



ANNUAL REPORT



*Feeding the minds
that feed the world*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Connecting, Empowering, and Impacting Together

By Christopher R. Daubert, PhD

At IFT, I've seen firsthand the importance of community. As I reflect upon my personal journey, countless moments come to mind that illustrate the true power of our IFT community. During my early days as a student presenting my research at the annual meeting, I remember being surrounded by food engineering legends and people whose work I admired from afar. That experience was transformative—not simply because of what I learned, but because of who I met and the positive impact they made on an impressionable young food scientist.

It was IFT that enabled connections with mentors who challenged me, collaborators who inspired me, and colleagues who became lifelong friends. That sense of belonging and shared purpose has been a cornerstone of my IFT journey, just as it has been for so many of our members.

Fast forward to today, and I've had the privilege of serving as IFT president during a time of extraordinary change and complexity in the food system. Over the past year, our community has navigated economic uncertainty, rapid advances in artificial intelligence, and shifting consumer expectations. Yet, in the face of these realities, I have seen something remarkable: the power of this community to lean on one another for collaboration, for innovation, and for encouragement when it's needed most.

The strength of IFT lives in its people. It is through your passion, dedication, and collaboration that we continue to advance the science of food and its application.

That is why this year's annual report is framed around the theme of community and the value of what we achieved together. Throughout this report, you'll see three defining elements that continue to shape IFT's impact:

- **Connection** – because progress accelerates when we bring people and ideas together.
- **Empowerment** – because when people are equipped with knowledge, tools, and opportunity, they can grow, inspire, and lead change.
- **Impact** – because everyone is connected to food, and by advancing its science, IFT creates real, positive change in lives and communities across the globe.

In the pages that follow, you will see how our IFT community showed up for one another this year. You'll read how we launched new initiatives that create space for dialogue and belonging, while strengthening connection through our global network of sections, divisions, and member resource groups. You'll learn how we empowered students and professionals by expanding access to credible science,

education, and resources on timely topics like ultra-processed foods, food additives, and artificial intelligence (AI) in product development. And you'll see how, together, we drove measurable impact—from elevating scientific truth in the public arena to advancing food traceability and safety through global collaboration.

This report is more than a reflection of what we accomplished—it's the story of who we are, and who we aspire to become: a community that solves problems together, a community that grows together, and a community that believes in the power of science to nourish the world. Thank you for being part of IFT and for all you do to advance the future of food.



Christopher R. Daubert, PhD
IFT President, 2024-2025

COMMUNITY THAT CONNECTS

Building relationships that strengthen the global food system

At its core, IFT is a global community built on connections. When professionals and students across the food system are able to share knowledge, collaborate, and support one another, it accelerates innovation and strengthens our impact.

“

This is really the organization that witnessed my growth, and this is the organization that can provide you with valuable lessons. I don't think the experience you get from IFT can be learned anywhere else.”

Hanyu Chen, member since 2018, Indiana Section

IFT's member community spans continents and career stages. Together, we work across borders and disciplines for the shared mission of advancing the science of food and its application.

This includes:

- **46** IFT regional sections in the United States, Mexico, Japan, England, and Canada
- **25** divisions organized by technical interest
- **4** member resource groups that build connection by shared identity and experience

These communities are spaces where people find each other, where mentorship begins with a conversation, where new professionals get their first leadership opportunity, and where ideas are sparked that grow into research partnerships, product breakthroughs, or lifelong friendships.



Hanyu Chen
Purdue University
Member Since 2018



“

IFT gives me a sense of belonging because I came from another industry and I wasn't technically trained as a food scientist or within the food ecosystem. And now I have a home. I feel very comfortable.”

Lawrence Blume, member since 2019,
Washington, D.C. Section

This year, IFT deepened its investment in creating those moments of connection. We strengthened existing programs and introduced new ways for members to support one another.

