



A Brief History of The International Society for Fat Research (ISF):

H. P. Kaufmann was a well-known director of the German Institute for Fat Research in Münster. Dr. Kaufmann was an expert in fat, food and pharmaceutical chemistry, three areas with many interrelationships. After World War II, Kaufmann reconstructed the German Society for Fat Science (Deutsche Gessellschaft für Fettwissenschaft e.V. [DGF]) and in the 1950s, together with 42 prominent personalities from around the world, he helped create a similar organization on an international basis—The International Society for Fat Research (ISF). The purpose and aims of this international society were:

- a. to bring about an international teamwork of specialists engaged in the research on fat and fat products in the fields of general and agricultural chemistry, biology, food sciences, medicine, pharmacy, and technology;
- b. to encourage the advancement of the chemistry and technology of oils, fats, their constituents and compounds, and all allied and associated products, and to promote research in these fields;
- c. to increase and disseminate chemical, biological, and technological knowledge in the fat field by international meetings, discussions, publications, and other means; and
- d. to promote professional training.

According to Professor Kaufmann's idea, the ISF, with a minimum of organization and administration, should act as an international pool and forum for the collection and distribution of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of fats and oils; it would be an international body with members from countries all over the world. To achieve this, the Society organized periodical meetings where current issues in fat chemistry and science were discussed. These meetings were to be held every second year in different countries.

However, at the ISF Board meeting on April 18, 1991 in the Netherlands, there was agreement that the ISF was not strong enough and would not survive if it was not reorganized. Attendees were of the opinion that ISF had served the science and technology of fats and oils well but also felt that the ultimate potential of ISF had not been achieved.

The meeting attendees, who represented Germany, the U.S., and the Netherlands, came unanimously to the conclusion that we should continue with the ISF and as a start, three steps should be taken:

- Write a mission statement defining ISF's unique international role.
- Set up an organizational structure which would allow an efficient pursuit of that mission.
- Secure a strong and professional secretariat.

Consequently, a constitution was set up with the following mission statement:

The mission of the ISF is to provide for the international exchange of information about fats, oils, and related materials and products by organizing periodic ISF World Congresses on fat science and technology, by stimulating and supporting occasional international symposia or courses covering limited areas within the field of fat research and technology, and by encouraging the development of related national and/or multinational regional associations.

This was all adopted at the Board Meeting on May 11, 1992 in Toronto, where ISF formally became a federation of fats and oils associations around the world.

Recognizing the increasing number of congresses pertaining to professionals involved in the science of fats, oils, and lipids, the ISF Board of Directors decided in May 2005 to discontinue sponsorship of its own Congress and offer plenary lectures at a regularly scheduled meeting of one of its member organizations. Still offered on a biannual basis, the inaugural offering of the "ISF Lectureship Series" was held in 2007 during the 98th AOCS Annual Meeting & Expo. The second offering of the "ISF Lectureship Series" will occur during the 2009 meeting of the Australian Oilseed Federation.

Membership in the ISF is open to national or regional organizations that are non-commercial, individual membership societies serving the interests of professionals in fields pertaining to fats, oils, and lipids related materials and their products.

Under its revised structure, the ISF Board is comprised of two distinct entities:

- 1) The **Executive Board** includes up to two representatives from each organization that is eligible to host an ISF Congress
- 2) The **Extended Board**, consisting of a maximum of two representatives from all member organizations

Eligibility to host an ISF Lectureship Series and have representation on the ISF Executive Board requires the member organization:

- 1) to be classified as an individual membership scientific organization
- 2) to host a regularly scheduled international scientific meeting of 300+ attendees in English or with English translation
- 3) to send a representative to meetings of the Executive Board