



Global Harmonization Initiative

Advocating safe food for all

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President's message

Dear Readers,

Time moves fast. I had the feeling that I just finished my message for the previous issue of GHI Matters. Now that the pandemic is close to over in most countries - but regrettably not yet everywhere - we may meet again live. Postponed events are now taking place again and I hope I shall talk with many of you at events like the World Food Congress of Food Science and Technology in Singapore and the EFFoST conference in Dublin, both in November. Before that, however, there will also be the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technology (IFT) in Chicago, in July. EFFoST and IFT were represented at the inception of GHI and there have always been good attendance of GHI members and we often had GHI meetings at those events. We have started to organize a GHI meeting during the IFT meeting again this year. The second GHI Congress that should have taken place this year in St. Petersburg, Russia, for obvious reasons had to be cancelled. The Board is investigating where and when this congress may take place, but it certainly will not be this year. We hope to be able to tell you in the next issue of GHI Matters.

As GHI is global, it is important to encourage a global participation in all of these events. Earlier this month I sent a message to the members of GHI inviting donations to enable GHI to provide support to members who without financial support would be unable to join these meetings. If you are able and would like to help, please do so, see the relevant section below (**Financial support from GHI for participation in meetings that GHI encourages attendance**).

I wish all of you a peaceful future, hoping that the war that nobody expected will soon end.

Kind regards,

Huub Lelieveld, 30 April, 2022

Editor's message

Dear Readers,

A few months ago, the GHI working group on Food Safety in Relation to Religious Dietary Laws set up a running list of Halal Certifiers. This issue carries the good news of the expanding list of Halal Certifiers and how you can help by sharing and spreading the word and encouraging the certifiers to fill-out the certifier's questionnaires.

Scientific conferences are always an exciting opportunity to prepare for and attend as a practicing scientist. This year, IUFoST, EFFoST, and IFT will be happening physically at exciting locations and with informative research themes. Check out the details and links to conference pages in this issue. GHI is gearing up to participate directly in these events and encourages ambassadors and members to take advantage of the vast scientific work that will be shared to enrich their professionalism, build networks, and broaden experiences.

In the February issue, we raised awareness of the plight of scientists working in volatile regions. Whereas the difficult situations continue in many of these countries, it would be great for our readers to hear of any initiatives going on to help them and maybe how we can help them.

The Election of the GHI Board members is soon here and the call is still out for eligible members to express their interest in running for these offices to help GHI achieve its mandate.

We appreciate your continued support through your readership and circulation of April Issue of GHI Matters and wish you an insightful read.

Benard Oloo, Editor - GHI Matters, 30th April, 2022

Key Highlights

Halal Certifiers List

The GHI Working Group on Food Safety in Relation to Religious Dietary Laws is pleased to announce that it has expanded its list of halal certifiers, which can be accessed through the Working Group's Home Page [here](#) and has also posted the response of those halal certifiers who have responded to the WG's questionnaire with links directly from the halal certifiers list. We encourage GHI members, and especially ambassadors, to check the listing of certifiers for their own country for correctness and completeness. If one can obtain a web address that is missing that too would be appreciated. Encouraging halal certifiers to fill out the questionnaire would be of benefit to everyone. The WG will be sending out reminders to those previously contacted and a new email to those recently added to the list. We wanted to thank everyone who helped get us to this place and look to continue the project. Any new information, corrections or questions/comments (including a request for the electronic version of the questionnaire) should be directed to jmr9@cornell.edu.

GHI at IFT in Chicago, US

The Institute of Food Technologist (US) will be having an in-person meeting in Chicago from July 9 to 13 (for full event details click [here](#)). GHI is planning to host an informal meeting sometime during the meeting. We encourage all GHI members to look for more information in GHI Matters and join us at that time, and feel free to bring a colleague.

GHI at the IUFoST 21st World Congress of Food Science & Technology in Singapore

The congress will take place from 31 October to 3 November 2022. For details and registration, please see [here](#). As always, there will be a GHI session and various GHI meetings, including a regular General Assembly meeting that will elect members of the Board for a three-year term.

The GHI session programme

Chair: Huub Lelieveld - Co-Chair: Diana Bogueva

Presentations:

The status of whistleblowing legislation in the food sector - Rui Costa

Anonymous whistleblowing in the food chain - Marco Dalla Rosa

Chemical food safety in an increasingly complex world - Michael Murkovic

Consumer perceptions of alternative proteins - Diana Bogueva

Nutrition and precision health – Chin-Kun Wang

GHI at the 36th EFFoST International Conference in Dublin, Ireland

The annual EFFoST conference will take place from 7 to 9 November 2022. The theme of the conference is "Shaping the Production of Sustainable, Healthy Foods for the Future". See [here](#) for details. As usual, there will be at least one GHI session. If you are interested in presenting at the GHI session you may send a title of your presentation and an abstract to Nicola Stanley (nicola.stanley@globalharmonization.net).

