



## Chicago Section IFT Announces Slate of Candidates for 2016-17 Leadership Team

We are pleased to announce the upcoming 2016 CSIFT Leadership Election to be held from February 15 until March 15, 2016.

The Nominating Committee would like to present to you the slate of candidates for the positions of Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and members of the Executive Committee. All candidates have accepted their nominations and provided biographical information on their current occupation, education, current and past CSIFT/IFT activities, and purpose for running for the open positions.

**John Budin**  
Awards & Nominating Committee Chair  
FONA International  
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### Chair Elect

**Ivonne Litwin, Key Account Manager, Mérieux NutriSciences**



It is an honor to be nominated for the positon of Chair-Elect of the Chicago Section IFT. I have been a member of the IFT Chicago section since 2011. Since I began my professional career in 2003, I have been working in the food industry across North, Central, and South America.

My volunteer efforts within CSIFT have been focused through the Hospitality Committee and I am eager to expand my involvement to a higher level. My main goal as Chair-Elect would be to continue supporting the efforts of all committees in order to enhance and expand educational and career opportunities to professionals and aspiring young minds in the Chicago food industry.

### Treasurer (appointed)

**Lauro Arias, Principal, Lauro Arias Consulting**



Lauro Arias is an agricultural economist and project management professional. In his native Uruguay, he was executive director of Wines of Uruguay. In the U.S., he helps grow agribusinesses through successful value-added producer grants from the USDA. As volunteer leader, he created the Graduates of British Universities Association to foster relations between the UK and Uruguay. He currently volunteers on the Chicago Section IFT Long Range Planning Committee.



## Secretary

### **Jenn Farrell, Specification Specialist in Research and Development, Unilever**



Jenn has been a member of IFT since 2008, joining the student section as a freshman at Purdue University. Since graduating with a Food Science B.S. in 2012 she has joined the Chicago Section, attending meetings and volunteering at various events. In 2013 she joined the Scholarship Committee, helping the team advertise the scholarships available and to write FoodBytes articles on past winners. Jenn served as Secretary to the Executive Committee in 2015-16.

I started my professional career at a food service beverage company called Leahy IFP as a Research and Development Scientist developing juices and juice drinks. I am currently at Unilever as a Specification Specialist in Research and Development working with the food service beverage and savory teams. In my spare time I like to try new restaurants (that have a good craft beer list) with friends and travel to see my family as much as possible.

## Executive Committee (vote for 4)

### **John Chambers, Ingredient and Solution Provider, DMH Ingredients**



Over the past eleven years John has enjoyed the privilege of being a part of the decision-making that has helped Chicago Section continue to be a top tier Section within IFT. He would consider it an honor to be able to serve the members of CSIFT on the Executive Committee. Previous CSIFT positions held include: Section Chair, Secretary, Hospitality Chair, Program Chair, Awards & Nominating Chair, Host Section Co-Chair, and Supplier's Night Co-Chair.

### **Brianna Heighway, Business Development Manager, Milk Specialties Global**



I have been in the food industry for nearly 7 years working at Milk Specialties, and I have witnessed various regulations, innovations, and novel ideas come to market. I have a passion for what I do, a passion for the food industry and a passion to learn and grow within this industry. Being on the Executive Committee will allow me to not only grow further, but to offer my skills and experience to the CSIFT. I currently serve on the Program Committee.

### **Jan Miller**



Volunteering with the Chicago Section IFT began in 1993 as I entered the Food Ingredient industry. I have served on the following CSIFT committees: House, Business Management Task Force, Executive Committee, Long Range Committee and the 60<sup>th</sup> & 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations. You will have my full commitment to serve the Chicago Section IFT with enthusiasm and creativity. I would be honored to continue my role on the CSIFT Executive Committee.



**Linda Perucca, Global RD&Q Intellectual Property Strategy, Mondelez International**



As a member for 24 years serving as Chair, ExCom, and on multiple other committees, I have helped shape our Section. Currently we are undertaking another exciting time setting up our own Foundation to promote Food Industry Scholarships. I would be honored to continue to serve you on the Executive Committee.

**Katie Schmidt—Business Development Manager--Dempsey Corporation**



I have been an active member of the Chicago Section since 2013, contributing to the Marketing Committee as Social Media Chair and currently assisting on the Program Committee. I am choosing to run for Executive Committee because I wish to be a part of the team that decides the future of the Section.

**Michael Wanous, Ph.D., CFS, M.B.A.; Human Nutrition Technical Sales Group Manager, ROQUETTE**



I have benefited and enjoyed the professional and personal relationships developed during my years of affiliation with the Section. Serving for another term on the Executive Committee will allow me an additional privileged opportunity to professionally and personally contribute back to its continuing excellence.