

**National  
Food Safety &  
Toxicology Center**

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Ed Mather

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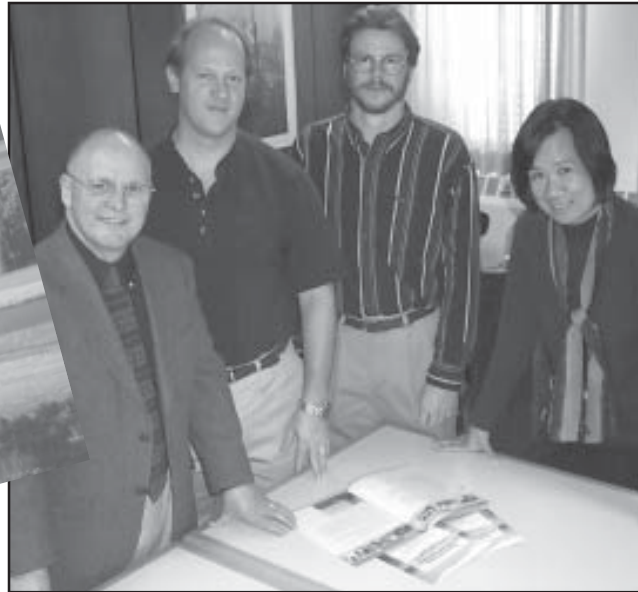
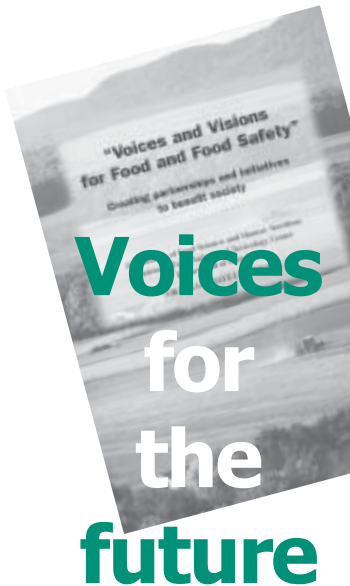
Pathobiology &  
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Toxicology

Sociology

Zoology



MSU faculty members, left to right, Mark Uebersax, Toby Ten Eyck and Les Bourquin were the Principal Investigators of the "Voices and Visions" project. Visiting Professor Lillian Occena-Po served as program coordinator./ Tanish Stiger

## Report addresses actions needed to enhance food safety

The process and number of stakeholders involved in bringing food from the farm setting to consumers' tables is immense. Woven within this labyrinth of producers, commodity handlers, retailers, consumers and many others is the need for enhanced food safety. Fostering relationships among these groups within the framework of food safety was the goal of the recently completed "Voices and Visions for Food and Food Safety" project at Michigan State University. The report was released in January.

"Voices and Visions" combined the NFSTC, the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, and the Department of Sociology. The Center and departments addressed the institutional arrangements and actions needed to enhance food safety, and the integration of these actions within the visions of the broader arena of food issues.

"This report demonstrates how MSU can and should respond to a major societal issue," says Dr. Ed Mather, deputy director of the NFSTC. "This will be accomplished through not only developing a multidisciplinary approach, but transdisciplinary action by scholars who are willing to think as one and take action as one to solve a food safety problem. The creation of the NFSTC and support of the MSU Administration has made this possible."

A product of "Voices and Visions" is the "Food Domain" Web site. Established to meet the need for food safety education, the site has the potential to serve consumers and professionals as a central portal of information at MSU. While the "Food Domain" could prove to be a vehicle connecting MSU with scientists, educators and consumers, more funding is needed to sustain its effectiveness.

Partnerships within "Voices and Visions" enhanced the growth of the MSU Extension Area of Expertise (AoE) team. Delivering research-based educational programs, the AoE is divided into three work groups: consumer education, professional training and social dimensions. "Voices and Visions" transdisciplinary philosophy is actualized in the AoE with the culmination of food safety professionals from a range of organizations.

A final outcome of this project was the development of several conferences, including the "Risk Communication in Food Safety" conference and the "Science and Pre-Harvest Food Safety" conference organized by the NFSTC.

