



2020/2021 Annual Report



*feeding the minds
that feed the world*

Mission

Connecting global food system communities to promote and advance the science of food and its application.

Vision

A world where science and innovation are connected and universally accepted as essential to improving food for everyone.



I think we can all agree that the challenges we have faced in the last 18 months have at times seemed insurmountable. Yet in many ways, this time has been filled with shining moments for IFT. We could have allowed the pandemic and related economic, social, and organizational crises to defeat us, but instead we seized the opportunity to pause, reevaluate, and refocus. We made some difficult decisions, ultimately helping us to accelerate innovation and set an exciting transformation in motion. Together, we made some notable accomplishments. Among the highlights:

- The IFT Board of Directors and membership approved updates to the processes for board candidate development, nominations, and elections that will help us more effectively attract, develop, and support strong, diverse volunteer leaders to drive our strategic vision for the future.
- Through programs such as our virtual DEI Discussions workshops and the Food Solutions New England 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge, we provided opportunities for our community members to deepen their understanding, explore different perspectives, and shift behaviors to engage more effectively from a diversity, equity, and inclusion standpoint.
- We conducted significant research to illuminate the needs of our members and the broader science of food community and began assessing how our current programs meet those needs and where we can innovate to create more value. We also used this research to inform the development of our revised strategic plan, which was approved by the Board of Directors in August.

- We leveraged learnings from this research to reinvent our annual event with the needs of our community in mind. Our reimaged virtual annual event, IFT FIRST, which stands for food improved by research, science, and technology, laid the groundwork for our return to McCormick Place in Chicago for IFT FIRST in July 2022.

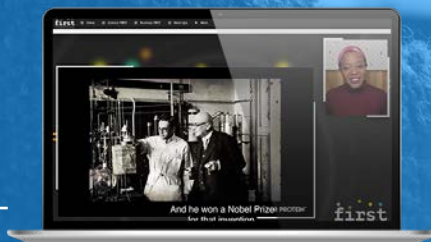
You'll find many more IFT accomplishments in the pages to follow and as you'll see, the immense challenges we faced truly brought out the best in us. We have a terrific Board of Directors, more than 1,000 dedicated volunteers, and talented IFT staff that did an outstanding job of embracing and making the most of these trying times. It has been my distinct honor to serve as president of this great association through it all. I look forward to continuing our work as we create an exciting, successful, and sustainable future for IFT.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noel Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Noel Anderson, PHD
IFT President, 2020-21

A Very Virtual Year



IFT has a long history of bringing the science of food community together for a combination of learning, networking, and information sharing. While these opportunities for connection and professional growth are important in the best of times, they are exponentially greater in the midst of a global pandemic.

While our ability to safely convene in-person was hindered, it didn't stop us from harnessing the power of our vibrant community. Through a variety of virtual events and experiences, IFT members were able to stay connected and engaged, develop new relationships, and continue enhancing and advancing their knowledge and work. This shift enabled our entire global community to engage in more meaningful ways throughout the year.

- **3,921 registrations** for live web events hosted by IFT's topic-based divisions
- **4 Council of Food Science Administrators (CFSA) events** specifically designed to convene conversations between academia, industry, and students
- **31 teams participated in redesigned**, virtual IFT Student Association (IFTSA) College Bowl Competition
- **8 IFTSA Area Meetings** converged in a single virtual experience, with more than 150 registered students
- **More than 38 IFT regional sections** transitioned their supplier nights and local events to a virtual format, for a total of more than 160 events
- Introduced monthly meetups to virtually deliver enhanced training to IFT section leaders
- **6,077 on-demand webcast registrations**
- Launched the Sci Dish podcast, which has garnered **2,090 downloads** in first five months

Jobs to be Done

The COVID-19 pandemic challenged IFT just as it did the community we serve. It also provided us with an opportunity to examine our current programs and membership offering and determine how we can more effectively serve our members and customers, and deliver on our mission in a more meaningful way. Leveraging the Jobs To Be Done framework, IFT conducted extensive research to gain timely, relevant insight into the struggles of current and former members across various segments of the science of food profession. Key outcomes include:

- Better understanding of member and annual event attendees' priorities, motivations, and needs
- Development of IFT's revised strategic plan
- Critical value-focused insights to inform membership development, recruitment, and retention efforts
- Creation of a standard product development process
- Opportunity to decide what we should work on and what we should stop



IFT Connect



Providing an engaging forum for members to connect, share ideas and research, learn new skills, and stay in the know is a high priority for IFT. As part of its goal around digital transformation, IFT launched the new IFT Connect online community, exclusively for IFT members.

