Statement from Raz Shaikh

It is a great honor to be nominated for a position on the ISSFAL board. I am currently an Associate Professor and the Associate Chair for Research in the Department of Nutrition at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My area of expertise is fatty acid metabolism, immunology, and membrane biophysics. My success, thus far, has stemmed from tremendous feedback and support by many members of ISSFAL. Therefore, I view my position on the board as my responsibility to give back to the society.

My background is well suited for this position. I have attended most of the ISSFAL meetings starting with the conference in Montreal in 2002, when I was a doctoral student. Only my wedding and the birth of our second child have kept me away! I received the ISSFAL Early Career Award in 2012 in Vancouver. I also serve as an Associate Editor for PLEFA, the official journal for ISSFAL since ~2011. At the ISSFAL meetings, I have presented posters/talks and served as chair for various sessions. I have also contributed toward formal meetings with graduate students with a focus on their career paths. Finally, my entire lab presented several posters and talks at the previous meeting. Thus, I am significantly involved with ISSFAL.

I have two initial goals for the society. First, I plan to assist in expanding the membership of ISSFAL. As an example, there are numerous researchers within North Carolina and surrounding states that are conducting cutting-edge work with lipids that are not exposed to the benefits of ISSFAL. Given that I interact with some of these labs and attend local meetings, I will recruit these labs to join the society. Second, I will propose a variety of means including increased use of social media to attract the next generation of lipid scientists to ISSFAL. A key component here will be to enlist members from under-represented groups in lipid sciences in order to increase diversity.

Collectively, I have the passion and interest in serving ISSFAL, which has fostered my own career for the past 17 years. Thank you for your consideration and best wishes.

Saame “Raz” Shaikh

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