Along with the well-attended in-person **Community Conversations** at IFT FIRST, we also piloted virtual Community Conversations designed to bring members together for meaningful dialogue, professional growth, and peer-to-peer support.

Launched in March, these interactive sessions focus on timely topics such as career development, inclusion and belonging, and communication skills. Engagement has grown steadily, reflecting the value members see in connecting, learning, and sharing experiences.

We also continued our **Membership Dues Support Program**, which provides support for members experiencing financial hardship so they can stay connected to IFT's resources, relationships, and community. This program reflects our commitment to ensuring that belonging and support remain accessible—especially when members need it most.

Creating Connection Through Volunteerism

Volunteers are essential to IFT's mission—they lead programs, build engagement, and serve as community connectors.



2,000

volunteers across
24 countries

100+ volunteer groups
and committees

IFT introduced the **Membership Ambassadors Program** to further connect members across regions and disciplines. This new volunteer opportunity focuses on peer outreach and engagement, helping current and prospective members feel welcomed, informed, and involved. In just one year, the program has grown to include 13 ambassadors who have collectively engaged hundreds of individuals—strengthening our recruitment pipeline and amplifying member-to-member storytelling about the value of being part of IFT.

Lawrence Blume
RTI Innovation Advisors
Member Since 2019

At the same time, we also recognize that volunteer succession planning remains a challenge, as many of our members are being asked to do more with less in their professional roles—leaving limited time for volunteer leadership. To help alleviate this, IFT’s Membership Team launched new, easy-to-use resources for section volunteers, including strategic planning, event management, and section succession guidelines, all designed to make it easier to lead effectively and sustain engagement.

At every level, IFT is more than a membership organization—it is a convener of people, ideas, and opportunities across the global food system. Whether through local section events, volunteer roles, or new initiatives, members are building relationships that inspire collaboration, spark innovation, and provide support. Connection isn’t just something IFT offers, it’s the foundation of who we are and how we move the future of food forward, together.

“

It’s an interesting time in the food policy and regulatory space. Having people across the food supply chain who understand both the science and the challenges is incredibly valuable.”

Jamie Kendrick, member since 2007,
South Eastern Section



Jamie Kendrick
Cargill
Member Since 2007

COMMUNITY THAT EMPOWERS

Providing knowledge, opportunity, and support that drives impact

IFT empowers students and professionals with trusted science-based resources and meaningful support. When people have access to credible knowledge and opportunities to grow, they become empowered to lead, innovate, and make informed decisions that benefit society.

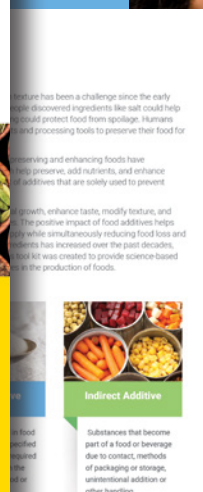
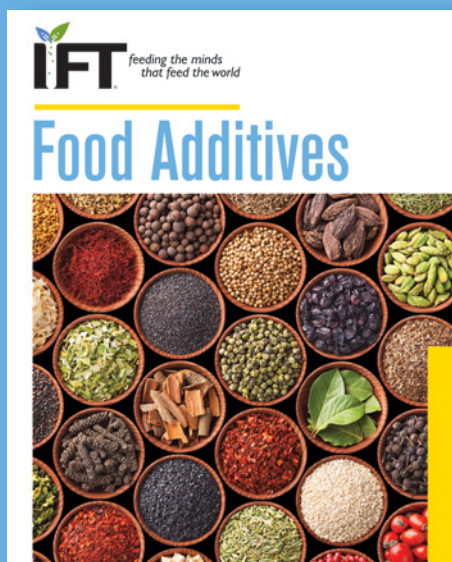
Trusted Scientific Education & Resources

IFT helps strengthen public trust in science by providing credible, evidence-based resources that help people navigate complex food system issues with clarity and confidence.