- **15,245 total logins** in first five months
- **714 discussion threads** across 57 communities
- **387 discussion contributors**



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As part of its organizational commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), IFT remained steadfast in its efforts to create an environment where people are welcomed, included, and can bring their authentic selves to the organization and see themselves as part of the greater good.

- Added Inclusion to IFT's core values
- Introduced the Include Award in honor of George Washington Carver, which recognizes the work of an individual or organization in the science of food to advance DEI
- Created the structure and framework for our first two Member Resource Groups—the African American, African, Black Resource Group and Women's Resource Group
- Offered 6 DEI learning opportunities with 675 participants, including the opportunity to participate in the 7th Annual Food Solutions New England (FSNE) 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge



IFT FIRST

The global food system has undergone tremendous change in the last few years. In response, IFT reimagined its annual event and food expo to better meet the needs of the food science and innovation ecosystem. In 2021, IFT launched IFT FIRST, which stands for food improved by research, science, and technology. Held as a virtual event in its inaugural year, IFT FIRST provided a space for science of food professionals around the world to discover the latest global trends, newest innovations, and cutting-edge solutions while making strategic connections to advance their business and careers.

- **116 on-demand scientific sessions** and keynotes for a total of 42,790 minutes
- **13 live session conversations** brought 1,524 unique viewers
- **107 FIRST Cut session summaries** provided a high-level overview of each on-demand presentation
- **325 speakers**
- **400 technical research posters**
- **Nearly 100 suppliers** showcasing products and innovations

IFT FIRST will return with a brand new in-person and virtual experience from July 10-13, 2022.



IFT : **first**
ANNUAL EVENT AND EXPO

Global Food System Challenge

Providing a growing global population with access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy diet while maintaining the health of our planet will require transformational changes in the food system. As stewards of our food system, IFT holds great responsibility to lead, inspire, and advocate for change. IFT launched the first annual Seeding The Future Global Food Systems Challenge in May 2021. Funded by Seeding The Future Foundation, the Challenge seeks to inspire and support innovative, diverse, and multidisciplinary teams to create products and solutions that will help to transform the food system. In its inaugural year, the Challenge has created an innovation pipeline that spans across the globe.

- **Nearly 900 applications** submitted from startups, nonprofits, universities, research institutions, and multi-organization collaborations
- **More than 60 countries represented** among applicants
- **More than \$1 million in prizes and grants** to be awarded to winning teams

SEEDING THE FUTURE



**Global Food
System Challenge**

Science and Policy Initiatives

IFT proactively serves as an objective voice in public dialogue on food and nutrition-related issues. IFT's Science and Policy Initiatives (SPI) team continued to focus on advocating for science-based outcomes and increased funding in the science of food through various mechanisms, including developing white papers, hosting events, and responding to public calls for comments about various policy-related matters.

- Responded to several requests for information from the FDA, USDA, USAID, FFAR, and the Biden administration transition team on food safety, traceability, organic foods, climate, nutrition, supply chain resiliency, and the important role of science of food professionals

- Met with 7 regulatory and congressional representatives to advocate for funding in the science of food
- Partnered with UMass Amherst with USDA funding to host a two-day multi-stakeholder virtual workshop about the new Dietary Guidelines for Americans, focused on generating implementation guidelines and recommendations
- IFT's Global Food Traceability Center (GFTC) and several food industry organizations collaborated with industry stakeholders to complete the FDA Leafy Greens Produce Traceability pilot and issued guidance on the future use of the Produce Traceback Template
- IFT's GFTC continued its multiyear seafood traceability program in partnership with the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the

World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) with a focus on implementing the Global Dialogue for Seafood Traceability (GDST) standards

