**Candidate Statement**

Being nominated this year for a position on the ISSFAL Board of Directors is an unparalleled professional honour. I am grateful for the opportunity to expand my contribution and participation in ISSFAL in ways that build effectively upon the Society’s founding principles while positioning it for future success. I have a fervent interest in understanding the links between nutrition and health. I am particularly interested in the interaction between brain fatty acids and mental illness, primarily dissecting out the differences between dietary fatty acids and their brain metabolism. Yet the increasing complexity of lipid metabolism demands understanding of how similarities and differences in fatty acid metabolisms may attribute to their individual and collective roles in brain health. Thus my postdoctoral research investigates whether different dietary PUFA compositions may lead to changes in gene network pathways, behaviours, and ultimately, the pathology of mental illness. Specifically, I’m examining the effects of dietary fatty acids on alcohol consumption behaviour and the interaction of fatty acids and ethanol on brain transcriptome.

In 2010, I attended my first ISSFAL meeting and ever since have participated actively in the Society. I attend and present my research at every ISSFAL meeting. The experience provides me with a unique perspective on the Society’s innovative programs and uniquely collegial atmosphere. ISSFAL offers a variety of opportunities for young investigators to engage academically and socially with leading academics, including Breakfast with Professors and gala dinners. In 2016, I created the first YouTube channel for the Society to honour our ISSFAL Fellow award recipients. In 2018, I served as chair of the Young Investigator Social Committee and was privileged to plan and welcome international young investigators into the Society.

As a new Board Member, I will fully support the Society’s distinct commitment to young scientists’ career development. Accordingly, I propose to develop collaborative workshops that tackle common challenges we face in preclinical and clinical fatty acids and lipid research. Further, I will support ISSFAL’s mandate to grow the Society in membership. I will seek to increase oral presentation opportunities for students and trainees. Because I know firsthand what ISSFAL does for scientists, for the scientific field, and for the advancement of science, I will ensure the success of ISSFAL in the future.

Chuck T. Chen, PhD

National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

**Candidature supported by the Nominations Committee, ISSFAL Board of Directors**