



SNI Spring Meeting at a Glance

March 14-15, 2016 • San Antonio, Texas

Revision to the SNI Mission

SNI members discussed the mission of the organization. Since its inception, the SNI had primarily used its resources to fund soy research. Members noted that the soy research field is a mature area and decided that more of an impact could be made through outreach and education about soy and human health. An action team began work on a new strategic plan.

FDA response to the Weston A. Price Foundation

In 2015, the WAPF sued the FDA, compelling it to respond to concerns about the soy health claim. In January, the FDA denied the WAPF request to revoke the health claim, but on February 18, the WAPF filed a motion to amend the complaint. Attorney Chris Salisbury said that he assumes the FDA will try to get the case thrown out and that it was highly unlikely that the court would rule against the FDA. Mark Messina noted that the FDA cited the SNI and its written testimony in support of the health claim in its response to the original complaint.

Nitrogen conversion factor for soy protein

Ratna Mukherjea discussed the history of the nitrogen conversion factor for soy protein. A Codex committee had met recently to discuss whether a conversion factor of 6.25 or 5.71 should be used for soy. The matter was not settled and went back to committees. If 5.71 were to be adopted, all soy products would have a

~9.2% reduction in calculated protein. SNI members decided that action needed to be taken and began work on several communications efforts on the issue.

Soybean oil health claim

Mike Greenwood discussed steps that were being taken by the USB to establish a qualified health claim for soybean oil. He said that similar claims already exist for corn and canola oils. The USB's first step in the process is to assess the feasibility of a claim to determine if USB should move forward. An SNI action group was created to further explore the topic.

EFSA conclusion on isoflavone supplements

Messina told the SNI that the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) had investigated the effects of soy isoflavone supplements on peri- and post-menopausal women. EFSA concluded that isoflavone supplements did not exert adverse effects in postmenopausal women in the three organs that were studied: the uterus, the breast and thyroid.

Soy, biotechnology and the world food supply

Craig Gundersen gave a presentation on biotechnology and food security. He saw the use of biotech crops as being critical to solving food shortages and said that biotechnology is scale neutral, meaning low income farmers can benefit as much as high-income farmers.

In Attendance

Members:

- **Ratna Mukherjea**, DuPont, president
- **Scott Singlestad**, USB, secretary/treasurer
- **Nancy Chapman**, SANA
- **Dan Farney**, USB
- **Sam Z. Sun**, ADM
- **Joel Thorsrud**, USB
- **Jim Willers**, USB
- **Craig Gundersen**, National Soybean Research Laboratory

Scientific Advisors:

- **John Erdman**, University of Illinois at Urbana
- **Mindy Kurzer**, University of Minnesota

Staff:

- **Mark Messina**, Executive Director
- **Steve Poole**, USB/SmithBucklin
- **Mike Greenwood**, USB/SmithBucklin
- **Steve Veile**, facilitator, Communiqué, Inc.
- **Chris Salisbury**, attorney, McLeod, Watkinson & Miller
- **Adam Veile**, acting secretary, Communiqué, Inc.

Guests and Speakers:

- **Jessica Kiel**, Medifast
- **Harold Stanislawski**, AURI
- **Nikki Pursely**, Communiqué, Inc.