

July 12, 2004

Dear Colleagues:

The Executive Committee of the Nutrition Division met by conference call on June 18th. It was the consensus from that meeting that the present protocols regarding the development of forums and short courses are perhaps not being adhered to fully. It is our understanding that when proposed topics and outlines for forums and short courses are in the direct purview of a Division's subject matter area, the Division is to be made aware of these considerations especially as the IFT has asked that Divisions utilize longer-term planning for symposia topics for the annual meeting.

The subject was addressed at the Nutrition Division's May 19th conference call as members noticed that there is a short course prior to the annual meeting on obesity and a forum on obesity.

(Session F3: Room N-204 Wednesday AM FORUM: Addressing obesity: Ingredients Moderator(s): B. Homs, GTC Nutrition LLC Panelist(s): L. C. Douglas, GTC Nutrition LLC M. Hegsted, Louisiana State Univ. G. C. Fahey, Jr., Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign S. Lawlor, Marigot International M. Mikola, Finn ...) The Division also is having two symposia on this topic. While obesity is certainly an important and relevant topic, we are concerned that attendance at any one of the events may be affected by the having four obesity-related sessions.

We feel that by notifying the Division of events being planned within its purview the Division can serve as a valuable resource to ensure that topics will not be duplicated as well as contribute to planning and identifying speakers. For example, we in the Division had talked about having a symposium on the Food Guide Pyramid and its impact on industry at next year's annual meeting (after the recommendations had been issued). We now read that there is a forum on this issue.

10%Session F5

Session F5: Room N-204 Thursday PM FORUM: The revised Food Guide Pyramid: What will it mean to the industry? Moderator(s): P. Hutch, National Dairy Council L. E. Hoolihan, Dairy Council of California Panelist(s): E. J. Hentges, USDA-Center for Nutrition Policy & Promotion S. T. Borra, International ...

There is good precedent for collaboration. For example, the Nutrition Division has had excellent communication with the Hot Topics Committee on the topics they have proposed for the 2004 Annual Meeting.

We in the Division are directing this request to the Education Committee and to the Annual Meeting Planning Committee. If there are others that should be alerted, please let us know. Overall this kind of coordination is not only good for the Divisions, but by having less duplication it will make a stronger annual meeting. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

The Nutrition Division