Beyond IFT FIRST, we continued to expand access to trusted science through publicly available resources, including:

- **IFT Resources on Key Topics** like nutrition and food safety
- **Food Additives Tool Kit** to address confusion over food additives and preservatives
- **Food Colors** and **Sugar Reduction Content Collections**, which include resources like peer-reviewed journal articles, Omnivore podcast episodes, webinars, and Food Technology magazine articles

This year, IFT's Omnivore podcast achieved **11,600 listens**, bringing total lifetime listens to more than **36,000**. Each monthly episode features meaningful conversations with IFT members and global thought leaders on the issues shaping the profession.



Webinars continued to be a powerful learning channel. The top-performing sessions in 2025 reflected the timely needs of the food science community:

- Navigating the Science of Ultra-Processed Foods
- Reducing Sugar Without Compromising Taste: Innovations in Formulation
- Leveraging AI for Faster Product Development Cycles

Through education, IFT not only shares knowledge, but also empowers our community to communicate responsibly and lead with credibility.

These resources help equip professionals, educators, policymakers, and the public with the knowledge needed to make thoughtful, informed decision, which in turn, builds trust and supports a more transparent and resilient food system.



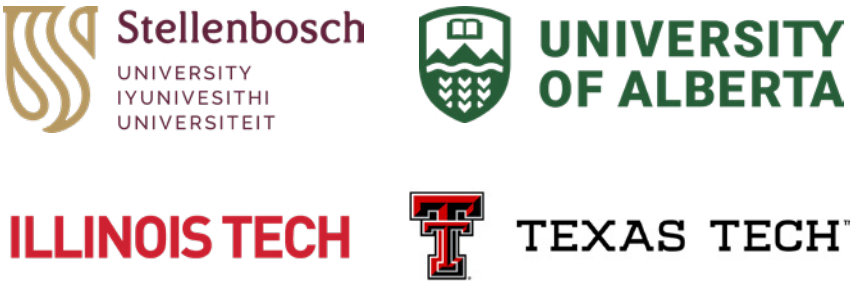
“

I am looking at replacing colors with natural alternatives. I have clients who need this support because, in candy, color is a primary ingredient. You have to ask many questions: Will it stay? Will it last throughout the shelf life? Will it get modified? These paths have to be integrated, and IFT provides that support because it brings together people from all the different areas.”

Liliana Casal-Wardle, member since 2024

Supporting the Next Generation of Food Scientists

Empowerment begins with access and opportunity. As the global food system faces increasing demand for skilled professionals, the need to support the next generation is all the more important. Through the **IFT Student Association (IFTSA)**, students around the world gain leadership experience, professional development, and the support of a strong peer network. This year, IFTSA membership grew from 2,260 to 2,401 students, and new student chapters were launched at the following academic institutions:



In 2025, IFT’s **Feeding Tomorrow Fund** awarded 95 scholarships totaling more than **\$200,000** to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in the science of food. Since 1985, more than 2,800 students have received over \$3 million in scholarships through the program—removing financial barriers and opening doors for future innovators.



Shivaprasad Doddabematti
Graduate Student
Kansas State University

Feeding Tomorrow also empowers the next generation by supporting educators who are shaping future scientists. The annual **June Educator Event** helps teachers integrate food science into grades 6–12 classrooms with curriculum resources and training. The 2025 participants are extending food science learning to more than 20,000 middle and high school students.

Local engagement also continues to make a measurable impact. A great example of one of our 46 sections actively making a difference is the **Southern California IFT Section (SCIFT)**. They were recognized with the 2025 Section Outstanding Scholarship Program Award for its exceptional investment in student success—providing more than 20 scholarships, 10 travel awards, and grants to five faculty members in one year alone.

Whether through resources, scholarships, or educational programming, IFT empowers people to grow, lead, and contribute to a better world through knowledge and opportunity. Empowered people create empowered communities—and together, we strengthen the global food system.

