

John W. Erdman, Ph.D.
Executive Director
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John W. Erdman, Ph.D. is executive director of the Wrigley Science Institute (WSI). As part of his role, he leads a global Advisory Panel of highly respected experts. This panel helps to guide the pursuit of fundamental

science behind the benefits of chewing gum in the areas of oral care; weight management; focus, concentration and alertness; and stress relief.

At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Dr. Erdman is professor emeritus of nutrition and food science in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition and in the Department of Internal Medicine.

He joined the UIUC Department of Food Science as assistant professor in 1975; served as director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences from 1989-1999; and was assistant dean in the College's Office of Research from 1995-1999. He has also received appointments in the Medical School and the Division of Nutritional Sciences.

Dr. Erdman has authored more than 170 peer-reviewed research papers, primarily centered around the effects of food processing on the bioavailability of minerals and carotenoids from foods and health aspects of soy protein. He continues to manage an active research laboratory focused on nutrition and cancer.

He is a member of a variety of professional organizations including the American Society for

Nutritional Sciences (past president from 2001 to 2002); the Institute of Food Technologists (fellow); the American Heart Association (fellow); the North American branch of the International Life Sciences Institute (member of the board of trustees); and the Food and Nutrition Board of the Institute of Medicine National Academy of Sciences where he is currently chair of the committee on Military Nutrition Research and is serving as a member of the DRI Planning Committee.

Additionally, he has a long-standing advisory relationship with Mars, Incorporated. For 10 years (1999-2008), he served as executive director of the international scientific advisory board (currently known as Mars Scientific Advisory Council or MSAC), focusing on advice on health and nutrition.

Dr. Erdman has received several awards for teaching and research from professional societies including the Lifetime Associate of the National Academy of Sciences; the Borden Award from the American Institute of Nutrition; as well as the Babcock-Hart Award, the Samuel Cate Prescott Award for Research and the William Cruess Award for Teaching from the Institute of Food Technologists. He was also named an Original Member in Agricultural Science by ISI as a Highly Cited Researcher (top 0.05%), and has received numerous University of Illinois Excellent and Outstanding Teaching awards, including the Outstanding Faculty Award from the Nutritional Sciences Graduate Student Association (twice). He was elected as a member of the Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences in 2003.

Dr. Erdman received his B.S., M.S., M.Ph. and Ph.D. in Food Science from Rutgers University.