics that generated much discussion were the opportunities and challenges in the development of natural flavorings in China and challenges coming from environmental issues and chemicals management.



The balance of the meeting was devoted to meetings of CAFFCI's working groups (WG). "We were invited to participate in the CAFFCI WG on Environmental Issues which is similar to IOFI's SHE/GHS task forces," noted Yi. "We learned that in recent years, odor management has become a growing issue for the flavor industry in China with pressure coming from both the regulators and communities in the vicinity of production facilities." She added, "Because China has no existing national standard that fits for the flavor industry specifically, the CAFFCI WG aims to collect data and investigate current odor management situations in China, then hopefully develop future industry guidelines that potentially could become national standards." IOFI offered the "IOFI-IFRA Guidance on Managing Odor Issues" which was developed by the IOFI-IFRA SHE Committee, as well as the complementary "Guideline For HVAC System To Prevent Odor Emission." The CAFFCI WG welcomed both.

Cachet and Yi also participated in the CAFFCI WG on International Cooperation, established after CAFFCI became an official IOFI Corresponding association member of IOFI. "We found that CAFFCI is considering developing a database from GB 2760, the Chinese positive list of flavoring substances," Cachet reported. "CAFFCI expressed interest in learning from IOFI's experience with our database, including structure and access." The WG also discussed potential international seminars and workshops separate from the annual forum mentioned above that is a key part of CAFFCI's annual meeting. "CAFFCI would like to organize periodic focused events that involve specific expertise," Cachet mentioned. "For example, the WG is considering bringing regulators, flavor houses and suppliers in China together with IOFI for a good discussion on compliance issues." Other future topics could be GHS, natural flavorings and other subjects that relate to global harmonization.

Cachet concluded, "In all, it was a successful trip and one where we saw once again CAFFCI's interest in being an active member of the global flavor community."

Education a Priority for JFFMA

Nearly 100 members of the Japan Flavor & Fragrance Materials Association (JFFMA) attended compliance workshops in June 2015 in Tokyo and Osaka. During the workshops, experts from JFFMA committees covered a broad array of regulatory topics related to flavor, fragrance, patents, safety and the environment. Representatives from Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) provided an update focused on food additives to JFFMA attendees.

"These annual education and training workshops are a way to ensure that JFFMA members are aware of regulatory changes and requirements for thorough compliance," said Hiroyuki Okamura who represents JFFMA on the IOFI Board. "It's also an opportunity to inform our members about what is new in other parts of the global flavor community by sharing information from IOFI as well."

On May 21, 2015, JFFMA members gave a lecture on the "Safety and Usefulness of Flavoring" at the 20th Annual International Food Ingredients & Additives (ifia) exhibition and conference in Tokyo, Japan. As Japan's largest gathering devoted to the food additives and ingredients business, ifia draws an average of 10,000 visitors each day for its three-day conference. "Presenting at ifia is part of our external communication," reported JFFMA Executive Director Taichi Someya. "This is a great opportunity to explain our business to an audience that is one step away from the flavor industry, yet interested in our products and our safety record."



JFFMA Compliance Workshop attracted many participants.



JFFMA was well represented at the ifia meeting.

EFFA Welcomes Communication Director



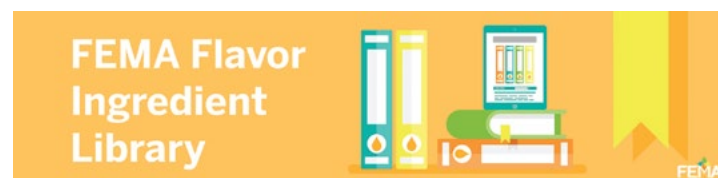
New EFFA Communications Director
J. Gomez de la Flor.

Jimena Gómez de la Flor has joined the staff of the European Flavour Association (EFFA) as Communications Director. In this new position reporting to Executive Director Sven Ballschmiede, Gómez de la Flor will implement EFFA's internal and external communication strategy. Noted Ballschmiede, "Jimena brings a wealth of communication expertise to EFFA including six years as an information officer for the European Commission where she led a team who researched and answered complex regulatory questions on behalf of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)." In previous positions Gómez de la Flor gained writing, editing and production experience in TV, print and Web platforms.

Holding two advanced degrees in European Studies and a bachelor's in journalism, Gómez de la Flor is a Spanish national living in Brussels. She is fluent in five languages and learning two more.

The new Communications Director is looking forward to her new role. In addition to enhancing communication among EFFA members and between EFFA and IOFI, she anticipates "bringing the flavouring message to the outside world and explaining the positive impact that our industry can have – from healthier diets to sustainable use of resources."