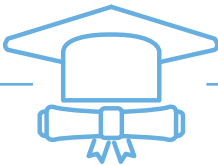


IFT Feeding Tomorrow Fund Scholarship Recipient Engagement Session

“

Winning this scholarship has taken off some of the financial burden my parents carried for me to go to school. It also means I get to spend more time in the lab and prepare for the career I want—working on flavors to make food taste better for everybody.”

Roderick Conley, scholarship recipient, Florida A&M University



95 scholarships

totaling more than

\$200,000

to undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in the science of food.



2026 College Bowl winners:
Cornell University

COMMUNITY THAT IMPACTS

Driving progress through science, policy, and global collaboration

IFT is a community of innovators, connectors, and changemakers shaping a safer, smarter, and more resilient global food system. From advancing scientific understanding to improving food safety and transparency, IFT's work doesn't stay within conference rooms—it reaches academia, industry, and governments around the world. The impact of this community is visible, measurable, and growing.

Powering Innovation Through AI

This year, IFT introduced **CoDeveloper**—an AI-enabled research and development platform built by food scientists, for food scientists. CoDeveloper serves as a true partner in the R&D process, providing trusted scientific insight and problem-solving guidance rooted in decades of IFT's peer-reviewed knowledge.

CoDeveloper leverages IFT's nearly 85-year legacy of advancing the science of food. It brings together the depth of our journals, research, technical expertise, and community insight into one accessible platform to help teams work smarter, faster, and with greater confidence.

In 2026, we're excited to expand CoDeveloper's reach—bringing this mission-driven innovation to more organizations and practitioners to help fuel discovery, strengthen collaboration, and accelerate progress across the global food system.

“

One way I'm passionate about improving the food system is by increasing the visibility of food science. IFT helps amplify that message in many ways, and as we elevate the importance of food science, we can improve the food system worldwide.”

Matthew Teegarden, member since 2010,
Ohio Valley Section



Matthew Teegarden
Abbott Nutrition
Member Since 2010

Improving Public Understanding of Food Science

As people increasingly seek trusted sources for clarity on food and health, IFT is proud to meet this moment by championing scientific truth and advancing evidence-based dialogue.

Because IFT is an individual-based scientific society—not a trade association—our advocacy is grounded in advancing science for the benefit of the entire food system, rather than representing commercial interests. Our role is to ensure that scientific expertise informs policy discussions, regulatory decision-making, and public understanding of food and health.

This year in Washington, D.C., our Science & Policy Initiatives team provided expert insight to policymakers on some of today's most important food system issues, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's call to phase out synthetic food dyes. We also hosted a Lunch-and-Learn on ultra-processed foods to bring scientific context to a topic often clouded by confusion.

At the same time, IFT continues to elevate food science in the public arena. Over the past year, our experts were featured in nearly 1,200 news articles around the world—from major broadcast outlets to leading science publications—helping people access trustworthy information about the food they eat.



Pictured L-R: **Jay Gilbert**, director, CoDeveloper & Digital Products, **Anna Rosales**, vice president, Science & Policy, **Kelly Higgins**, IFT member and DC section president.

IFT IN THE NEWS:

- [What eliminating artificial food dyes could mean for the food system](#)
(CNN)
- [Artificial food colours are out, so what's next?](#)
(BBC News)
- [What food scientists really think of the ultra-processed foods panic](#)
(Salon)
- [Walmart to eliminate synthetic food dyes from store brands](#)
(NBC News)
- [Homemade vs processed foods: Are recipes from scratch actually healthier?](#)
(Fox News)



Improving Food Safety and Traceability Worldwide

IFT's Global Food Traceability Center (GFTC) is improving transparency, safety, and sustainability in the global food supply. By collaborating with governments, nongovernmental organizations, and industry partners worldwide, GFTC is advancing systems that protect consumers while enabling smarter, more responsible supply chains.



