

## **Position Announcement: ILSI North America Summer Fellowship**

ILSI North America is pleased to announce the 2019 Summer Fellowship Program. The program, sponsored by the Food and Chemical Safety Committee, seeks a motivated graduate student with training and career interests in food chemical safety or food toxicology. The successful candidate will pursue a research project under the guidance of ILSI North America staff and members of the Food and Chemical Safety Committee. Details on the project and fellowship can be found below.

### **The Project: Metal Dietary Exposure Screening Tool**

Detection of heavy metals at trace levels in foods and food ingredients is common given the unavoidable presence of metals in nature coupled with advancement in analytical methods and lower detection limits. In 2015, the Heavy Metal Subcommittee of the ILSI North America Food and Chemical Safety Committee sponsored the development of a Metal Dietary Exposure Screening Tool and publication of the paper titled “*Partitioning of Dietary Metal Intake—A Metal Dietary Exposure Screening Tool*<sup>1</sup>”. The tool is intended to be used by risk assessors and risk managers to aid the evaluation of potential public health risks when confronted with the detection of select heavy metals in foods and food ingredients. The tool provides a screening-level approach that serves as a first step in a tiered risk assessment process. The tool and supporting information can be found at <http://ilsina.org/our-work/research-tools-open-data/metal-dietary-exposure-screening-tool/>. ILSI North America and The Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) have agreed to collaborate on the continued development and biennial updating of the Metal Dietary Exposure Screening tool. The next version will be interactive, web-based and will be hosted on JIFSAN’s [foodrisk.org](http://foodrisk.org) website.

The Fellow will conduct a detailed literature review to identify new toxicology reference levels or health guidance values (exposure limits) for select heavy metals and integrate these levels into the updated tool. The Fellow will also assist in optimizing the operation and utility of the updated tool and conduct a new evaluation of heavy metal levels in certain segments of the food supply. The Fellow is expected to prepare a manuscript to support the release of the updated Metal Dietary Exposure Screening Tool which would provide a detailed description and use guidance for the Tool with case studies. The Fellow will receive guidance in the conduct of the project from ILSI North America Food and Chemical Safety Committee members and JIFSAN.

### **About ILSI North America and the Food and Chemical Safety Committee**

Based in Washington, DC, ILSI North America is a non-profit scientific organization that advances the conduct and integrity of nutrition and food safety research and its application for the benefit of public

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<sup>1</sup> Tran, N. L., Barraj, L. M., Scrafford, C., Bi, X. and Troxell, T. (2015), Partitioning of Dietary Metal Intake—A Metal Dietary Exposure Screening Tool. *Risk Analysis*, 35: 872-881. doi:10.1111/risa.12322



health by sponsoring research programs, educational seminars, workshops and scientific publications. ILSI North America has a decades-long history of identifying solutions to complex scientific problems through the development of guidance datasets and tools in a neutral, multi-sector forum, guided by a philosophy of scientific integrity and shared responsibility. For more information on ILSI North America please visit: <http://ilsina.org/>. The Food and Chemical Safety Committee promotes the science-based determination of the chemical safety of foods to support the advancement of public health. To learn more about recent committee projects and for a summary of previous Summer Fellowship Programs, please visit: <http://ilsina.org/our-work/food-safety/food-and-chemical-safety/>

#### *Why a Fellowship at ILSI North America?*

The purpose of the Summer Fellowship program is to provide a multifaceted, interdisciplinary experience that incorporates technical and professional skill building and networking opportunities. The program provides exposure to areas of scientific interest, emerging issues, and cutting-edge research methods in food chemical safety and food toxicology. In addition to conducting a research project, the Summer Fellow will:

- Develop a scientific article and formal presentation summarizing their results
- Attend ILSI North America Food and Chemical Safety committee meetings with members from industry, academia and the Federal Government
- Attend public scientific and policy meetings and interact with organizations and government agencies
- Liaise with experts in the field

#### *Selection Criteria*

A background or interest in food science, food safety, toxicology, or risk assessment or is required. Doctoral students are preferred. Applicants should have good written and oral communication skills, strong computer and data analysis skills, and should be organized, self-motivated, and able to work independently.

#### *Fellowship Duration & Stipend*

The fellowship will run for 10 to 12 weeks in summer 2019. The fellow will receive a stipend intended to cover living expenses and transportation to/from Washington DC.

#### *Application Instructions*

Interested candidates should submit a letter of application summarizing their research background and interests, a resume, college transcripts, and two letters of recommendation. Materials should be submitted to Angela Roberts at [angelar@ilsina.org](mailto:angelar@ilsina.org) Completed applications are due **March 15, 2019**.