FEMA Launches Flavor Ingredient Library



In September, FEMA unveiled a new publicly available resource on its website, www.femaflavor.org. The FEMA Flavor Ingredient Library is a database encompassing all materials with FEMA GRAS™ status. Included are all 27 GRAS publications, scholarly articles related to flavor safety and, at the individual material level, identifier information for FEMA GRAS flavoring ingredients, corresponding FEMA GRAS publications and links to published safety assessment information. The Library itself can be viewed at www.femaflavor.org/flavor and does not require a username or password for access.

"The Library offers industry colleagues, consumers, researchers and members of the media an easily accessible, comprehensive, go-to resource for information on FEMA GRAS," noted FEMA's Communications Director Mat Gulick. "We have organized the 31,000 data points into a format that facilitates searches and provides valuable background information." FEMA will add new material to the Library at the time of each subsequent GRAS publication and when new information becomes available for existing FEMA GRAS materials.

While the articles and documents in the Library have been publically available for many years, this tool makes this information electronically available in one place. "This is a way for FEMA to continue its commitment to transparency and provides greater accessibility to interested audiences, especially those outside of the flavor industry itself," said Gulick. "The Library is just one more way that we can raise awareness of our industry's efforts to ensure the safety of flavoring ingredients and flavors used in foods and beverages."

FEMA staff is grateful to the members of its Enhanced Communications Committee with whom they partnered to facilitate the design and launch of the Flavor Ingredient Library.

FEMA urges all IOFI members to check out the FEMA Flavor Ingredient Library.

New FEMA Scientific Director: Luis Valerio



On May 5, 2015, Dr. Luis Valerio, Jr. became the scientific director for FEMA and the association's representative on the IOFI Science Board (ISB). With a Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science from the University of Colorado, he trained as a chemical and biochemical toxicologist. Along with his extensive post-doctoral gastroenterology research, Valerio has the academic background to meet the emerging scientific challenges in the industry. In addition to his impressive academic credentials, Valerio has industry experience in product safety, R&D and a twelve-year career at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), where he held positions of increasing responsibility.

Noted Valerio, "At the FDA I was a toxicology reviewer for GRAS notifications and I supported enforcement and compliance cases." For seven years, he also worked in the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) helping to ensure that the nation's supply of prescription and over-the-counter medications was safe. "In this role, I spearheaded projects in emerging technologies including nanotechnology, computational toxicology, and as FDA's liaison to the US Pharmacopeial Convention, I focused on pharmaceutical quality and product adulteration." With a transfer to FDA's Center for Tobacco Products, Valerio gained additional experience on toxicology risk assessments, harm reduction strategies, biomarkers and regulatory guidance.

"It was a difficult decision to leave the FDA because I enjoyed being a regulator and understanding complex regulation," said Valerio. "I had seen about all that I could on that side, so I was ready to go back to industry."

His new role at FEMA offers Valerio the best of both worlds. "The most interesting aspect of my time at the FDA was my work in compliance – essentially enforcement in real world situations. I saw firsthand the power of the FDA to take a product off the market if it posed potential harm for the public."

He added, "At FEMA, we are working to make sure the materials the industry offers are safe for their intended use and labeled properly, meeting US regulatory requirements."

To date, Valerio has participated in two ISB meetings. "My impression is that the ISB members have tremendous expertise and display a collaborative nature. This results in very productive discussions during what are packed days of meetings."

Looking ahead, Valerio sees part of his job as anticipating future challenges to the industry's safety assessment program and dealing with them effectively. "The integration of computational and predictive tools can help us allay concerns. We must keep abreast of emerging methods. Some of the newer tools are expensive, but in the long run when properly applied they save time, reduce animal testing and support informed decision-making."

After hours, Valerio serves as an editor for many well-known toxicology journals; this helps keep knowledge pouring in on current science and new approaches. "Being editor on up to a thousand papers a year helps me to know what is cutting-edge and what is generally recognized on issues so I can support high quality science."

Valerio noted an interesting difference between pharmaceutical studies and those in food science. Pharma often relies on private safety data and even after the work is finished, companies don't publish all of their studies. In the food science area, peers vet the science and publish findings. "There is more transparency and open access to studies," he noted.

In closing, Valerio reflected on his career thus far, and the need for collaboration in science: "In my years in government and science, not any one person knows everything."

**"We live in an integrated world."
- Dr. Luis Valerio**

In our industry, using an interdisciplinary approach to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline will bring a high quality end product to help consumers. FEMA and IOFI are at the forefront of a science world without borders."