This year, GFTC helped drive major global advancements in food system transparency:

- **Strengthened supply chain accountability in protein sectors:** Partnered with World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Better Food Future, and other leading organizations to advance [cattle traceability](#).
- **Expanded global adoption of interoperable traceability systems:** Supported initiatives across Asia, Europe, North America, and South America, working with governments, industry, and civil society to embed interoperable traceability solutions into food systems worldwide
- **Set a global benchmark for seafood traceability:** Supported Indonesia in becoming the first country to align a national seafood traceability system with the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability Standards, originally convened by GFTC and WWF—marking a milestone in seafood safety and sustainability

These efforts protect consumers while helping companies meet regulatory requirements and sustainability goals—strengthening trust across the global food system.

Advancing Scientific Knowledge Through Publications

IFT's publications accelerate progress by translating research into real-world solutions. Our peer-reviewed journals continue to be among the most respected in the field.

Recent Highlights:

- **International leadership:** Editors for Comprehensive Reviews in Food Science and Food Safety (CRFSFS) are based in 16 countries, and Journal of Food Science (JFS) editors in 24 countries
- **68% increase** in total published journal articles in 2024
 - **36% increase** in submissions to CRFSFS
 - **33% increase** in submissions to JFS
- **Special JFS issues focused on relevant, timely topics:**
 - **Ultra-Processed Foods (UPFs)**
 - **Health, Safety, and Sustainability of Aquatic Foods** (in partnership with IFT's Aquatic Foods Division)



LEVERAGING COMMUNITY AT IFT FIRST

IFT FIRST (Food Improved by Research, Science, and Technology) is where the IFT community comes to life. It is the most visible expression of who we are—a global network connected by purpose and united by a shared commitment to advancing the science of food. In 2025, more than **15,500** food system professionals and future leaders came together in Chicago to learn, collaborate, and shape what comes next.



At the center of this experience is the **Scientific Program**—63 hours of thoughtful, future-focused content powered by more than **900 volunteer leaders and speakers**. Their contributions reflect the collective expertise and generosity that define our community.

Together, we explored some of the most complex and consequential issues facing the global food system today, including:

- **AI & Innovation:** *How Does AI Enhance Food Science Innovation & Consumer Insights?*
- **Global Policy & Business Impact:** *What the MAHA Agenda Could Mean for Your Business*
- **Ultra-Processed Foods Debate:** *Rethinking the Future Through Science*
- **Health & Nutrition Insight:** *How Does the Gut Microbiome Influence Health and Innovation?*
- **Shifting Consumer Behavior:** *Insights from Google and TikTok Data*
- **Market Disruption:** *Thriving in Foodservice in a World with GLP-1 Medications*

At IFT, we are not avoiding hard conversations—we are leading them. That spirit came to life this year through the Community Conversations where attendees exchanged perspectives, asked questions, and learned from one another. The sessions explored topics such as food additives, changing regulatory landscapes, AI, the impact of GLP-1s, and shifting consumer preferences. One of our most attended sessions,



What the MAHA Agenda Could Mean for Your Business, drew a standing-room-only audience—demonstrating the urgency and relevance of these discussions for our community and reinforcing IFT's role as a convener of ideas and people across industry, academia, and government. We're looking forward to offering this type of connection again in 2026.

That same spirit of curiosity extended to the Expo floor, where curated **Expo Floor Tours** connected attendees directly with the science and innovation shaping the future. Designed for professionals, media, and students, these guided tours highlighted the breakthrough science, cutting-edge technologies, and solutions shaping the future of the global food system.

Tours included:

- Colors & Additives Tour
- AI & Technology Tour
- Fat, Salt, & Sugar Reduction Tour
- Student Expo Safari
- Taste of Innovation Media Tour

At the heart of it all was the IFT Hub, bringing people together for support, inspiration, and meaningful conversations. It was a space where professional growth met personal connection, offering resources like free professional headshots for members (775 provided, a \$250+ career-building value) and hosting in-

person experiences that created genuine moments of belonging. The Hub hosted more than 10 networking events, ranging from practical discussions on navigating AI and building workplace resilience to casual meetups where members forged new friendships.

