

ISSFAL Board of Directors Candidate Statement:

Jeannine Baumgartner, PhD

I am honoured to have been nominated as a candidate for the ISSFAL Board of Directors.

I am currently a Senior Scientist at the Human Nutrition Laboratory of ETH Zürich in Switzerland, and Extraordinary Associate Professor at the Centre of Excellence for Nutrition of the North-West University in South Africa. I hold an MSc in Food Science and Nutrition from ETH Zürich, Switzerland, where I also obtained my PhD in Human Nutrition. During my PhD, I investigated the effects of iron and n-3 fatty acid depletion and repletion, as well as their interactions, on brain development and cognition.

My current research focuses on studying the effects of n-3 fatty acid deficiency and supplementation on outcomes related to the development and functioning of the brain, immune system, and the gut microbiome in rat models and human studies. Thereby, I am also interested in exploring interactions between n-3 fatty acids and micronutrients, particularly iron.

I attend my first ISSFAL congress in Maastricht in 2010 as an early PhD student. I was fascinated by the broad range of basic and clinical research in the field of fatty acids and lipids presented, and inspired by the active participation of other young scientists. I then joined the Society as a member and never missed an ISSFAL congress ever since. I won a Top 10 New Investigator Award at the 2014 ISSFAL congress in Stockholm, Sweden. When South Africa won the bid to host the 2016 ISSFAL congress in Stellenbosch, I served on the organizing and scientific committee, and as such played a key role in the development of the scientific programme and organization of congress events, i.e. the Young Investigator Social.

I would be pleased to serve on the ISSFAL Board of Directors, and if elected, would like to contribute to the Society in two particular ways. Firstly, as a young, emerging scientist, I wish to ensure that the needs of students and early-career scientists are met, and will support their active participation at ISSFAL congresses and events. Secondly, as a nutrition scientist with a strong interest in tackling global nutrition problems, I wish to promote fatty acid and lipid research that is relevant to low- and middle-income countries. Thus, I will support future endeavours in expanding ISSFAL's regional engagement and visibility with additional smaller meetings and educational activities in such regions.

I would welcome your support.

Jeannine Baumgartner

Senior Scientist
Human Nutrition Laboratory
Department of Health Sciences and Technology
Institute of Food, Nutrition and Health
ETH Zürich
Zürich, Switzerland

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