IOFI Plays Integral Role at China Workshop on Flavorings

IOFI was well represented in Beijing in July to participate in a workshop sponsored by IOFI member association CAFFCI and International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Focal Point China. Welcomed by the ILSI chapter's Executive Director Dr. Junshi Chen, the IOFI team was comprised of IOFI Scientific Director Dr. Sean Taylor and former RAAC Chair and incoming IOFI Science Board Chair Dr. Jürgen Schnabel, who were accompanied by Dr. Sam Cohen, chair of the FEMA Expert Panel and a Professor at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Supporting the team was IOFI Assistant Regulatory Manager Jing Yi and RAAC member Leon Liu. Noted Taylor, "This workshop was a fantastic opportunity to give more than one hundred Chinese scientists and regulators an overview of the world of flavors."

Schnabel presented "Flavorings: Basic Knowledge, New Technology and Challenges." He described the history of the use of flavorings, how they are classified, as well as the role that science has played and continues to play in understanding their organoleptic properties.

In his presentation, Taylor provided insight about the various safety evaluation methods in use around the globe, explaining the similarities and differences in various approaches. "Professor Cohen provided a really in-depth description of how flavor safety evaluations like FEMA GRAS are done," Taylor noted. "The regulators and scientists in the audience were very interested in the work of the Expert Panel, how it relates to evaluations done by other authoritative bodies, and how the various pieces of scientific information are utilized in reaching an ultimate conclusion about the safety of a flavor ingredient."



IOFI Scientific Director Sean Taylor (with microphone) answers questions at the China Workshop, along with (from left) Sam Cohen, Jürgen Schnabel and CFSA officer Dr. Jianbo Zhang.

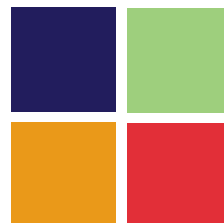
"Our messages were very well received, and we had excellent audience participation and very good questions," Schnabel reported.

After the ILSI meeting concluded, Taylor and Schnabel met with a smaller group of government officials and flavor industry members. "We fielded detailed questions on how estimates of exposure to flavor ingredients are made, as well as on many other technical topics," said Taylor. "Overall, the discussions were wide-ranging, and touched on how safety evaluations may be handled in China in the future."

Concluded Taylor, "This was a great opportunity to engage thought leaders in this very important market, and to continue IOFI's efforts to promote global harmonization."



Jürgen Schnabel presents in Beijing.



FMP Education & Training on the IOFI MN

For almost two years, the IOFI RAAC committed time and resources through its FMP Task Force to develop global industry alignment for all regions on the use, sensory testing and labeling of flavorings with modifying properties (FMPs). This summer, with the material approved by the RAAC, the FMP TF handed over to a small team from the CWG and the IOFI Secretariat a comprehensive PowerPoint slide presentation that included all of their work. The challenge: Use this material to create education and training for the IOFI membership. “While the key audiences were members already familiar with FMPs and with some knowledge of sensory testing, we wanted to be sure that the presentation could be viewed and understood by all members,” noted IOFI Regulatory & Advocacy Director Thierry Cachet.

The team, comprised of CWG members Uma Parasar (IFF), Christina Witter (Symrise), Mary Treisbach (IOFI Consultant) and Secretariat members Jing Yi and Cachet reviewed the TF’s presentation and looked for ways to streamline the message without losing valuable content. Noted Witter, “When I started I was no expert on FMPs, but I have learned quite a lot. As a communication professional, I looked for ways to make the tremendous amount of material in the original PowerPoint more visually appealing and digestible for our audience.”

The resulting PowerPoint was divided into four main sections: background and industry guidelines; regulatory authority; safety evaluations and sensory testing; and labeling. End notes and reference materials completed the package. Cachet suggested “ScreenCast-o-matic,” an online tool that would pair audio to the slides in a seamless recorded webinar. Parasar took on the sensory testing section. “This was familiar information to me, and my goal was to bring the slides to life with examples and make the material less intimidating to the audience.”

Cachet and Witter provided the other voices on the recording that was completed in early October. Next steps included sharing the preview version with a small group from the RAAC and CWG. “We wanted to be sure our message came across clearly and that nothing was inadvertently missed,” said Yi. Treisbach prepared a brief survey to collect feedback. As *IOFI Insight* goes to press, she noted, “We will incorporate any adjustments that are necessary by early November. Then we will upload the recorded webinar to the Member Network, survey webinar participants, and move on to a simpler version for external audiences for release early next year.”



Uma Parasar (top) provided one of the voices for the recorded webinar; Christina Witter (middle) and Thierry Cachet (below) provided the others.