"Voices and Visions" was funded by the W.K.Kellogg Foundation with support from the Michigan Agricultural Experimentation Station, MSU Extension and MSU's Project GREEN.



## Ewen C.D. Todd

### Special events follow goals of Strategic Plan

The National Food Safety & Toxicology Center is embarking on a journey as we finalize the Strategic Plan. For the past year, much preparation and planning has gone into this voyage, and now it's time to raise the sail, and aim for smooth sailing. Once we have the final approval from University Administration, we will highlight this plan in upcoming features.

One of the goals of the Strategic Plan is to "Establish the Center's reputation as a world-class multidisciplinary food safety center." Several upcoming events will help the Center begin to reach this goal:

**-Safety of Organic Food Conference** (October, MSU) The focus of this conference will be on the safety of organics. Keep watching our website for more details: [www.foodsafe.msu.edu](http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu)

**-American Association for the Advancement of Science** (February, Denver) I will serve as Discussant for the presentation entitled "Social Dimensions of Food Safety: A Comparative Perspective." MSU faculty also speaking will be Lawrence Busch, MSU Distinguished Professor of Sociology and the director of the Institute for Food and Agriculture Standards, and Tom Dietz, professor of sociology and crop and soil science and acting director of the Environmental Science and Policy Program.

### Leader Lecture Series becomes fully endowed

For the past four years, the Robert Leader Endowed Lecture Series has served an important function for the National Food Safety & Toxicology Center in memory of Dr. Robert Leader, late associate dean for research in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Now the series has another boost; it has become fully endowed. Mrs. Isabel Leader recently capped the contribution amount to reach \$30,000, the amount to reach endowment.

To make a contribution to the Robert Leader Endowed Lecture Series, please contact Karen Winkler-Swanson at CVM Development by phone at (517) 353-4937 or by email: [kwinswan@msu.edu](mailto:kwinswan@msu.edu)



NFSTC supporter Mrs. Isabel Leader and Dr. James Trosko, NFSTC faculty member enjoy catching up at the recent Wharton event organized by the Center and CVM.



### Food (safety) and music of the night

The NFSTC recently invited special guests to *The Phantom of the Opera* at the Wharton Center. Among the attendees were, above, left to right: Dr. Ewen Todd, Sam Johnson and Dr. David Johnson of the Michigan Department of Community Health. Dr. Ed Mather, far left, talks with Tim and Kathy van Ravenswaay.





## Register now for upcoming Congress

The **First World Congress on Food Irradiation** is getting closer - have you registered yet to learn more about how the retail and trade applications? The Congress (May 5-7, Chicago) features three informational sessions on marketing and trade of irradiated food, a reception featuring irradiated food, a tour of two irradiation facilities and a supermarket with irradiated beef, and an afternoon at FMI Show. The keynote is Dr. Elsa Murano, Under-secretary for Food Safety for USDA. Co-sponsor and co-organizer of the Congress is the NFSTC. Online registration and more information is available at [www.foodsafe.msu.edu/Congress/congress.html](http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu/Congress/congress.html)

## Food safety education funding offered

Funding is available for food safety education programs. The Center, in collaboration with the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, MSU Extension and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, is presenting the second round of food safety mini-grant funding to address the consumer education needs of Michigan residents related to food safety. The goal is to increase consumers' food safety knowledge and ultimately reduce the incidence of foodborne illness. Examples of first-round funding include food safety education for parents at Head Start education centers in Roscommon and Crawford counties, a thermometer campaign in Flint, and a fish consumption advisory campaign targeting Arab women of child-bearing age in metro Detroit. For more information, contact Trent Wakenight by email at [wakenigh@msu.edu](mailto:wakenigh@msu.edu) or visit the website: [www.foodsafe.msu.edu/MDA\\_CEF/index.html](http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu/MDA_CEF/index.html)

## More than 600 people visit RUsick2

Since Nov. 1, the RUsick2 Foodborne Disease Forum ([www.RUsick2.msu.edu](http://www.RUsick2.msu.edu)) has been open for all residents of Eaton, Ingham and Clinton counties to report foodborne illness and compare information with other computer users. It is the first forum of its kind known nationwide. As of Jan. 22, about 600 people had visited the web forum, and more than 200 reports with food poisoning symptoms have been collected. Recent news articles on TV newscasts and in the *Lansing State Journal* and Ingham County newspaper have helped to boost the efforts and collect more data, says Holly Wethington, project manager of RUsick2.

