



Global Harmonization Initiative

Advocating safe food for all

December, 2021

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President's message

Dear Readers,

Although for some readers Christmas is on 7 January, for most readers it was the 25th December. I hope that it has been or will be a happy time.

The past year has not been easy for many or perhaps even most of you. Online teaching has become the norm by now and that usually involves more effort. Despite this, many of you have been very active supporting the objective of GHI: safe food for everyone in this world. The number of membership applications is continually increasing and so is the number of our ambassadors. Several of the working groups have been active and productive. All of this meant an increasing burden for our honorary directors, all of whom do this work in their spare time in addition to their regular professional duties. Without our directors and other officers, spread over the entire globe, GHI would not be sustainable.

We are grateful to the leadership and staff of the high quality, thoroughly peer-reviewed African Journal of Food, Agriculture, Nutrition and Development (AJFAND) in which GHI Matters has been incorporated since the beginning of 2021. It gives GHI more exposure and the journal potentially more authors.

A special mention of the work of the working group Global Incident Alert Network who launched in August the first and only truly anonymous whistleblowing webpage in the world and thanks to many active ambassadors, that webpage is now available in more than 30 languages and that number is still increasing. It means that it will be difficult to find an excuse for NOT reporting a serious otherwise unreported food safety incident, wherever it takes place, saving victims from harm or even death.

GHI has many book editors and they too have been productive. Several new volumes of the series "Nutrition and Health Aspects of Traditional and Ethnic Foods" have been published this year and several other new ones are under development. Also, the second edition of "Ensuring Global Food Safety - Exploring Global Harmonization" has been completed and the 2nd edition of "Food Safety Management: A Practical Guide for the Food Industry" has >50 updated and/or new chapters, and is almost ready for production. To support this book, with input from many GHI members, the book "Food Safety Stories" has been produced this year. It contains many real life examples of food safety incidents.

Of course, I need to mention the Editor-in-Chief of GHI Matters, Ben Oloo, who has assumed the responsibility of having an issue of the newsletter every two months, which is a big task. He is to be congratulated on maintaining the schedule required by AJFAND.

Finally, I would like to mention the strong support of members of the GHI Board. Because we are global, board meetings - without exception online this year - means for some of them getting up very early and for other staying up very late, because their participation is so important for wise and legal decisions.

Hopefully you did not suffer from Covid-19 and meanwhile have gotten your vaccinations to keep you free from the disease in the coming year, which again hopefully, we will not suffer from a new pandemic. Therefore, I wish you all a very happy new year's eve, and a healthy and happy 2022.

Huub Lelieveld, 28 December 2021

Editor's message

Dear Readers,

The season to be merry and to recoup is here with us now. May be that some of you are already off to distant places for a well-deserved vacation while some of you are still hard at work and grinding away without a substantive holiday. All in all, we have come to the end of the year 2021. A year that started in the midst of the worst pandemic the world has seen in the recent past. We have, however, sailed through and made even greater progress in our respective careers and callings.

From the GHI Matters team: your contributions and dedication through the GHI working groups, as ambassadors, and through numerous other contributions has ensured our continued release of GHI Matters every 2 months during 2021. Looking back, a lot has been achieved. We have 10 new ambassadors representing various regions of the world. Our GHI Ambassadors and members have continued their stellar performance in their different careers thus attracting well-deserved accolades and recognitions.

The GHI President, Prof. Huub Lelieveld, was recognised and awarded with the *Science to Society Award 2021* by EFFoST, while yours truly as Editor of GHI Matters (Dr. Benard Oloo) was recently awarded the VIPP Alumni Early Career Achievement Award by Michigan State University, E. Lansing, MI, USA.

Indeed, GHI continues its steady endeavour as a vital contributor to scientific consensus for the development and initiation of harmonised food and food safety legislation the world over.

From the Editor's desk, I want to wish you a holiday season in which you have a chance to recoup, regroup and re-fire, and to get ready for even a richer and more fulfilling year 2022. I wish you and your loved ones a very pleasant holiday, merry Christmas to those who celebrate that day and season's greetings to those who celebrate other holidays at this time of year, and a prosperous New Year, 2022. May God Richly Bless you.

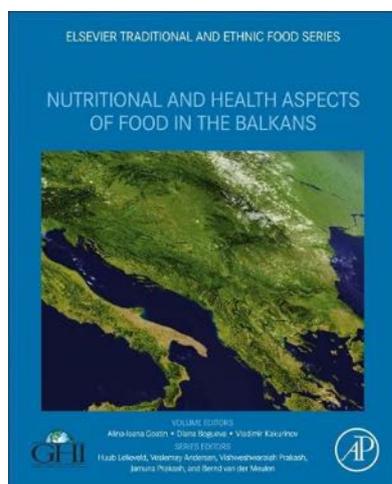
Benard Oloo, Editor - GHI Matters, December, 2021

Still interested in joining the Proposed GHI Working Group on Risk Assessment:

This is the final call to those interested in participating with a GHI Working Group on Risk Assessment (that will try to define what risks are emerging that would affect food security and what can be done to reduce these risks). Members of GHI interested in joining the WG and in the preparation of the group's draft objectives for approval by the Board should get in touch with Dr Diana Bogueva as soon as possible by email: diana.bogueva@globalharmonization.net.