Focus on FEMA GRAS

The Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEMA), founded in 1909, is the Washington, D.C.-based national association of the U.S. flavor industry. FEMA's members include flavor manufacturers, flavor users, flavor ingredient suppliers, and others with an interest in the U.S. flavor industry. FEMA and its members are committed to providing an ample supply of safe and wholesome flavors for inclusion in foods, beverages, pharmaceuticals, and other consumer products.

The FEMA GRAS program, established in 1960, is the most extensive and longest-running industry GRAS program. Through the FEMA GRAS program, more than 2,800 flavor ingredients have been determined to be generally recognized as safe under their conditions of intended use as flavor ingredients consistent with the authority provided by the US Congress in the 1958 Food Additives Amendments and Section 201(s) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Some Frequently Asked Questions About FEMA GRAS

Q: What kind of information does FEMA send to the FDA after it makes a GRAS determination?

A: FEMA provides the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with information on the identity of the flavor ingredient determined to be generally recognized as safe (GRAS), the flavor ingredient's conditions of intended use and the safety information supporting GRAS status for its use as a flavor ingredient.

The information that FEMA provides to FDA is actually more extensive than the information required by the agency for a submission to the FDA voluntary GRAS notification program. FDA requires only a summary while FEMA provides FDA with complete copies of all information used in the FEMA GRAS determinations.

Note: FEMA retains all safety data supporting FEMA GRAS determinations, makes it available to the public and shares it with FDA and other safety and regulatory groups such as the Joint WHO/FAO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). Monographs are publicly available from JECFA.

Q: How many times has the FEMA Expert Panel determined substances not to be GRAS?

A: There are three ways in which an application for a FEMA GRAS determination may not move forward and the use of the substance determined not to be GRAS. First, an applicant may withdraw its application if the Expert

Panel determines it does not provide a basis for a GRAS determination. Second, the Expert Panel often requests additional information from the applicant. If this is provided and the Expert Panel determines it to be satisfactory to respond to their request, then their evaluation may proceed; if it is not provided then the Expert Panel ceases to evaluate the application. Third, FEMA provides the option of a pre-submission review process in which a prospective applicant can obtain an opinion on the likelihood that adequate information exists to support a successful GRAS application. Prospective applicants do not generally proceed with an application in cases where the pre-submission review suggests a low likelihood of success.

These three situations occur each year but FEMA has not kept track of the number or uses of substances withdrawn or otherwise not evaluated by the Expert Panel.

Q: How many times has FEMA reversed GRAS status?

A: Over the years, the following flavor ingredients have been determined to no longer meet the criteria for FEMA GRAS status: acetamide, 3-acetyl-2,5-dimethylthiophene, calamus, calamus oil, 2-hexyl-4-acetotetrahydrofuran, 4-methylquinoline, 2-methyl-5-vinylpyrazine, musk ambrette, 3-nonanon-1-yl acetate, quinoline, o-vinylanisole, ethylene oxide and styrene.

Based on the Expert Panel's review of new safety information supporting GRAS status, the uses of two substances as flavor ingredients, 2-hexyl-4-acetotetrahydrofuran and 2-methyl-5-vinylpyrazine, were once again determined to be GRAS many years after they were removed from the FEMA GRAS list.



Q: How does FEMA address potential conflict of interest concerns about the Expert Panel?

A: FEMA Expert Panel members are selected solely for their expertise in various scientific disciplines relevant to performing an objective and unbiased assessment of the safety and GRAS status of flavor ingredients. Panel members adhere to strict, published protections against conflict of interest and bias. (See GRAS 26, pages 40-41.) In a recent review of GRAS approaches in the US, the non-profit Pew Charitable Trusts noted, that the "FEMA Expert Panel is operating consistent with FDA's recommendation" on protecting against potential conflicts of interest in research, and that regarding financial issues, "There appears to be no disqualifying financial interest."

Q: Why doesn't FEMA make its safety determinations public on its website, much like FDA notifications are?

A: It does! See the related article on the FEMA Flavor Ingredient Library (page 13) to learn how FEMA has made FEMA GRAS information more easily accessible to the public. The GRAS 27 publication (page 53) also refers readers to the FEMA website for the Expert Panel's GRAS rationale for each substance.

Information on FEMA GRAS flavor ingredients is also publicly available and readily accessible from a number of other sources including the IOFI Global Reference List, the JECFA website, reference publications such as Fenaroli's *Handbook of Flavor Ingredients (6th Ed.)* and *Allured's Flavor and Fragrance Materials*, and commercial database services such as Leffingwell and Associates.