## Granholt sends thanks for report

The NFSTC submitted one of 29 papers as part of a package to Governor-elect Jennifer Granholm's transition team. The paper, entitled "Food Safety and Food Biosecurity in Michigan," was part of *Michigan's Opportunities and Challenges: MSU Faculty Perspectives*, which was given to Granholm's team on Nov. 15. In her thank you letter, Granholm said, "Your insights are invaluable to the policy working groups, to me and for One Michigan as we transition into state government." Dr. Ed Mather, deputy director of the Center, headed the work team.

## Pathology perspectives



Several recent Spring Seminar Series speakers have included visiting faculty members. Carlton L. Gyles, Ph.D., above, pathology professor at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, presents "E. coli O157:H7: can it be stopped?" Randall J. Ruch, Ph.D., associate dean for graduate student recruitment and associate professor of pathology at the Medical College of Ohio, presents "Dietary Modulation of Gap Junctions in Cancer Prevention and Therapy." The series continues at 3:30 p.m. each Monday at the Center and concludes April 14.



## Application deadline nears for proMS

The National Food Safety and Toxicology Center at Michigan State University is nearing the one-year anniversary of approval by the Academic Governance Committee of the online Professional Master of Science (proMS) in Food Safety program. Students interested in applying for the program can do so online at [www.foodsafe.msu.edu/proms/](http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu/proms/). VM 810 (Introduction to Food Safety and Professional Development) will take place on campus July 27-Aug. 8. Online applications must be received by April 30 in order to take VM 810 this summer. To apply, contact Pattie McNiel at [mcnielpa@cvm.msu.edu](mailto:mcnielpa@cvm.msu.edu)



## Faculty

### Faculty member receives award

John Giesy, NFSTC faculty member and zoology professor, received the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North America/ABC Laboratories Environmental Education Award. SETAC is a global, professional non-profit group comprised of more than 5,000 members.



**Dr. John Giesy, NFSTC faculty member, accepts the award from SETAC in November in Salt Lake City.**

### Professor thanked as report co-author

Professor James Pestka recently co-authored the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) task force report *Mycotoxins: Risks in Plant, Animal and Human Systems*. The report was released in late January. L.J. (Kelvin) Koong, president of CAST, thanked Dr. Pestka for his contribution. In late January, Teresa Gruber, executive vice president of CAST, visited the Center. CAST's mission is to assemble, interpret, and communicate science-based information on food, fiber, agricultural, natural resource, and related societal and environmental issues to stakeholders.

### Faculty works with Japanese university

James Trosko, NFSTC faculty member, has been invited to be the Plenary speaker at an international symposium at the University of Nagasaki. The meeting is the beginning of a five-year grant from the Japanese government to Dr. Masami Watanabe to establish an international course on low-level radiation effects, develop an online course and ultimately produce a textbook on modern radiation biology. The symposium title is International Consortium for Medical Care of Hibakuska and Radiation Life Science." Trosko will then assist in the initial organizational planning to meet these three objectives. This is a part of the General Agreement for Academic Cooperation that Trosko and C.C. Chang of the Center established with the University of Nagasaki.

### Professor granted international award

Bob Hollingworth, NFSTC faculty member, received the Spring 2003 American Chemical Society International Award for Research in Agrochemicals, sponsored by BASF Co. Hollingworth will be honored during a symposium in March in New Orleans at the AGRO Program. Hollingworth was director of the MSU Pesticide Research Center for 10 years. His research has focused on the mode of action and metabolism of insecticides with particular focus on the underlying reasons for their selective toxicity and resistance.

**Register for the First World Congress on Food Irradiation ONLINE**  
[on the web at http://www.foodsafte.msu.edu/Congress/congress.html](http://www.foodsafte.msu.edu/Congress/congress.html)

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