

Money Over Mission: A Case Study of the International Life Sciences Institute

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Presentation Overview

1. Case Summary
2. Two short videos
3. Facts about ILSI
4. Obesity in China
5. Compliance Issues
6. Ethical Issues
7. Public Consequences
8. Alternative Solutions
9. Discussion Questions
10. Resources



ILSI

International Life
Sciences Institute

Introduction: International Life Science Institute

Scientist Who Discredited Meat Guidelines Didn't Report Past Food Industry Ties

The lead researcher, Bradley C. Johnston, said he was not required to report his past relationship with a powerful industry trade group.



Getty Images

How Chummy Are Junk Food Giants and China's Health Officials? They Share Offices



Coca-Cola products on a shelf in a Beijing supermarket. While public health campaigns in China promote exercise, they omit the value of cutting calories or reducing intake of processed foods and sugar-sweetened beverages. Zhang Peng/LightRocket, via Getty Images

A Shadowy Industry Group Shapes Food Policy Around the World



Mumbai. In India and in other countries, an organization funded by food and beverage industry / fights restrictions on sugary or processed foods. Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

ILSI Program in China



**Are there any ethical questions
that come to mind
while watching this video?**

How the Food Industry Influences the Public



Facts - International Life Science Institute (ILSI)



Founded in 1978
Alex Malaspina



Coca-Cola Influences China's Obesity Policy

Coca-Cola influences China's obesity policy, BMJ report says

Institute funded by Coke promotes exercise over diet to protect sales, academic says



▲ Coca-Cola said it was working on ways to reduce the sugar and calories in its drinks around the world.
Photograph: Peter Morgan/AP

The Coca-Cola Company has shaped China's policies towards its growing obesity crisis, encouraging a focus on exercise rather than diet and thereby safeguarding its drinks sales, an academic investigation has alleged.



Compliance - Transparency as a Safeguard

- ILSI website is extremely transparent about conflict of interest policy and importance of scientific integrity

Mission & Operating Principles

ILSI is a nonprofit, worldwide organization whose mission is to provide science that improves human health and well-being and safeguards the environment.

Operating Principles

Science for the Public Good
All ILSI scientific activities have a primary public purpose and benefit.

Collaboration
Scientists from geographically diverse regions of the world can best address complex science and health issues by sharing their unique skills, insights, and perspectives.

Shared Values
ILSI believes scientists from industry, government, and academia and other sectors of society can and should work together to identify and address topics of common interest.

Transparency
All ILSI's activities are conducted in an open and transparent manner and all scientific outcomes are made available to the public to ensure confidence in the integrity of the scientific process. The purpose and funding sources for all ILSI sponsored meetings; symposia; conference; seminars; and workshops are fully disclosed.

All publications list funding sources and sponsors. Speakers and authors sign disclosures of financial and other interests related to the contents of their presentations and/or articles.

Lobbying and Advocacy
ILSI does not lobby, conduct lobbying activities, or make policy recommendations.

ILSI's Code of Ethics outlines the principles which guide us and all of the individuals who work with us.

[Code of Ethics](#)

[Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

ILSI ILSI ILSI Branches Research Foundation

Principles for Scientific Integrity

Scientific Integrity is Essential to Developing Sound Science that Benefits Society

		
Public Benefit	Collaboration	Transparency
All of ILSI's scientific activities must have a primary public purpose and benefit.	ILSI believes scientists from industry, government, academia and other sectors of society can and should work together to identify and address topics of common interest.	All of ILSI's activities are conducted in an open and transparent manner with outcomes made publicly available.

Analysis - Ethical Issues

Board Members



Government



Corporate Interests



Alex Malaspina



Dear Friends, These guidelines are a real disaster! They could eventually affect us significantly in many ways; Soft drink taxations, modified school luncheon programs ,a strong educational effort to educate children and adults to significantly limit their sugar intake,, curtail advertising of sugary foods and beverages and eventually a great pressure from CDC and other Agencies to force industry to start deducing drastically the sugar we add to processed foods and beverages, Also we have to expect that many nations will follow the US guidelines. We have to consider how to become ready to mount a strong defence. Warm regards. Alex [Typographic errors his own]

Public Consequences

中国营养政策背后，“垃圾食品”公司的身影

杰安迪2019年1月10日

“快乐十分钟”是中国政府发起的一项活动，鼓励小学生每天锻炼10分钟。在一个儿童肥胖率令人担忧的国家，这似乎是朝着改善公共健康迈出的值得称赞的一步。

但值得注意的是，该倡议及其他中国官方强调“锻炼是最佳减肥方式”，却没有提及一点：减少摄入高热量垃圾食品和含糖饮料的重要性。在这个全球第二大经济体，这些商品已经变得无处不在。

根据两项新的研究，中国碰巧传递出“健康最好”的信息，很大程度上是可口可乐及其它西方食品饮料巨头的手笔——这些研究记录了这些公司如何影响了几十年来中国在肥胖和乙型糖尿病、高血压等饮食相关疾病方面的科学和公共政策。

