







2023/2024

ANNUAL REPORT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One of the things I love most about music is its power to transport us to a specific time or place. Some songs take me back to college, while Taylor Swift's music reminds me of my daughter. I'm pretty sure I'll never hear any of the songs Horn Funk played at IFT FIRST this year without fondly remembering my year as IFT president—and what a year it has been!

It's been an honor to serve this community as president, working closely with the Board of Directors and IFT staff to advance our vision of a world where science and innovation are key to improving food for all. IFT has created numerous opportunities for learning, connection, and growth for the global food system, from networking to advocacy and so much more. While IFT FIRST remains a personal highlight, our impact extends far beyond it. These are a few areas I'm particularly proud of:

- Our Sections rock: This year, I had the honor of representing IFT at events in South Africa, London, New York, and Japan, while our Board Members attended several others, most of them aligned with our 47 regional and international Sections. Sections are crucial to the success of our global community, offering local access to skills development, networking, and career-building opportunities. I am pleased that Sections will be a key focus over the next few years.
- Speaking up to feed the world: Our advocacy
 efforts have also expanded, positioning IFT as a
 trusted resource in shaping food policy and advancing
 the acceptance of food science innovations. This
 includes collaborating with scientific associations
 on the Codex Strategic Plan 2026–2031, engaging
 with the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research

on workforce development, and influencing draft legislation for the U.S. Farm Bill. We've also convened conversations on key topics like state-level additives regulations, the role of food science in global food and nutrition security, food safety, and sustainable food systems.

• An audience of over 1 billion: IFT's media presence saw tremendous growth, with more than 1,130 placements in major outlets such as The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and CNN, reaching an estimated global audience of more than a billion. This amplified visibility has showcased the vital role of food science in addressing global food challenges and reinforced our community's importance in ensuring a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply.

I celebrate all of these accomplishments and look forward to what lies ahead. Building on IFT's 85-year legacy, we are embracing our role as a convener and advocate for a global community representing nearly 3 million in more than 90 countries, all of whom are focused on improving the food system and feeding the world. As I pass the torch to incoming President Chris Daubert, I am confident that the IFT community will continue to thrive and lead in shaping the future of food.



With gratitude, Sean J. Leighton, MS, MBA IFT President 2023-24



60 VISION

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

MISSION

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



ADVOCATING FOR THE SCIENCE OF FOOD

Advocating for our community is one of IFT's top mission-driven commitments. By promoting and advancing the science of food and its application, we can help feed the world. This purpose drives IFT's advocacy across three critical areas:

1. Influencing global policy Elevating our communities' voices to influence local and global legislation and policy.

2. Improving global food traceability Developing data standards, technologies, and systems to help government agencies and industry keep the food system safe.

3. Changing the media story Becoming the trusted, go-to source for information with top, global media outlets to show how food sciences are critical to feeding the world.

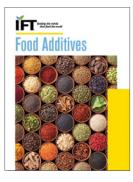




LEADING IN SCIENCE AND POLICY

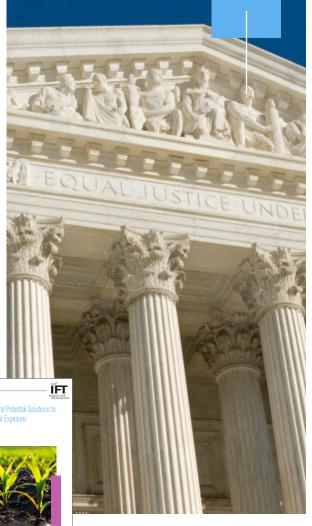
IFT's Science and Policy team believes in the essential role of food sciences across food systems. This year, we focused on elevating the role of processing to ensure food affordability, availability, accessibility, and acceptability. Key activities include:

- Published two white papers from IFT's Food & Nutrition Security Steering Committee on using processing to improve food and nutrition security and on processing technologies that enable the use of biofortified and underutilized crops.
- Cosponsored two Congressional Lunch & Learns with the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR); topics included nutrition policy and food processing innovations.
- Responded to state food additive bans with webinars, an additives toolkit, and other resources, and advocated for a science-based approach in Illinois.
- Advanced research and dialogue on ultra-processed foods (UPFs) with a journals special issue, a **UPFs content collection**, and an **IFT FIRST** featured session, which garnered coverage from CBS News.
- Addressed the critical role of food science in food and nutrition security at the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics' annual Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo.











