

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Department of Food Science
and Human Nutrition

220 MacKay Hall
Ames, Iowa 50011-1123
515-294-4436
FAX 515-294-6193

30 October 2013

Texas A&M University
Department of Entomology
Attn: Dr. David Ragsdale, Chair of the Search Committee
Minnie Belle Heep Rm 412
College Station, TX 77843-2475

Dear Dr. Ragsdale and the Search Committee:

I would like to be considered for the position of Professor and Head in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science at Texas A&M University. I am currently a Full Professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University. I believe I possess the necessary qualifications and experiences to be an effective Department Head, and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further. I would like to give a very brief justification regarding my qualifications in this letter, touching on the four (4) key components to a faculty position and Department Head: administrative; research; teaching; and service/ professional practice experience.

For administration experience, I have served as the Director of Graduate Education (DOGE) for the past 8 years, initially as the DOGE for both of the department graduate programs in Food Science Technology and Nutrition, and more recently as the DOGE for the Interdepartmental Graduate Program in Nutritional Sciences. I stepped down as DOGE this past summer, in large part to take on my new duties as Iowa State University Faculty Senate President-elect.

For research, I have an active program in the area of folate, one-carbon metabolism, and epigenetics, particularly as it relates to specific diseases. I have received funding from NIH, American Institute for Cancer Research, USDA, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, Cancer Prevention Foundation, as well as a number of other sources such as the Soybean Health Promotion Program and the Egg Nutrition Center. I have always sought to publish in the strongest journals for my discipline, including The Journal of Nutrition, The Journal of Biological Chemistry, the American Journal of Physiology, and a number of others. I received the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) E.L.R. Stokstad Award for my research, and I was on the Journal of Nutrition Editorial Board for 8 years. Currently, I serve as a Guest Associate Editor for The Journal of Nutrition, handling symposia and supplement publications. I also received the APLU Board on Human Sciences Undergraduate Research Mentor Award last year. This past year, I received as Project Director a USDA National Needs Fellowship that focuses on childhood obesity and encompasses 12 faculty across 4 different departments at Iowa State University.

For teaching, I have been the instructor for a number of courses throughout our curriculum, including undergraduate courses in Fundamental Nutrition, and Advanced Nutrition and Metabolism, as well as graduate courses in our core Micronutrient Biochemistry course and a more recent course on Epigenetics. My teaching efforts have resulted in receiving the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award last year, and the Iowa State University Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching this past year.

For service and professional practice, I have always been a fully engaged and active committee member, whether it is at the department, college, or university level. In addition to my duties as DOGE, I have served as the Chair of the College of Human Sciences Honors Committee, Chair of the department P&T Committee, Chair of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences P&T Committee, and as chair of a number of search committees. In addition to my professional practice service on The Journal of Nutrition Editorial Board and current duties as Guest Associate Editor, there are a number of other activities that I perform. This includes: ASN Research Interest Section (RIS) Director-elect; ASN Publications Management Committee; and as a former ASN Nutrient-Gene Interactions RIS Chair. Moreover, I am currently a member of the NIH Integrative Nutrition and Metabolic Processes (INMP) Study Section, and a regular member of the Basic Cell & Genetics study section for the American Heart Association.

I hope the above narrative gives you a snapshot glance of my activities and qualifications. For a Department Head, I feel it is important that the individual has the necessary experience and involvement that he or she needs to understand the responsibilities of the faculty, and subsequently can identify avenues to make them more successful. I think that one of the most important duties of a Department Head is to not only hire excellent faculty, but provide them with the resources and knowledge to help them succeed. I fully believe that my background to date fits that requirement.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or desire additional information.

Best regards,

Kevin L. Schalinske
Professor
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
Iowa State University
220 MacKay Hall
Ames, IA 50011
kschalin@iastate.edu
515-294-9230