IFT FIRST is more than an event; it is a catalyst for connection, empowerment, and impact. Every participant—whether attendee, speaker, or exhibitor—contributes to the ecosystem of food science and innovation, fostering collaboration and sparking new ideas. Every conversation, session, and interaction at FIRST reflects the power of community to advance the science of food.



Celebrating Impact Through Leadership & Recognition

IFT members are driving innovation and transformation across the food system—and we honor that impact. Through **IFT Awards and Fellowships**, we recognize leaders who are advancing food safety, nutrition, sustainability, education, and scientific integrity worldwide.

2025 Fellows

IFT Fellow designation is an honor bestowed upon an IFT member to recognize career excellence and significant service, leadership, and contributions to IFT and the profession.

Eva Almenar, PhD

Maria Leonora Lotis Francisco, PhD, CFS

Jung H. Han, PhD, CFS

Soo Yeun Lee, PhD

Marleny D. A. Saldana, PhD

Subramaniam Sathivel, PhD

IMPACT IN ACTION:

2025 recipient of the IFT Lifetime Achievement Award, in honor of Nicolas Appert, **Levente L. Diosady, PhD, P.Eng.**

At the University of Toronto, Dr. Diosady developed breakthrough technology that enables salt to be fortified with both iodine and iron. This innovation has had a profound global impact—helping cure anemia in more than one million children in India through school lunch programs using salt fortified with his method.



2025 Achievement Award Recipients

Each year, IFT recognizes the impactful work of its community through our Awards and Fellows program, celebrating individuals and teams who are improving food around the world.

Research & Development Award:

Fidel Toldrá, PhD

International Food Security Award in honor of Bor S. Luh:

Kasiviswanathan Muthukumarappan, PhD

Achievements in Microbial Research for Food Safety Award in honor of Gerhard J. Haas:

Meijun Zhu, PhD

Sensory & Consumer Sciences Achievement Award:

David Stuart Lundahl, PhD

Humanitarian Award for Service to the Science of Food in honor of Elizabeth Fleming Stier:

Purnendu C. Vasavada, PhD

Outstanding Partnership Award in honor of Myron Solberg:

Robert B. Gravani, PhD, CFS

Distinguished Service Award in honor of Calvert L. Willey:

Mark Barenie, CPA, CAE

Distinguished Career Award in honor of Carl R. Fellers:

Martha Cassens, MS

Excellence in Education Award in honor of William V. Cruess:

Kanika Bhargava, PhD, CFS

Outstanding Young Scientist Award in honor of Samuel Cate Prescott:

