



Press Kit



The Institute of Food Technologists is a nonprofit scientific society committed to advancing the science of food and its application across the global food system.



Our Values

Our Vision:

A world where science and innovation are universally accepted as essential to a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply for everyone.

Our Mission:

To advance the science of food and its application across the global food system.

Our Expertise:

IFT's Science and Policy Initiatives department plays an active role in government policy activities at global, national, state, and local levels.

Demographics & History

Founded In
1939

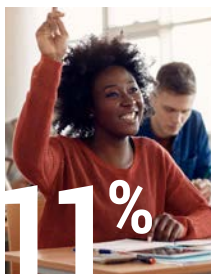
Members
(approximately)
12,000+

Countries Represented
100+

Our membership is comprised of food scientists, technologists, and related professionals from academia, government, and industry.



88%
Industry/Other



11%
Academia



1%
Government/Regulatory

Membership Benefits



Inclusive community
of professionals dedicated
to advancing the science of food



Opportunities to connect
and collaborate with
professional peers to
drive innovation



Tools and courses
to enhance professional
capacity and competency



Access to cutting edge
technical and scientific
information

Beyond the Organization



Global Food Traceability Center:

A public-private partnership program within IFT created to advance the science and practice of traceability across the food system. Its mission is to engage food system stakeholders in their traceability journey through applied research, capacity building, advocacy, system design and implementation. It provides objective advice and practical expertise to industry, government, philanthropic, and NGO partners.



IFT Feeding Tomorrow Fund

The IFT Feeding Tomorrow Fund aims to bring creative and innovative minds to the science of food and supports the world's next generation of professionals. Working with leaders from around the world, Feeding Tomorrow shares the collective knowledge of the food science community in order to ensure a safe, nutritious, and sustainable food supply for everyone.

IFT FIRST Annual Event & Expo

- One of the leading food technology events and expos of its kind
- **15,000+** attendees
- **145+** sessions
- **550+** poster presentations
- **775+** exhibitors

Publications

- *Food Technology* magazine
- *Journal of Food Science*
- *Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety*

IFT Student Association

- A forward-looking, student-governed community of IFT members
- A global community of emerging food professionals who are passionate and informed, ready to advance the future of food and its global sustainability
- Annual product development competitions, scholarships, networking, and leadership



Leadership

For More Information:

Leisha Nicol

Sr. Director, Integrated
Marketing & Brand Strategy

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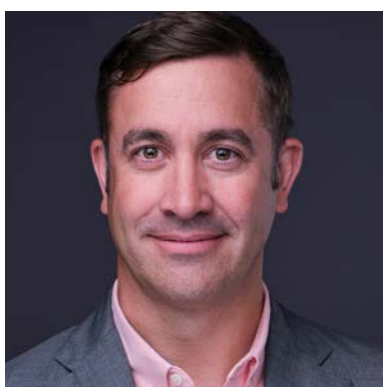
Chris Downs, PhD
IFT President

Chris Downs has more than 30 years of experience in the food industry as a scientist, innovation leader, and executive, with a focus on science and innovations that support the development of foods and beverages that are healthy, safe, and sustainably produced. Chris brings global perspectives on the opportunity for the science of food to improve the global food system.

Chris wants to be known for shaping and improving organizations that support food industry professionals in delivering sustainable nutrition to more than 9 billion people by 2050.

Chris is general manager for Crop & Food Science with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries in Queensland, Australia. He previously led the Food Program with CSIRO, Australia's national science agency. He works with governments, universities, and industry partners around Australia and the world to bring the latest food system innovations to the market and consumers.

Chris Downs has extensive governance and Board experience, including as Board Chair, in organizations and companies involved in science and innovation in the food system. Recent Board roles include the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology and the High Value Nutrition National Science Challenge in New Zealand.



Sean Leighton, MBA
IFT President - Elect

Sean Leighton is global vice president of food safety, quality and regulatory at Cargill, one of the world's largest food companies with 155,000 employees in more than 70 countries. After years of trying to figure out if he was a business mind trapped in a scientist's body or vice-versa, Leighton is tapping into both in his Cargill role, responsible for advancing Cargill's food safety, quality and regulatory strategy, and contributing to public policy that protects consumers around the world.

Prior to joining Cargill in 2017, Sean led quality, safety, and environmental sustainability for The Coca-Cola Company in North America and for three years in Europe. His passion for the personal and professional development of his teams, driving change, and his growing commitment to gender equity in the workplace has been recognized by both Coca-Cola and Cargill, and has resulted in noticeable cultural transformations in both organizations. In his free time, he enjoys exercising and reading (anything and everything).

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Vickie Kloeris, MS, CFS
IFT Immediate Past President

Vickie Kloeris recently retired from NASA where she worked in space food systems for a total of 34 years. Her last position was manager of the International Space Station Food System. In that position, she served as technical manager for the NASA contract that produces food for the International Space Station (ISS) crews. She is currently working on a part-time basis as a consultant for NASA food systems.