Lodging at EFFoST

As soon as it becomes available, details for EFFoST accommodations will be provided [here](#). Lodging may be too costly for some potential participants and GHI has been asked a few times if there would be options to share a room or staying with a local colleague. If you are willing to host a colleague from another country or share a room, let us know and we shall provide you with contact details of interested colleagues.

Financial support from GHI for participation in meetings that GHI encourages attendance

Because GHI is global, it is important that there will be as much possible global participation in events organised by or happening in cooperation with GHI. Many members live in low to very low-income countries and neither they themselves nor their universities have enough resources to financially support their participation. That is why GHI wants to provide some support where needed. Impartiality comes at a price, as it is the reason why GHI does not accept funding from industries and governments. There also is no membership fee. The consequence is that GHI has little financial means. Nevertheless, we would like to be able to provide financial support and to make this possible, we invite you, if you can, to make a donation, small or large. Any amount is welcome.

You may do so by using the GHI PayPal account, please start by going to, <https://www.globalharmonization.net/about>. Another possibility is to send the funds to the GHI Association's account at Easybank in Austria:

IBAN AT111420020010837066

Account: 20020010837066

Bank ID: 14200

BIC: EASYATW1

Address: Easybank, Quellenstraße 51-55, 1100 Wien, Austria

If you are in the European Union, your donation may be deducted from your tax-income because GHI was granted the ANBI ('Algemeen Nut Beoogende Instellingen,' or 'Institutions Aimed at the Common Good') status in The Netherlands. With that status, gifts can be deducted against income tax in the European Union.

Ordering GHI books from Elsevier

The latest GHI book is "Ensuring Global Food Safety - Exploring Global Harmonization - 2nd edition" has been published (see more details [here](#)). In October the 2nd edition of "Food Safety Management - A Practical Guide for the Food Industry" will be published (see [here](#)).

When ordering books from Elsevier, be sure to use the code GHI30 to receive a 30% discount. In some countries it is not possible to order a book directly from Elsevier. In such a case, you may write to GHI's Librarian, Abenaa Akyaa Okyere (abenaagyeman52@yahoo.com) who then will arrange with Elsevier to place your order and make sure you get it.

Ambassador Section

In future issues, GHI Matters will include a GHI Ambassador section, with messages from ambassadors about activities in their region that may be relevant to GHI members such as regional events and meetings. Ambassadors may send such information at any time to the GHI Matters editor (benard.ooloo@globalharmonization.net).

GHI webinars

With the webinar on 'The role of whistleblowing in global food safety', 31 March 2022, GHI has started monthly webinars. The 2nd webinar will be on 10 May 2022 and will discuss chemical food safety. [Here](#) is the link for this webinar. The 3rd seminar will be on 25 May and be about nutrition.

Scientists in War Zones

Regrettably, there always seem to be wars going on and as GHI there is very little we can do about it. We can, however, express our moral support to scientists and our professional colleagues suffering in war zones, encourage them to persist and ensure them that we do not forget them. Also, we shall be happy to communicate with them. This is a reminder to check with these scientists regularly to encourage them and assist where possible.

Working Group on Consumer Perception.

GHI remains responsive to the current developments that shape the landscape of food science and technology. It is therefore a commendable accomplishment that GHI has formed the Working Group on 'Consumer Perception'. Members who are interested in joining this Working Group may liaise with the GHI Director for Working Groups Diana Bogueva at diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net.

Publications by GHI Members

GHI Ambassador for Iran, Dr. Hamid Ezzatpanah *et al.*, have published a comprehensive review entitled 'Risks and new challenges in the food chain: Viral contamination and decontamination from a global perspective, guidelines, and cleaning'. This review paper analyses and makes comparisons of the efficacies of cleaning practices currently used in the food industry for removal of pathogenic viruses from air, non-food, and food contact surfaces, as well as from food surfaces. The full paper can be accessed [here](#).

[GHI](#) is an initiative of the European Federation of Food Science and Technology ([EFFoST](#)), which is the European part of the International Union of Food Science and Technology ([IUFoST](#)) and the International Division of the Institute of Food Technologists ([IFT](#)). GHI is supported by the European Engineering and Design Group ([EHEDG](#)). The goal of GHI is "Achieving consensus on the science of food regulations and legislations to ensure the global availability of safe and wholesome food products for all consumers".

GHI has legal non-profit entity status, registered in Austria as "GHI-Association - Globale Harmonisierungs Initiative für Gesetze und Verordnungen im Bereich Lebensmittel", ZVR number 453446383.