ENHANCING GLOBAL FOOD TRACEABILITY

IFT's Global Food Traceability Center (GFTC) maintained its role as a worldwide leader in food traceability. The GFTC is accelerating research to explore AI and new technology capabilities and expanding to new commodities and stakeholders. Highlights include:

- Engaged with 13 government agencies across five continents to support regulatory harmonization of traceability requirements in food systems.
- Supported multiple food system collaborations and working groups; became a founding
 participant of the <u>Food Industry FSMA 204 Collaboration</u> to enhance industry-wide
 awareness of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Traceability Rule.
- Launched the <u>Enterprise Traceability Education Suite</u>, an all-in-one resource for comprehensive traceability training.





IFT-AND YOU-IN THE NEWS

IFT's media presence grew by more than 50% over last year with IFT and our global community of experts being prominently featured in more than 1,130 articles—an average of nearly four articles every day.

Our scholarly journals, the *Journal of Food Science* and *Comprehensive* Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety, were cited in more than 330 global articles.

The IFT community advocated on behalf of science in key media conversations, including:

- Al in Food: Fortune, Forbes
- Ultra-Processed Foods: The Wall Street Journal, CNN
- Artificial Food Dyes/Food Additives: <u>HuffPost</u>, <u>STAT</u>
- Food Safety: The Atlantic, Southern Living
- Nutrition: National Geographic, NBC

For more IFT media coverage, explore IFT in the News.









Southern Living STAT THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.





CONVENING THE COMMUNITY

IFT believes in the adage: "To go fast, go alone. To go far, go together." Working across industry, government, and academia, we collectively promote and advance the science of food and its application in every part of the food system. Our goal: to provide the world's population of more than 8 billion with safe, affordable, acceptable, and plentiful daily nourishment as they gather for meals wherever they live.

We convene in person—at IFT FIRST, Section events, and universities. We convene virtually—through learning experiences and online communities. No matter where we are, we convene our global community to feed the world.





IFT FIRST: GROWING BUSINESS, ADVANCING RESEARCH

IFT FIRST: Annual Event and Expo returned to Chicago's McCormick Place in July, hosting the largest global food science and innovation expo. This year's event grew over last year in number of attendees and exhibitors and demonstrated IFT's commitment to broadening our global impact. **New features**: an international delegation program with **122** global delegates, exclusive expo tours, a Co-Manufacturers Pavilion, and topic-based networking via "Continue the Conversation with Braindate."

Some of the many highlights:



16,405 attendees



1,134 exhibitors (a 12.8% growth)



international attendees



companies in the Startup Pavilion



idenitity-based networking events



Division socials hosting **1,100+** attendees.







Scientific Program

IFT FIRST's Scientific Program boasted unparalleled scientific content and education with the reintroduction of individual presentations to highlight innovations and advances across the food sciences.

- 592 educational sessions across 10 scientific categories.
- 200+ hours of educational programming.
- Three Keynotes and four Featured Sessions.
- 20 Scientific & Technical Forums.
- 54 Individual Presentations.
- 426 research posters.
- Powered by 1,305 volunteers.



IFT MEMBERSHIP: FEEDING THE WORLD

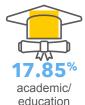
IFT membership offers access to a vibrant global community of experts, exclusive networking opportunities, cutting-edge research, innovation inspiration, and career development resources.

A diverse group comprised of food technologists, researchers, scientists, educators, students, and others, our member community spans industry, academia, and government to propel a safe, nutritious, and sustainable global food system.



Segments









non-profit





MEMBER RESOURCE GROUPS

Diversity and inclusion are central to IFT's mission to convene global food system communities, leveraging the diverse capabilities of our members. This year, our four **Member Resource Groups** launched bimonthly virtual meetups focused on community building, resource sharing, and addressing personal challenges. In addition, they hosted five DEI-focused webinars on topics that included African heritage foods, neurodiversity and innovation, and women's experiences in the food system.









Volunteers Drive Our Mission Forward

IFT's dedicated volunteers contribute time, expertise, and diverse perspectives to enrich our global community and advance our mission.

2000+

volunteers

countries represented

400,000+ hours contributed



DIVISIONS: ELEVATING THE SCIENCE

IFT's topical, interest-based groups, known as Divisions, share and develop knowledge, collaborate, and innovate through webcasts, podcasts, in-person events, and student competitions. With 25 groups whose members span more than 86 countries—a 13% increase over last year—Divisions offer IFT members multiple ways to learn, stay engaged, and expand their networks.

