Latin American Study in Nutrition and Health (ELANS)
Presentation to Governments & Industry in San Jose, Costa Rica
Executive Summary
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I. Introduction
During the first annual meeting of the Latin American Branches held in October 17th and 18th, 2016 in Bogota several joint working agreements were taken by the participants: industry members and executive directors. Provide follow up to the ELANS project was one of these agreements and Dr. Peter van Bladeren proposed that ILSI Mesoamerica and ILSI Argentina were the coordinators with the concourse of the Principal Investigators (PI’s) and the LA Branches.

The ELANS (Study on Nutrition and Health for Latin America) is a multicenter cross-sectional study of nutrition and health of a representative national sample of urban populations from eight Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). A standard study protocol was designed to assess nutritional intake, physical activity levels, and anthropometric measurements of 9,000 enrolled participants. See more information in http://ilsimesoamerica.org/event/encuesta-latinoamericana-de-nutricion-y-salud-elans/

II. General Objective of the Latin American Branches
To facilitate a platform for the dissemination of scientific information contained in ELANS to academics, government officials and the food & beverage industries in the region, enabling them to guide new research; decision-making in public policy; as well as innovation processes and product development, respectively.

III. Specific objectives of the support to ELANS by the ILSI LA Branches
1. To present the ELANS to their own Nutrition and Food Technology`s committees (or the like) in order to know the study and promote new scientific analysis of variables contained in the data base of ELANS.
2. To provide financial support for new scientific publications in prestigious magazines.

IV. Scientific Commission of ELANS conference calls.
Several meetings (using the GoToMeeting System) were organized with the commission in order to now the needs of the group and what they were doing with the study in the last 12 months. Please see the attached with the schedule of the conferences.
The scientific commission of the ELANS is composed by the following PI’s:

1. Dr. Mauro Fisberg, Chair of the Project. Brasil
2. Dra. Irina Kovalskys, Co-Chair of the Project. Argentina
3. Dra. Georgina Gómez, Director of ELANS scientific publications. Costa Rica
5. Dra. Lilia Yadira Cortés. Colombia
7. Dra. Rossina Pareja. Peru
8. Dr. Attilio Rigotti. Chile

For those conferences the agendas were prepared with the objective to identify and obtain the following outcomes:

1. Presentation of the Agreement of the LA branches at Bogota.
2. Which activities were done in order to present the ELANS to the Governments and the Food Industry?
3. Proposal of the ELANS commission about opportunities of support by ILSI LA.
4. Presentation of the regional plan proposal looking for support. (Attached).
5. Plan of the meeting in Costa Rica: dates, agendas and logistics.

All the PI’s did receive the Mandatory Policies of ILSI after the call of December 9th, 2016.

V. Activity report on the executive directors of the ILSI Branches in Latin America

1. On December 14th, we request the ED of LA to coordinate a presentation of the ELANS to their Nutrition committees and to send a letter to the local PI to make official our agreement with them. See the draft of the letter attached. At the same time we sent the two scientific articles published about the ELANS with the purpose that the ED sharing them with their members. (Attached).
2. Meeting of the Latin American Branches in the framework of the ILSI annual meeting in San Diego, California. Agenda and minute attached to this document. Dra. Kovalskys sent us a power point presentation to be used by the ED.
3. Conference call at March 14th, the proposal for the meeting in Costa Rica is approved by the ED and the branches will be working to find together the grant for the project. The regional proposal was sent to the ED to be presented to their boards. Agenda, minute and proposal are attached to this document.

VI. Meeting: organization, agendas and logistics

1. The meeting was held on May 3rd, 4th and 5th in San Jose, Costa Rica, covering three different activities: a. session of strategic plan for the ELANS’s future b. the presentation of the ELANS to Governments and c. the presentation to the Food & Beverage Industries.
2. The seven foreign PI’s came to Costa Rica with the support of the ILSI branches. On April 17th we sent letters of invitation to all PI’s in order to obtain the permission of their universities or organizations.
3. ILSI Mesoamerica with the support of 6 industry members took charge of the expenses for the event: transfers, feeding, materials, rooms (with the exception of the people from Brasil) flight tickets for the PI’s from Chile, Peru and Venezuela. The branches were informed of this approach on March 27th. ILSI Brasil, ILSI Argentina, ILSI México and ILSI Nor-Andino (Ecuador y Colombia) bought the flight tickets for their respective PI and for one official
of the Sao Paulo Government. ILSI Brasil payed all their expenses for the event in Costa Rica.