研究结果周三发表在英国医学杂志 (BMJ) 和 公共卫生政策期刊 (The Journal of Public Health Policy) 上，表明可口可乐和其他跨国食品公司通过一个名为 国际生命科学研究 所 (International Life Sciences Institute) 的组织，与中国的关键官员建立联系，以避免西方各国日渐兴起的食品监管和碳酸饮料征税运动。

这个简称ILSI的组织遍布全世界，其总部设在华盛顿，由零食业的许多巨头资助，包括雀巢、麦当劳、百事可乐、百胜 (Yum Brands) 和可口可乐。它有17个分部，大多位于墨西哥、印度、南非、巴西等新兴经济体，对外宣传自己是科学家、政府官员和跨国食品公司之间的桥梁。

但在中国，ILSI的地位高到在位于北京的中国疾病预防控制中心 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) 内部办公。事实上，当被要求对上述研究置评时，该部门发出了一份电子邮件声明——并非来自政府官员，而是来自ILSI中国办事处主任。

其主任陈君石称，该组织向来同时强调锻炼与均衡饮食的重要性，其活动“是基于科学，且不受任何企业的影响”。

其与政府最高卫生决策者的密切关系远远超出了这些公司在西方所能实现的程度。

可口可乐曾在美国尝试过类似策略：通过 与有影响力的科学家结为伙伴，并建立非营利组织 全球能量平衡网 (Global Energy Balance Network)，以宣传锻炼——而非饮食——是该国肥胖危机解决之道的信息。但在2015年，在《纽约时报》发表了一篇有关



Alternative Solutions

**STOP. RETHINK YOUR DRINK.
GO ON GREEN.**



Red - Drink Rarely, If At All

- Regular sodas
- Energy or sports drinks
- Fruit drinks



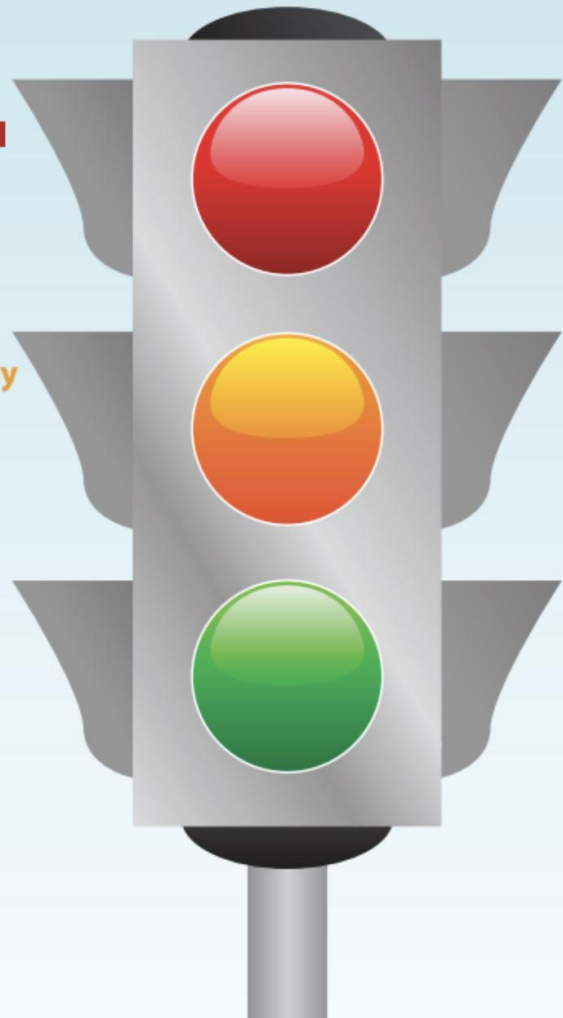
Yellow - Drink Occasionally

- Diet soda
- Low-calorie, low-sugar drinks
- 100% juice



Green - Drink Plenty

- Water
- Seltzer water
- Skim or 1% milk



NEVER
Coca-Cola



Join the boycott



Discussion Questions

- 1) Should we consider ILSI, which is not free from corporate influence, as a nonprofit organization? Or a lobby group?
- 2) Is it wrong for a nonprofit to advocate for corporate interests?
- 3) What kinds of efforts should be taken for a nonprofit to be free from the influence of corporate sponsorship?

Resources

- Other nonprofit leaders can report questionable behavior of organizations through the State's Attorney General.
 - Washington DC Office of Attorney General (OAG) Charities Website: <https://oag.dc.gov/charities-and-other-nonprofit-organizations>
 - Washington DC OAG Form for Reporting Improper Charitable Solicitations or Misuse of Charitable Funds-<https://dcforms.dc.gov/webform/oag-form-reporting-improper-charitable-solicitations-or-misuse-charitable-funds>
- International Life Sciences Institute - <https://ilsi.org/>
- Influential Science Nonprofit ILSI Exposed as a Food Industry Lobby Group - <https://www.ecowatch.com/international-life-sciences-institute-food-industry-lobby-group-2638729365.html?rebelltitem=1#rebelltitem1>