- 359 active Division leaders.
- Hosted **14** webinars with a total of **890** registrants.
- Sent more than 40 interest-based newsletters. reaching a global audience of 51,700.
- Division Graduate Student Oral Competitions took place live at IFT FIRST for the first time ever on the Research Showcase **Stage** with **56 finalists** showcasing their latest research.







SECTIONS: IMPACTING CAREERS CLOSE TO HOME

Based across the United States and in four countries, IFT's 47 Global Sections offer abundant opportunities to network, learn, build skills, and drive change locally through Suppliers' Nights, educational sessions, philanthropic activities, and programming for students and new professionals.

- Hosted more than 100 events that reached an audience of 20,000.
- Granted more than \$190,000 in scholarships and student awards.
- Organized **15** supplier events, with more than **1,700** exhibitors.
- Launched Section Impact Awards at IFT FIRST, honoring five Sections for innovation.
- 18 in-person IFT staff or Board Member visits to IFT Sections, including in Japan and the United Kingdom.





IFT STUDENT ASSOCIATION (IFTSA)

The IFT Student Association (IFTSA), our dynamic, student-led community, provides emerging food scientists opportunities for leadership, scholarships, internships, and networking. Membership grew by 8% this year. IFTSA hosts an array of competitions and awards annually.

- Six competitions in product development, research, and food science trivia and two awards.
- Chapter of the Year Award granted to **lowa State University**; Excellence in Leadership Awards conferred upon graduate student Cyprian Syeunda, Texas A&M University; and undergraduate Sebastián Andrés Garzón García, Universidad San Francisco de Quito.
- Six finalist competition teams or individuals per competition—representing Canada Costa Rica, Ecuador, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Thailand, and the United States presented findings to judges at IFT FIRST.
- More than \$28,750 was granted to competition and award winners.

Find a complete list of winners at IFT.org/studentcompetitions.







FEEDING TOMORROW

IFT's Feeding Tomorrow Fund remained committed to its mission to attract, support, and celebrate the food scientists and innovators of the future and raise awareness about food science as a desirable career path. Impact was demonstrated through three strategic promises: motivate, support, leverage.

Motivate

Empowering educators and helping students explore food science career paths.

- Reached **124,505** unique views of early career IFT member interviews on Cue Career, an online career exploration resource.
- Presented three Women in Science Week panel discussions on Pathful. a virtual career platform connecting food science experts with K-12 classrooms and garnering 395 student impressions.
- Hosted a June educator event with 65 teachers representing 21 states and Puerto Rico, reaching 14,000 students.

Support

IFT IN PRINT CEST IN PILOTALIGHT

Addressing financial barriers to education through scholarships to help ensure that those passionate about pursuing food science can attain their goals.

96 students from 15 countries awarded \$195,000 in scholarships.



Leverage

Hosting **Developing Solutions** for Developing Countries, the IFTSA's annual competition promoting the development of new products to improve the lives of those in developing countries.

- This year's winner: HopEnergy, University of Costa Rica. for an instant powdered drink designed for migrants and made from panela, milk, grains, and
- \$3,000 cash prize awarded to the student-led team.
- All finalists were international teams.





FUN RUN + WALK FUNDRAISER













STIMULATING IDEAS, DIALOGUE, AND RESEARCH

IFT is here to foster the future of food. Through our award-winning monthly magazine and acclaimed journals, we bring valuable insights, original research, and fresh perspectives to the food science community and beyond. Our publications aim to support and inspire those who work every day to make food safer, more sustainable, and innovative. Together, we're building a better food system—one discovery, one conversation at a time.







PUBLICATIONS FOOD TECHNOLOGY MAGAZINE

- Food Technology won a national gold award for its 2023 series "On the Road to Net Zero" from the American Society of Business Publication Editors.
- The 2024 IFT Compensation and Career Path Report—the largest and most ambitious to date—debuted at IFT FIRST, covering U.S. food science salary, benefits, and career trends.
- The Food News Now family of newsletters surpassed 50,000 monthly touchpoints.
- IFT's "Content Spotlight" LinkedIn newsletter, promoting thematic articles, events, and resources, exceeded 70,000 subscribers within six months.

ft Food Technology







OMNIVORE

IFT's Omnivore podcast surpassed 20,000 listens, averaging more than 400 per episode, with listeners across 131 countries





PUBLICATIONS

IFT JOURNALS: COMPREHENSIVE REVIEWS IN FOOD SCIENCE AND FOOD SAFETY AND JOURNAL OF FOOD SCIENCE

- Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety (CRFSFS) held its No.3 global ranking by Clarivate, with a 12.0 impact factor. It placed in the 99th percentile among food science journals in Scopus.
- Journal of Food Science (JFS) expanded its special issues program, developing four on key scientific topics and hosting a session on the first of these topics—ultra-processed foods—at IFT FIRST.
- Record manuscript submissions led to faster publishing, reducing time to online publication by 28 days for CRFSFS and 33 days for JFS.