4. The PI’s worked together the agendas for the presentation of the ELANS.

5. The agendas for the presentation were sent to LA-ED on April 19th to promote the participation of their members.

6. There was a special situation about ILSI México who wants to develop a study with a similar methodology of the ELANS. For this reason Dr. Luis Fernando Hernández from the Mexican Foundation for Health was invited to participate in order to interacting with the PI’s of the ELANS, know the study and evaluate the opportunities.

7. To forward the invitation to the food industries in LA we request the collaboration of Mrs. Carolina Lorduy President of the ALAIAB (Latin American alliance of food and beverage industries). The ALAIAB sent the invitation to all their members in Latin America. In Costa Rica, we sent directly the invitation to CACIA (Costa Rican Food industry Association) and they forward it to their members.

8. The session of ELANS presentations were transmitted to all the branches using GoToMeeting internet service at 30 MGB broadband.

9. Communication of the event. ILSI Mesoamerica did a press release with the collaboration of the PI’s, for the Ministry of Health of Costa Rica office. They published the release in their Facebook and twitter. The link is: https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=10158567647275137&id=486567330136

10. More details about the organization and coordination are in the schedule attached.

VII. Planning session of the scientific commission of the ELANS

During the conference calls the PI’s request us for an opportunity to have a planning meeting among them, since them didn’t have and would not have any opportunity in more than 1 year to do so. At the same time we recognize the need to have a training in media management. So we organized the meeting schedule as following:

- On May 3rd the scientific commission of the ELANS received a training in media management with professionals of the Inter-American Agency of Communications. In this opportunity -the first for most PI’s- they did an interview with a professional journalist in order to practice their capabilities to manage an interviewer. The PowerPoint used by the agency is attached.
- On May 4th both presentations to Governments and Industry were delivered.
- On May 5th the PI’s work in a private session in order to development of the plan for the next months. The PI’s will be presented this plan to the LA Branches as a deliverable of this meeting.
- During the meetings we had a poster session with 9 different summaries of the ELANS analysis.

VIII. Presentation of the ELANS to Governments and Academia

This presentation was held on May 4th in the morning. The ELANS was presented to the governments and the academia not just for officials of Costa Rica but also for officials from the others countries involved in the study. The ED of the branches invited key professional to the meeting and we did the transmission using GoToMeeting.

The Dr. Fernando Llorca Ministry of Health of Costa Rica did the opening of the event and spoke about the importance of the enhancement of the relationship of the different sectors to foster public health.

Presently in San Jose, we had 37 professionals (19 government officials and 18 academics). People from the Ministry of Health, INCAP, CEN-CINAI program, INCIENSA, Ministry of Industry and Commerce and CODEX-CR Office were also part of the auditorium.

The agenda of this meeting is attached.

This meeting was transmitted and we had 18 links outside the room, both locally and internationally.
IX. Presentation of the ELANS to the food & beverage industries

The presentation of the ELANS to the food & beverage industries was attended by 26 participants in Costa Rica from different organizations like DSM Nutritional Products, Mondelez, Florida Ice & Farm, Costa Rican Coffee Alliance, Coca-Cola, GRUMA Corporation, Herbalife, Pozuelo, Dos Pinos - Dairy Products, PepsiCo, MJN, Abbott, Roche, CACIA and Bimbo.

Using the GoToMeeting link we had 56 connections both locally and internationally in the different countries involved in the study. The Branches of ILSI in Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Chile organized a special session to meet the people and participate in the presentation as well as in the final workshop. Members from Brasil and Venezuela were connected in their offices.

Please see the agenda of the meeting and the list of the people connected in the attached documents.

X. Budget and support of the industries.

After the presentation of the ELANS as part of the activities of the Nutrition and Food Technology Committee (December 2016), some members were very interested in the data base and the preliminary results. This interest and our posterior following result in a great support of 6 industries; DSM Nutritional Products, Mondelez of Costa Rica, Nestlé of Costa Rica, ALCASA, Bimbo Group of Costa Rica, Coca-Cola and D&PL Seeds-Monsanto, gave us the financial support to carry out the event and collaborated with others LA branches.

XI. Acknowledgement.

We want to thank:

- To the Scientific Commission of the ELANS for their availability to participate in this event and share with the LA ILSI Branches the opportunity to work with them.
- To the industry members of ILSI in Latin America and especially for, DSM Nutritional Products, Mondelez of Costa Rica, Nestlé of Costa Rica, ALCASA, Bimbo Group of Costa Rica, Coca-Cola and D&PL Seeds-Monsanto who gave us the financial support to this event and participated actively at the meeting.
- To the Board of ILSI Mesoamerica who strongly supported to organize and coordinate the ELANS as a regional project of ILSI in Latin America.
- To the Latin American Branches for your participation during the organization of the event.