For more about FEMA GRAS, visit <https://www.femaflavor.org/>.

-Thanks to FEMA for the information provided in this article.

Have a suggestion for a future Focus article?

Please contact IOFI Insight at secretariat@iofiorg.org.

Calendar of Upcoming IOFI Events

February 2016

- **IOFI Science Board Meeting**
February 11 and 12, 2016 - Baltimore, USA

March 2016

- **IOFI/IFRA Globally Harmonized System (GHS) Task Force**
March 22 & 23, 2016 - New York, USA

April 2016

- **Working Group on Method of Analysis (WGMA)**
April 6, 2016 - Brussels, Belgium
- **IOFI Global Poundage Survey Committee (GPSC)**
April 18, 2016 (morning) - Washington D.C., USA
- **IOFI Regulatory Advisory and Advocacy Committee (RAAC)**
April 18, 2016 (afternoon) - Washington D.C., USA
- **IOFI Regulatory Advisory and Advocacy Committee (RAAC)**
April 19, 2016 (all day) - Washington D.C., USA
- **IOFI Communications Working Group (CWG)**
April 20, 2016 (morning) - Washington D.C., USA
- **IOFI Board**
April 20, 2016 (afternoon) - Washington D.C., USA
- **IOFI General Assembly**
April 21, 2016 (morning) - Washington D.C., USA
- **IOFI Board**
April 21, 2016 (afternoon) - Washington D.C., USA



The IOFI RAAC met in Berlin. Seated from left: S. Taylor, J. Schnabel, V. Alvarez-Saavedra, Chair U. Woelke, K. Saito, V. Nirmalchandrar. Standing: H. Smith, M. Behringer, J. Stelder, L. Hopkinson, H. H. Gliewe (guest), J. Yi, J. Verhoeven, G. Durand, T. Cachet, S. Codrea (guest) L. Liu, M. Raukko, S. Ballschmiede, F. Sekiya.

What's a TWIMC?

IOFI has published a number of "To Whom It My Concern" (TWIMC) documents recently e.g., one on perilla aldehyde and another on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) list of materials footnoted on the European Union List and pending EFSA evaluation. TWIMC are located on the IOFI Member Network (MN) and are visible to anyone with an IOFI username and password.

Why should you be interested? Often external stakeholders are curious about an IOFI position on a specific topic. Unlike member-only Information Letters, these TWIMC are written for external audiences and may be used with customers, regulators and others. In some cases, the TWIMC can set the record straight – and provide a global point of view on a subject. For example, a publication in the US picked up EFSA's press release and wrote about the removal of perilla aldehyde from the European Union List even though IOFI believes there is scientific evidence to support the safe use of this material. When FEMA provided the IOFI TWIMC to the publication, the other half of this global story came to light. In a similar way, JFFMA provided this TWIMC to regulatory authorities in Japan, where perilla aldehyde is a commonly used material.

Do you have any TWIMC topics? Contact the Secretariat at secretariat@iofi.org. And make sure you have an IOFI username and password to access all of the great material on the IOFI MN.



María Teresa Sosa has joined the IOFI team as a consultant. Based in Mexico, Sosa is a former ANFPA secretariat member. She will assist the LATAM TWG of the RAAC and help with the region's participation in the 2015 Global Poundage Survey by translating GPSC instructions and educating regional association members who may be unfamiliar with the project. Look for an interview with Senora Sosa in the next issue of *IOFI Insight*.

WGMA Update

The **IOFI Working Group on Methods of Analysis (WGMA)** held its 98th meeting on September 30, 2015 in Leuven, Belgium. Among other topics, the group reviewed a WGMA draft explanatory paper on "density and specific gravity" developed in its support of the RAAC NCS and CDS task force efforts to align JECFA flavoring substances specifications with materials in the marketplace. The WGMA also has finalized "Guidelines for the quantification of volatile flavoring compounds by GC-FID using predicted relative response factors." This paper will be submitted for publication to *Flavor and Fragrance Journal*. Finally, the WGMA devoted considerable effort to the review of "identification in nature" reports related to GRAS 27 substances.



New IOFI Science Board for 2016 includes (seated from left) C. Harman, L. Valerio, Incoming Chair J. Schnabel, B. Smith, S. Li. Back row: H. Okamura, J. Stelder, P. Julkunen, J. Demyttenaere, S. Taylor, M. Aubanel, T. Cachet, K. Renskers, G. Kramer.

Access to the IOFI MN is a benefit of membership. Need a MN logon? Go to the upper right corner of the IOFI home page www.iofi.org and click on the "Request Here" button.

