

## **Position Statement: MAHA Strategy Report**

Protecting the health of our children is everyone's responsibility. IFT is here to help address childhood chronic diseases through, in part, creating a healthier food system. But to achieve that, applicable actions, interventions, and policies must be grounded in robust, peer-reviewed, consensus science. The recently released MAHA Strategy Report spotlights two critical areas of focus toward creating that healthier food system – the need for increased research funding and the need for evidence-based scientific solutions that help inform food policy recommendations.

The MAHA Committee recognized in the Report that further engagement with the food science community is essential toward achieving their health and wellness goals, and for more than 85 years, IFT members spanning academia, government, and industry have been the driving force behind some of our most groundbreaking food research. This aligns with the MAHA Strategy Report that champions the pursuit of rigorous, scientific research to help ensure informed decisions and drive innovative solutions. Historically, both publicly and privately funded research has produced tremendous benefits throughout the food system – from agricultural production to food manufacturing, as well as in foodservice and home consumption.

There is an urgent need to address increasingly complex food challenges through agrifood research investment to not only protect our food supply, but our children and their future. The call to action around scientific research in the MAHA Strategy Report is a step in the right direction, and IFT and its members look forward to working with HHS to help bring that research forward.