Books

Nutritional and Health aspects of Food in the Balkans



Another volume co-produced by GHI in collaboration with the Elsevier book series is *Nutritional and Health Aspects of Food in the Balkans*. It was recently released. The book introduces and analyzes traditional and ethnic foods from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Romania, Moldova, and the European part of Turkey. The editors Dr. Alina-Ioana Gostin, Dr. Diana Bogueva and Professor Vladimir Kakurinov believe the book will be a great reference for nutrition researchers and professionals, including nutritionists, dieticians, food scientists, food technologists, toxicologists, regulators, and product developers as well as educators and students.

Beginning with the eating habits in the Balkans, this book unfolds the history of the use, origin, compositions and preparation, ingredient origin, nutritional aspects, and the effects on health of various foods and food products of the region. The book also addresses local and international regulations and provides suggestions for harmonizing these regulations to promote greater global availability of these foods. More details about the book can be found on the website [here](#). When ordering, use the code GHI30 for a 30% discount.

Food Safety Management: A Practical Guide for the Food Industry, 2nd edition

Editors: Veslemøy Andersen, Huub Lelieveld and Yasmine Motarjemi

Elsevier may soon start the production process for this book with the hope to publish it by early next year. We shall give you more information as soon as it becomes available.

Food Safety Stories

Editors: Peter Overbosch, Yasmine Motarjemi and Huub Lelieveld.

This book will present a series of real food safety incidents, experienced by food safety professionals. The stories may help with teaching food safety, showing what unexpected incidents may happen and why an open mind is always important so one can see failures that may not be explicitly discussed in any book. The book may serve as a teaching tool and complement other existing books such as the book *Food Safety Management* discussed above, and the *Handbook of Hygiene Control in the Food Industry* (Elsevier 2016).

Published Articles by GHI Members

How global nutritional standards could pivot to harmonization for safer foods.

Iuliana Vintilă Ph.D., an associate professor in the Food Science, Food Engineering, Applied Biotechnology, and Aquaculture Department at the Universitatea Dunarea de Jos Galati in Romania published this article in *Food Safety Magazine*. It addresses why an honest, legal

compliance assessment, based on clear and transparent guidelines, needs to be implemented at the global level to allow the consumer to judge the quality and safety of their food. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

Food laws and regulations around the world

If you want information about food safety regulations in your own or any other country, chances are increasing that you can find a starting point or more information on the GHI webpage "[Food Laws and Regulations](#)", where you will find an ever-growing list of websites dealing with food laws and regulation. You may also click on the link to the site on the GHI homepage.

Events

20th International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC) conference



ICC and BOKU, the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna will organize the 20th International ICC Conference from 25-27 April 2022 in Vienna/Austria, about “Future Challenges for Cereal Science and Technology” (<https://icc2022.meetinghand.com>).

The program will cover aspects and the latest developments starting from crop production with special emphasis on the change due to climate and its influence on world nutrition, via cereal processing, nutrition, analytics, quality and safety up to market trends and consumer demands to tackle the needs in the cereal business today and tomorrow. Full details of the conference can be accessed [here](#).



First Joint Food Safety Conference for Africa

The First Joint Food Safety Conference of the African Continent was jointly organised through the Association for Food Protection (ACFP), the Africa Union Commission (AUC) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). The Conference took place virtually on the 10th and 11th November, 2021 and the theme for the conference was *Food Safety in Africa: Past, Current & the Future*. More information about the conference outcomes can be accessed [here](#).

NUTRICON Congress 2022



The NUTRICON Congress, which is dedicated to Food Quality and Safety, and Health and Nutrition will be held from 8 to 10 June 2022 in Ohrid, Macedonia. The 2022 Congress will discuss the reasons for the UN's World Food Safety Day (which is on 7 June) and address how participants may contribute to improving the chances that everybody in the world will get access to sufficient safe and nutritious foods. The abstract submission deadline will be 15 May 2022. More details about the conference can be accessed [here](#).

IFW 2022 | 3rd International Conference: Insects to Feed the World 2022



This is a reminder that the “Insects to Feed the World” international conference will be held in person in Quebec City, Canada in June 2022. Because insects will certainly have an increasing role in food security, you may be interested in accessing the information on their website, [here](#). Diana Bogueva, GHI's Working Group Coordinator is a member of their Scientific Committee.

GHI Ambassadors Receive International Recognition and Awards

Prof. Huub Lelieveld-Science to Society Award by EFFosT-2021

This award gives recognition to individuals or organisations whose work has advanced understanding and appreciation of the value of food science and technology to society. Prof Lelieveld was awarded this recognition for his outstanding contribution to engage and empower food scientists and experts in industry, government and academia to voice scientific consensus and make recommendations on food safety laws and regulations, globally through his founding and stellar leadership as President of GHI since its inception in 2014. Details of the award can be accessed [here](#).

Dr. Benard Oloo: Visiting International Professional Programs (VIPP) Alumni Award, Michigan State University, Early Career Achievement Award

The Early Career Achievement Award was to recognize a young professional who has achieved notable success early in their career, and who shows promise for future leadership. The winning candidate will also demonstrate a commitment to continued learning and

development by seeking out opportunities for professional and personal growth. This award was presented to Dr. Benard Oloo in recognition of his outstanding performance in the early career category in conducting research and leadership of multiple international collaborations since his graduation from the VIPP of Michigan State University, as an alumni in 2019 having received the Norman Borlaug Fellowship Award to sponsor his stay. Details about the VIPP Early Career Achievement Award 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.