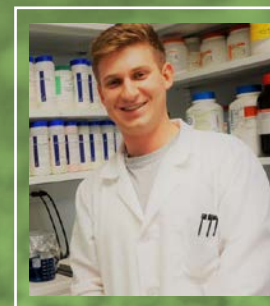
- Joined the Private Sector Mechanism (PSM) to enable participation in the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit. Connected the UN scientific group with leading food scientists and technologists for consultation and submitted a game changing idea relating to traceability
- Expanded Codex engagement by recruiting teams of expert volunteers to participate in 7 committees and working groups.
- Recommended past practice by submitting comments on pesticide residue and food labelling

Feeding Tomorrow

Feeding Tomorrow is the official foundation of the Institute Food Technologists. Each day, the foundation works to raise awareness of the science of food as a desirable career path and share solutions to help ensure a healthier tomorrow.

- More than **200,000 educators** and students reached through efforts to motivate curious and innovative young minds to consider careers in food science
- **\$25,000 given** to a selected recipient of the Inaugural Elwood Caldwell Graduate Fellowship
- **45 academic scholarships** totaling more than \$92,000
- **36 Volunteer Globally** opportunities with more than 22,000 views


The Foundation of the
Institute of Food Technologists



Feeding Tomorrow selected Jonathan Sogin, a doctoral candidate at Cornell University, as the inaugural recipient of the Elwood Caldwell Graduate Fellowship.

IFT Fellows Class of 2021

William Aimutis, PhD
North Carolina State University

Ajay Bhaskar, PhD, CFS
PepsiCo Inc.

Ellen Bradley, CFS
River City Food Group

Christina A. Mireles DeWitt, PhD
Oregon State University

Lisbeth Goddik, PhD
Oregon State University

Elvira Gonzalez de Mejia, PhD
University of Illinois

Kevin Keener, PhD, PE
University of Guelph

Monique Lacroix, PhD
INRS-Institut Armand-Frappier and
Canadian Irradiation Centre

Lisa Mauer, PhD
Purdue University

Hilary Thesmar, PhD, RD, CFS
FMI, The Food Industry Association

Kumar Venkitanarayanan, PhD
University of Connecticut

Achievement Award Recipients

Lifetime Achievement Award in
Honor of Nicolas Appert

Eric Decker, PhD
University of Massachusetts,
Amherst

Include Award in Honor of
George Washington Carver

Ruth Oniang'o, PhD
Rural Outreach Program-
Africa and African
Journal of Food, Agriculture,
Nutrition and Development

Distinguished Career Award in
Honor of Carl R. Fellers

Joe Regenstein, PhD
Cornell University

Distinguished Service Award in
Honor of Calvert L. Willey

Leslie Herzog
The Understanding & Insight Group
LLC

Excellence in Education Award in
Honor of William V. Cruess

John Coupland, PhD, CFS
The Pennsylvania State University

Humanitarian Award for Service
to the Science of Food in Honor
of Elizabeth Fleming Stier

Robert Gravani, PhD, CFS
Cornell University

Outstanding Partnership Award
in Honor of Myron Solberg

Aurora Saulo, PhD
Food Science Interests LLC

Public Health Award in Honor of
Babcock-Hart

Jianping Wu, PhD
University of Alberta

Outstanding Young Scientist
Award in Honor of Samuel Cate
Prescott

Xiaonan Lu, PhD
McGill University

Achievements in Microbial
Research for Food Safety Award
in Honor of Gerhard J. Haas