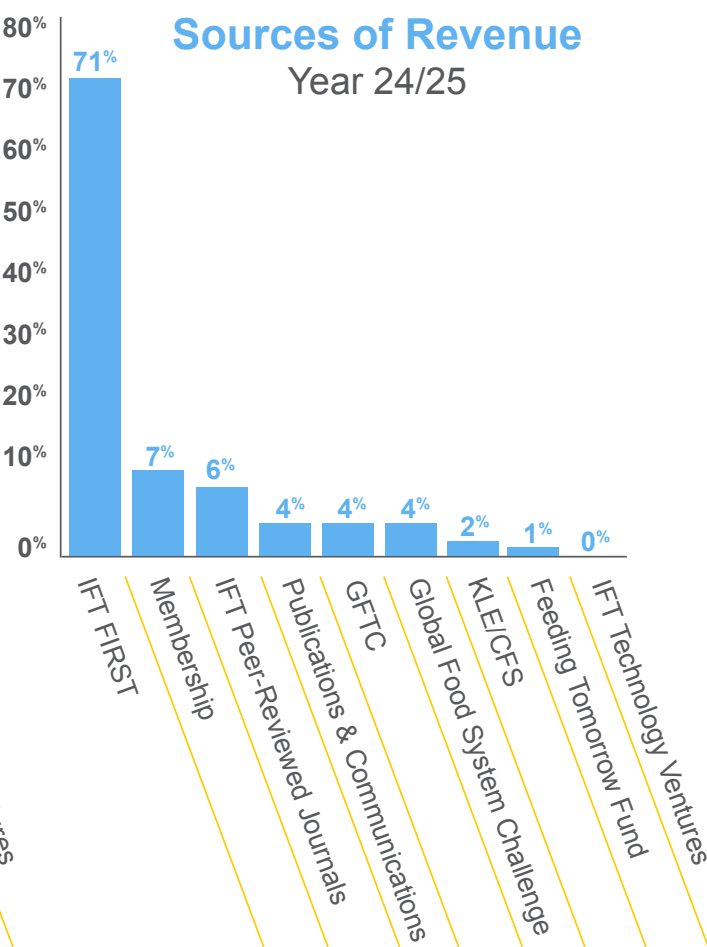
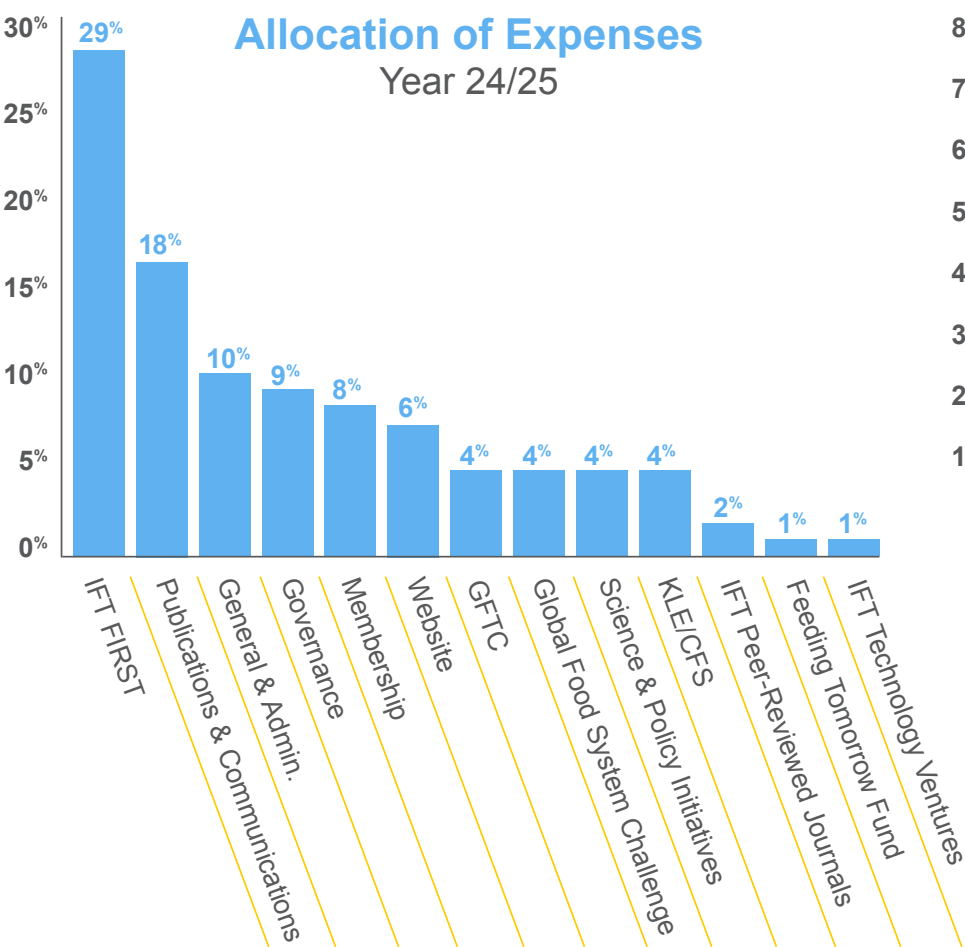
Prateek Sharma, PhD