She has authored and co-authored numerous publications and has received several awards including NASA's highest award, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal in 2019. During her career, she was twice awarded the NASA Exceptional Service Medal and has received the Johnson Space Center Director's Commendation Award. In 2017, she was given an Outstanding Alumni Award by the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at her alma mater, Texas A&M University.



Christie Tarantino-Dean,
FASAE, CAE
IFT Chief Executive Officer

Christie Tarantino-Dean has worked in association management for over 20 years. She came to IFT from the Association Forum of Chicagoland, which boasts 46,000 association professionals as their members. This work gave her great exposure to the challenges and successes of the more than 1,000 professional societies and trade associations located in Chicago. Prior to that, Christie served as the Executive Director of the Academy of General Dentistry, which has 35,000 members and 62 chapters. While working as the Associate Vice President of Member Relations at the Professional Convention Management Association, she gained extensive experience in convention management. Christie began her association career as Membership Services Director with the Alabama State Bar Association.

Food Science Communicators

For More Information:

Leisha Nicol

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Expertise in the scientific study of food covers a broad spectrum of topics so finding a reliable source for your story can take time. The Institute of Food Technologists provides quick access to expert sources through our Food Science Communicators.

Food Science Communicators include food scientists and nutritionists, laboratory researchers and extension specialists committed to sharing their knowledge about food with the public. Many have doctorates in food science, nutrition, or related fields and are either currently or previously affiliated with universities or colleges.

Reporters interested in conducting media interviews with our experts should contact IFT's media relations team for an interview.

Core Sciences

- Biotechnology
- Food Chemistry
- Food Microbiology
- Food Safety
- Food Preparation
- Food Processing
- Functional Foods
- Genetically Modified Foods
- Nanotechnology
- Nutraceuticals & Functional Foods
- Nutrition
- Product Development
- Sensory Science
- Toxicology & Safety Evaluation



Focus Areas

- Chronic Diseases & Food
- Consumer Trends
- Dairy Foods
- Dietary Guidelines
- Food Packaging
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Health & Wellness
- Labeling & Health Claims
- Organic Foods
- Refrigerated & Frozen Foods
- Regulatory Issues
- Religious & Ethnic Foods
- Vitamins & Minerals
- Water Safety



Resources Fact Sheet

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Publications

Comprehensive REVIEWS in Food Science and Food Safety

Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety (CRFSFS) is a peer-reviewed online journal published bi-monthly. Review papers provide in-depth coverage of a narrowly defined topic on any food science or food safety aspect, including nutrition, engineering, microbiology, sensory evaluation, physiology, genetics, economics, regulations, and history.

ft Food Technology™

Food Technology is IFT's monthly magazine addressing all facets of food science and technology. Its timely, in-depth coverage includes the latest information on research developments, industry news, regulatory affairs, consumer product innovations, and health and wellness trends.

Journal of **Food Science**

The Journal of Food Science (JFS) is IFT's premier science journal, containing peer-reviewed reports covering original research and critical reviews of all basic and applied aspects of food science for food professionals. JFS contains ten sections including food chemistry, toxicology, engineering, physical properties, microbiology, safety, sensory, nanoscience, health, and nutrition.



Scientific Papers

IFT produces and publishes several different types of documents that provide scientific and technical information on food-related topics and issues. Examples include publications on the topics of food product date labeling, and antimicrobial resistance.



Online Courses & Live Webcasts

Focused on key food science topics and taught by experts in the field, these courses integrate online learning principles with the benefits of classroom-style education. IFT's live webcasts offer current, credible food science information presented by faculty experts in an interactive forum. Viewers can clarify fundamental concepts, question equivocal perspectives, and deepen their understanding of a wide range of key food science topics.

IFT Food Facts Videos

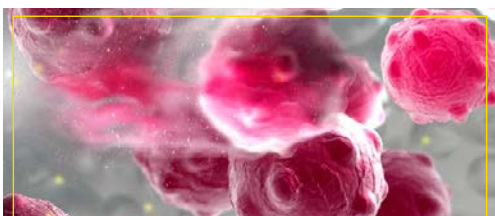
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IFT Food Facts videos are short, fun, animated videos that tackle tough topics in food safety, nutrition, food chemistry and everything else having to do with the science of food. Each video features an IFT member expert and has an accompanying fact sheet that provides additional information on the topic. These are excellent resources for background information and great for including in articles or sharing via social media.



What is CRISPR?



**Preparing Meat:
The Chemistry Behind Marination**



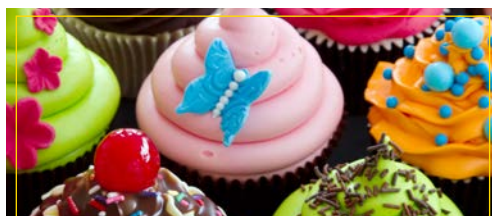
Science Behind Ice Cream Revealed



The 411 on Functional Foods



Processed Food



Sugars: A Scientific Overview

View all the food facts at ift.org/foodfacts