CULTIVATING INNOVATION

IFT is dedicated to solving critical food system challenges by inspiring innovation across our global community.

Through collaboration, research, and knowledge-sharing, we empower the food science community to create sustainable, safe, and accessible food solutions to feed the world's growing population.





GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEM CHALLENGE

Each year, the Seeding The Future Foundation and the Institute of Food Technologists host the Seeding The Future Global Food System Challenge, which awards \$1 million annually to high-impact innovations that transform food systems using sustainable practices.

This year, more than **900** applications were submitted, drawing applicants from **78** countries. Awards went to two Grand Prize winners (each receiving \$250,000), three Growth Grant winners each receiving \$100,000), and eight Seed Grant winners (each receiving \$25,000.)

Read more about the Challenge and this year's winners.











STARTUP PAVILION PITCH COMPETITION

This year, 13 companies participated in The Pitch, a multistage, rapid-pitch contest located in the Startup Pavilion at IFT FIRST, where global food startups present innovative products that solve food system challenges.

The 2024 winner, Scentian Bio (Auckland, New Zealand), received a \$10,000 prize for its portable, super-sensitive handheld biosensor—gaining exposure to the event's 16,000+ attendees and 1,100+ exhibitors and reaching a listening audience in 130+ countries as guests on IFT's **Omnivore podcast**. The competition's runners-up, Chainparency (Houston, Texas) and NuCicer (Davis, California), were each awarded \$2,500. Read more about the 2024 Pitch Competition and its winners.

All prize money was generously funded by the **Seeding The Future Foundation**.









RECOGNIZING EXCELLENCE AND IMPACT

IFT celebrates outstanding achievements in food science and technology through our prestigious annual Achievement Awards and Fellows recognition.

Our Achievement Awards celebrate individuals and teams who have made extraordinary contributions to science, technology, applications, and service within the global food system.

The IFT Fellow designation honors IFT members who have demonstrated exceptional career excellence and made profound contributions to IFT and the broader food science community.



2024 IFT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Public Health Award in honor of Babcock-Hart & Gilbert A. Leveille Mehmood A. Khan, MD, FRCP

Hevolution Foundation



Outstanding Young Scientist Award in honor of Samuel Cate Prescott

Matthew Moore, PhD University of Massachusetts, Amherst



Collaborative Research Grant in honor of Marcel Loncin

Carmen I. Moraru, PhD Cornell University



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

Hyun Jin Park, PhD Korea University



Research & Development Award Anwesha Sarkar, PhD University of Leeds, England



Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Nicolas Appert Harjinder Singh, PhD Massey University, New Zealand



Distinguished Career Award in honor of Carl R. Fellers. PhD

Rakesh K. Singh, PhD University of Georgia



Excellence in Education Award in honor of William V. Cruess

Clint Stevenson, PhD North Carolina State University



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





International Food Security Award in honor of Bor S. Luh

Randy W. Worobo, PhD Cornell University



2024 IFT FELLOWS



Hao Feng, PhD Blue Cross Blue Shield Endowed Professor of Urban Food Systems and Professor of Food Bioprocess Engineering at North Carolina A&T State University



Phrosso Economidou Hadjilucas, PhD Adjunct Lecturer in Food Science, University of Nicosia, Cyprus



Mark A. Kantor, PhD Nutrition Scientist, U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition



Mary Ann Lila, PhD Professor, Food Bioprocessing and Nutrition Sciences, North Carolina State University



Liu, PhD Seafood Technology Specialist/Extension Professor, University of Maryland Sea Grant **Extension Program**



Suresh Pillai, PhD Professor, Texas A&M University



Shyam Sablani, PhD Professor, Washington State University



Cordelia Selomulya, PhD, FTSE CEng FIChemE Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Engineering, University of New South Wales, Australia



Darryl Sullivan Chief Science Officer, Eurofins Scientific



Vivian C.H. Wu Research Leader, USDA ARS



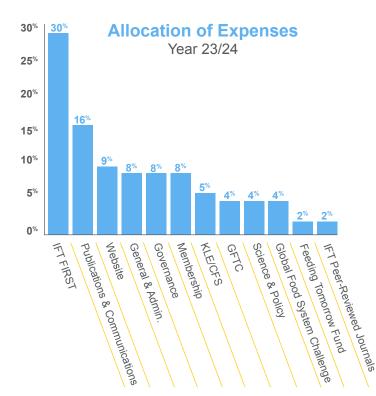
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

