



## 2019-2020 Proposed Election Slate of Candidates

Chicago Section IFT is pleased to announce the launch of the 2019 Leadership Election. This process includes notifying you of the slate of candidates identified for CSIFT 2019-2020 Officers and the Board of Directors.

IFT runs the election process so CSIFT members will receive the election notification via IFT. Watch for your election ballot to arrive via email. The election opens February 1, 2019 and closes March 4, 2019.

### Candidates for Officers

#### Candidate for Chair Elect



**Courtney Hayes, Senior Food Scientist, Griffith Foods**

I am a Senior Food Scientist at Griffith Foods and have been a member of IFT and the Chicago Section for 5 years. I joined the Membership Committee as a volunteer in January 2015. Since joining the committee, I have helped successfully plan and execute our quarterly membership events, along with helping with member outreach, and the ambassador program. I became Co-Chair of the Membership Committee in September 2016.

I have just completed my first year as a member of the Executive Committee. Volunteering with the CSIFT has helped me grow professionally and personally and has significantly expanded my professional network in the food industry. I hope to use my role as the Chair Elect to bring new and exciting ideas to the section that encourage others in the industry to become engaged, help them grow professionally, and increase their passion for the food industry.

**Candidate for Treasurer:** 3-year term (this is the third year of the 3 year term, although appointed, the Treasurer is required to be on the official ballot)



**John Budin, Vice President Product Safety and Quality at FONA International, Inc.**

John Budin, former Chair and current Treasurer of the Chicago Section IFT, is employed as Vice President of Food Safety & Quality for FONA International, Inc.

John has dedicated many years of volunteer service to the Chicago Section IFT. Prior to being elected as CSIFT Chair, John contributed his time and effort to multiple committee activities dedicated to educational and professional development. John was instrumental in the creation of the CSIFT-initiated Chicagoland Food Science Foundation.



### Candidate for Secretary: 1-year term



**Upasana Hariram , Project Leader, Merieux Nutrisciences**

Upasana currently serves as secretary for the 2018-19 term. She also co-chairs the CSIFT membership committee. She has a Masters in Food Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and is currently the Project Leader for microbial challenge studies at Merieux Nutrisciences, responsible for leading pathogen and spoilage studies. Previously, Upasana was the Project leader at Merieux Nutrisciences for shelf life and method validation studies as well.

Upasana has served as an industry leader from a technical, professional, and volunteer background participating at several industry speaking engagements and was awarded the first annual New Member Award for outstanding service through the Chicago Section IFT. Upasana is also an active volunteer for the Chicago IFT Membership Committee and is engaged with national IFT in emerging leadership programs and product development competitions.

### Candidates for the Executive Committee

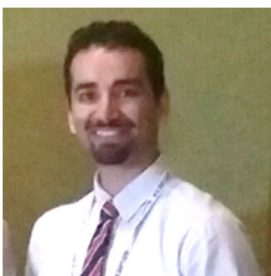
#### 4 positions available for 3-year term.



**Brinda Govindaraian, Director, Global Technology, Tate & Lyle**

I joined IFT over 20 years ago as a graduate student and have been very involved in many activities at IFT including product development competition, quiz bowl and others and I also served as Chair of the Kansas City Section. IFT provided a great opportunity to learn and network with other professionals and this was very valuable to me professionally.

I want to contribute to the learning and development of like-minded professionals passionate about food. My goal is to continue to make the Section vibrant and a meeting place for great minds involved in the science of food.



**Ali Halalipour, Ph.D, Research Scientist, ADM**

In my mission of better serving the current needs of our food industry, I have strived for excellence in industry settings and continued to serve as leader of breakthrough projects. I overcame work obstacles through hard work and being persistent. I improved my leadership skills by monitoring and motivating young scientists to coach their curiosity in operational projects.



Working for one of the leading food ingredient providers with 31,000 employees, coupled with my actions to lead inside and outside of the work are two main reasons that make me a suitable candidate for the Executive Committee of Chicago Section IFT.



**Keith Schafer, Corporate QA Director, Power Packaging, a DHL Company**

My experience on the Executive Board previously taught me that my voice can be heard. I represent the large segment of CSIFT members who are pragmatic and who want to move the organization forward. I have no problem bringing up difficult issues and I speak my mind.

I love this organization and through running the Hospitality committee and now the Employment committee, I have shown I get things done and done well. I appreciate your consideration.



**Julia Skrebneva, Account Manager, Midwest, BioMerieux**

I hold a Master's degree in chemical engineering from Kazan National Research University, Russia. Eight years ago I started working at BioMerieux in the industry unit which provides food safety testing solutions. Through this work I realized how much food safety matters. Eating safe healthy products is a fundamental component of our wellbeing. It is important for me to feel that I contribute to improving the public health through food safety.

I have participated in IFT events for the past three years, and became a member in 2018 and volunteer on the marketing committee. Chicago IFT is doing important work serving professionals in my chosen field, spreading awareness, providing professional development and opportunities to network and share experiences. I will be honored to serve CSIFT as a member of executive committee.



**Chicago Section**  
Institute of Food Technologists

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**Karl E. Smithback | Sales Manager Midwest, Glanbia**

I began working with Glanbia Nutritionals in Madison, Wisconsin on their customer service team in 2013. I have held several positions at Glanbia, from Business Development Coordinator, Market Development Manager, and currently Sales Manager Midwest.

I am now responsible for amino/vit/mineral distribution, protein, colors, flavors, aseptic, plant-nutrition, etc. sales in the central United States, with the bulk of my time spent in Texas and the Chicago area.

I would like to serve on the CSIFT Committee to advance my acumen in the food and ingredient industry, network with other manufacturers, and of course to draw from my experience to enhance an already productive trade show.