Yaguang Luo, PhD
U.S. Department of Agriculture,
ARS, NEA, BARC, FQL, EMFSL

Food Packaging Award in Honor
of Don Riester, Rees Davis,
and Aaron Brody

Dong Sun Lee, PhD
Kyungnam University

Research and Development
Award

V.M. Balasubramaniam, PhD
The Ohio State University

Sensory & Consumer Sciences
Achievement Award

John Hayes, PhD
The Pennsylvania State University

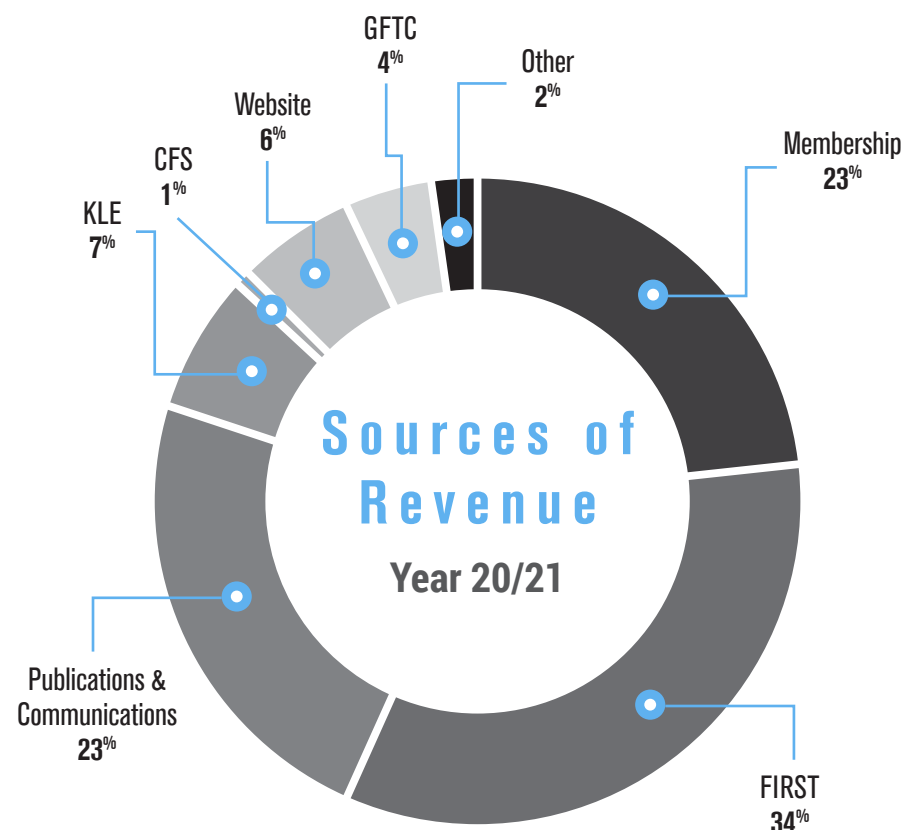
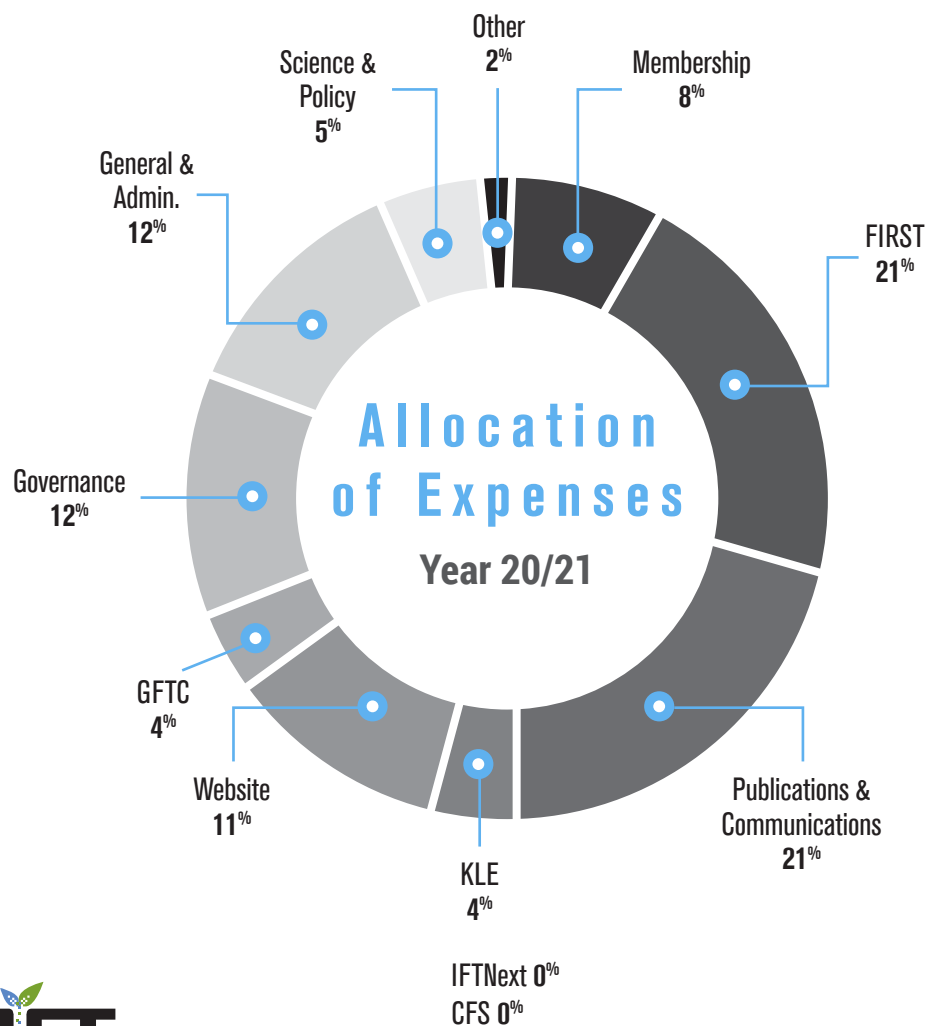
International Food Security
Award in Honor of Bor S. Luh