Lifetime Achievement Award in honor of Nicolas Appert:

Levente L. Diosady, PhD, P.Eng.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- IFT increased its reserves by 1.4M.
- Net Operating Income was a loss of \$84K.
- Investment income, which includes dividends, interest, and market gains, totaled \$4.5M.
- During FY 24/25, IFT invested \$3M of reserves in various program areas.
- IFT’s strong financial foundation maintained its solid performance and demonstrated growth. This allowed us to continue to invest confidently—and with impact—in the future of food science and our community.
- Reserves (net assets) are approximately \$45.4M (including Feeding Tomorrow Fund), which represents approximately 181% of the FY 25/26 budgeted operating expenses.



BALANCE SHEET

IFT - Statement of Financial Position as of August 31, 2025

	August 1, 2025	August 1, 2024	Variance
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,699,641	2,943,751	755,890
Accounts Receivable	971,850	1,064,773	(92,924)
Other Current Assets	1,750,449	1,777,201	(26,752)
Total Current Assets	6,421,940	5,785,726	636,215
Long Term Assets			
Long Term Investments	48,100,663	50,324,985	(2,224,322)
Property & Equipment	3,813,958	2,267,544	1,546,414
Total Long Term Assets	51,914,621	52,592,529	(677,908)
Total Assets	58,336,561	58,378,255	(41,694)
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Accounts Payable - IFT	3,006,443	3,249,673	(243,230)
Total Short Term Liabilities	3,006,443	3,249,673	(243,230)
Accrued Expenses	2,433,164	2,847,729	(414,565)
Deferred Dues	734,171	835,329	(101,158)
Deferred Subscriptions	46,358	71,497	(25,139)
Deferred Annual Meeting	4,637,270	4,626,289	10,981
Deferred Revenue	706,183	744,635	(38,453)
Other Deferred Revenue	1,416,824	2,081,458	(664,634)
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	(7,540,807)	(8,359,209)	818,403
Total Liabilities	12,980,414	14,456,612	(1,476,198)
Unrestricted	35,184,901	34,378,087	806,814
Temp-restricted	3,464,701	2,837,011	627,690
Perm-restricted	6,706,545	6,706,545	0
Net Assets	45,356,147	43,921,643	1,434,504
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	58,336,561	58,378,255	(41,694)

INCOME STATEMENT

IFT - Statement of Activities Year ended August 31, 2025

IFT Sources of Revenue		0% of Totals
Membership Services	1,889,474	7%
Meetings and Events	18,212,125	71%
Integrated Communications	1,146,800	4%
KLE/CFS	404,334	2%
Global Food System Challenge	1,096,826	4%
GFTC	1,110,184	4%
IFT Peer-Reviewed Journals	1,541,208	6%
IFT Technology Ventures	12,500	0%
Other	21,929	0%
Feeding Tomorrow Fund	133,723	1%
Total Revenue	25,569,103	100%

IFT Allocation of Expenses		0% of Totals
Membership Services	2,083,235	8%
Meetings and Events	7,307,296	28%
Integrated Communications	4,549,594	18%
KLE/CFS	962,465	4%
Global Food System Challenge	1,069,337	4%
Sales and Business Partnerships	796,218	3%
Website	1,495,213	6%
GFTC	1,082,752	4%
Scientific Journals	628,855	2%
Governance	2,290,378	9%
General & Admin.	1,851,744	7%
Science & Policy Initiatives	1,002,800	4%
IFT Technology Ventures	262,635	1%
Feeding Tomorrow Fund	270,364	1%
Total Expenses	25,652,866	100%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(83,783)	



*Feeding the minds
that feed the world*

ift.org