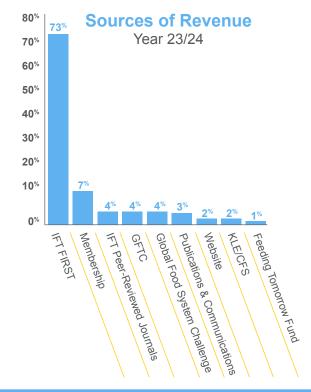
IFT's strong financial foundation maintained its solid performance and demonstrated growth. This allowed us to continue to invest confidently—and with impact—in the future of food science and our community.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- IFT increased its reserves by \$4.3M.
- Net Operating Income was \$112K.
- Employee Retention Credit was \$474K.
- Investment income, which includes dividends, interest, and market gains, totaled \$6.4M.
- During FY 23/24, IFT invested \$2.7M of reserves in various program areas.
- IFT's strong financial foundation maintained its solid performance and demonstrated growth. This allowed us to continue to invest confidently—and with impact—in the future of food science and our community.
- Reserves (net assets) are approximately \$43.9M (including FTF), which represents approximately 154% of the FY 24/25 budgeted operating expenses.







BALANCE SHEET IFT - Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2024

Assets	Fiscal Year 23/24	Fiscal Year 22/23	Variance
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,943,750.96	3,497,161.94	(553,410.98)
Accounts Receivable			,
	1,064,773.44	878,414.11	186,359.33
Other Current Assets	1,777,201.47	1,304,026.76	473,174.71
Total Current Assets	5,785,725.87	5,679,602.81	106,123.06
Long Term Assets			
Long Term Investments	50,324,984.92	43,905,632.30	6,419,352.62
Property & Equipment	2,267,544.20	1,232,335.32	1,035,208.88
Total Long Term Assets	52,592,529.12	45,137,967.62	7,454,561.50
Total Assets	58,378,254.99	50,817,570.43	7,560,684.56
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Accounts Payable - IFT	3,249,672.76	1,770,099.58	1,479,573.18
20100 - Intercompany Payable	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Short Term Liabilities	3,249,672.76	1,770,099.58	1,479,573.18
Accrued Expenses	2,847,729.43	2,520,852.75	326,876.68
Deferred Dues	835,329.45	883,268.59	(47,939.14)
Deferred Subscriptions	71,497.40	82,824.57	(11,327.17)
Deferred Annual Meeting	4,626,289.00	3,564,827.70	1,061,461.30
Deferred Revenue	744,635.44	654,272.35	90,363.09
Other Deferred Revenue	2,081,458.09	1,718,669.04	362,789.05
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	(8,359,209.38)	(6,903,862.25)	(1,455,347.13)
Total Liabilities	14,456,611.57	11,194,814.58	3,261,796.99
Have deleted	0.4.070.007.00	04.005.544.50	0.070.675.04
Unrestricted	34,378,087.20	31,005,511.56	3,372,575.64
Temp-restricted	2,837,010.82	1,910,698.89	926,311.93
Perm-restricted	6,706,545.40	6,706,545.40	0.00
Net Assets	43,921,643.42	39,622,755.85	4,298,887.57
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	58,378,254.99	50,817,570.43	7,560,684.56



INCOME STATEMENT

Statement of Activities Year Ended August 31, 2024

IFT Sources of Revenue

Membership	1,891,044
IFT FIRST	18,869,885
Publications & Communications	694,149
KLE/CFS	498,311
Global Food System Challenge	1,144,640
Website	577,729
GFTC	974,773
IFT Peer-Reviewed Journals	1,079,660
Feeding Tomorrow Fund	182,160
Other	20,886
Total Revenue	25,933,237

IFT Allocation of Expenses

Membership	2,109,507
FT FIRST	7,847,298
Publications & Communications	4,135,597
KLE/CFS	1,269,551
Global Food System Challenge	1,128,916
Vebsite	2,176,203
GFTC	916,220
FT Peer-Reviewed Journals	513,743
Governance	2,128,917
General & Admin.	2,062,296
Science & Policy	1,032,828
Feeding Tomorrow Fund	499,995
Total Expenses	25,821,072
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	112,164





ift.org