Joseph Awika, PhD
Texas A&M University

Financial Summary

- Final operating income was (\$7.8M).
- Investment income, which includes dividends, interest, and market gains, totaled \$6.5M.
- During FY 20-21, IFT invested \$0.3M of reserves in various program areas.

- Overall, IFT decreased its reserves by approximately (\$1.6M).
- IFT’s financial position remains very strong.
- Reserves (net assets) are approximately \$30.2M, which represents approximately 159% of the FY 21-22 budgeted operating expenses.



Balance Sheet

(As of August 31, 2021)

Assets

	Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/21	Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/20
Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,459,425	1,441,693
Accounts Receivable	336,728	600,971
Prepaid Expenses	551,744	552,170
Total Current Assets	2,347,896	2,594,834

Long-Term Asset - Misc.	529,804	434,572
Total Long Term Investments	41,368,269	41,038,559
Total Property & Equipment	853,072	1,224,640
Total Assets	45,099,041	45,292,605

Net Assets

Unrestricted:	Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/21	Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/20
IFT - Undesignated	31,500,406	31,103,912
IFT - IFTSA	245,071	189,631
Net Income (Loss) YTD	(1,562,555)	451,934
Total Net Assets	30,182,922	31,745,477

Liabilities

	Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/21	Fiscal Year Ending 08/31/20
Total Accounts Payable - IFT	771,868	677,838
Total Accrued Expenses	1,808,088	1,862,724

Deferred Revenue

Total Deferred Dues	765,806	878,633
Total Deferred Subscriptions	85,541	101,066
Total Deferred Annual Meeting	5,630,423	6,629,675
Other	1,704,714	698,571
Subtotal Deferred Revenue	8,186,484	8,307,945

Deferred Rent Abatement	634,095	761,391
Sublease Liability	0	9,768
Deferred Liability - Misc.	529,804	434,572
SBA-Liability	2,985,780	1,492,890

Total Liabilities **14,916,119** **13,547,128**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	45,099,041	45,292,605
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Income Statement

FY 20/21 IFT Sources of Revenue	
Membership	1,796,136
FIRST	2,584,129
Publications & Communications	1,782,720
KLE	538,214
CFS	59,758
Website	460,334
GFTC	337,463
IFTNext	3,040
Other	171,711
Total Revenue	7,733,505

FY 20/21 IFT Allocation of Expenses	
Membership	1,198,890
FIRST	3,271,155
Publications & Communications	3,221,988
KLE	632,346
CFS	31,370
Website	1,700,243
GFTC	610,231
IFTNext	44,981
Governance	1,866,577
General & Admin.	1,888,716
Science & Policy	818,460
Other	218,342
Total Expenses	15,503,297
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(7,769,792)