



SNI Fall Meeting at a Glance

September 8-9, 2014 • Minneapolis, Minnesota

Breast Cancer

Days before the SNI meeting, "The Effects of Soy Supplementation on Gene Expression in Breast Cancer" was published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute and was already generating considerable negative media. SNI advisors and members believed that the authors of this research and the author of a commentary published in the JNCI in response to this research drew conclusions about soyfoods and isoflavones that were not justified on the basis of the findings. Consequently, the SNI wrote a response to the study that member companies could adapt for their own uses. The SNI also authorized spending \$1,000 to hire an expert to get more insight into the implications of the JNCI study.

Soy Intake and Skin Health

The SNI executive director presented a review of research evaluating the effects of soy and isoflavones on skin health. Skin health is viewed by the SNI members as an area that can potentially highlight the health benefits of soyfoods. Stacy S. Hawkins, PhD, clinical site leader for Unilever R&D, spoke to the SNI about the methodology involved in assessing changes in skin health, including a reduction in wrinkles. Hawkins also discussed a Unilever study that found an isoflavone-containing supplement improved skin health in postmenopausal women. Dr. Hawkins believes that isoflavones were responsible for the increase in collagen synthesis that led to the decrease in wrinkles. The SNI discussed the design elements and cost of a skin health study and decided to explore the possibility of funding such a study at the next meeting.

Protein Quality Assessment

Ratna Mukherjea updated the SNI on proposed changes in the methodology for evaluating protein quality. Because of the controversy surrounding DIAAS, an expert panel reconvened in March of this year; the report from that meeting was expected soon. Several other protein quality assays were being considered, including Postprandial Protein Utilization, Net Postprandial Protein Utilization, and Indicator Amino Acid Oxidation. SNI members decided it was important to have a response ready when the report was released and sought to recruit partners, such as the ENSA and the ASA, for the writing of a report.

Potential Research Projects

The SNI decided to develop a list of possible research projects to fund before making a decision on a skin health study. One suggestion was to determine whether NHANES data could be used to gain insights into the health effects of soyfoods. Another area of interest was the effect of soy on liver disease. More information will be gathered before a funding decision is made.

Communications Efforts

SNI members discussed new communications efforts. These include a comprehensive website to provide information on soy and human health and to combat misinformation, a social media campaign on soyfood and health, and a large-scale myth-busting campaign.

In Attendance

Members:

- **Ratna Mukherjea**, DuPont, president
- **Katy Raneri**, WhiteWave Foods, vice president
- **Scott Singlestad**, USB, secretary/treasurer
- **Linda Funk**, The Soyfoods Council
- **Belinda Jenks**, Pharmavite
- **Sam Z. Sun**, ADM
- **Jim Willers**, USB
- **Marilyn Nash**, National Soybean Research Laboratory

Scientific Advisors:

- **John Erdman**, University of Illinois
- **Mindy Kurzer**, University of Minnesota.

Staff:

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

Guests and Speakers:

- **JL Fields**, The Soyfoods Council
- **Stacy S. Hawkins**, PhD, Unilever R&D