



NFSTC Networker



www.foodsafe.msu.edu

Winter 2006

NFSTC Establishes External Advisory Board

As the NFSTC enters into the final year of its 5-year strategic plan, an external advisory board has been established to evaluate the Center's successes and help shape its future. The first meeting of the newly formed **NFSTC External Advisory Board (EAB)** occurred November 14 - 16, 2005. Members gathered at the NFSTC, included: **Patricia Griffin, M.D.**, Chief, Foodborne Diseases Epidemiology Section, Foodborne & Diarrheal Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; **Jørgen Schlundt, Ph.D.**, Director, Food Safety Department, World Health Organization; **MaryJane K. Selgrade, Ph.D.**, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; **Caroline Smith**



De Waal, Ph.D., Consumers Association, Center for Science in the Public Interest; and **Alfonso Torres, Ph.D.**, Professor, Associate Dean, VM Administration, Cornell University. EAB members **Art Miller, Ph.D.**, Sr. Managing Scientist, Food and Chemicals Practice Exponent; and **Dan Wyant, Ph.D.**, Edward Lowe Foundation, were unable to attend the initial meeting. The EAB members toured the NFSTC laboratories, meeting with Center faculty while learning more about the varied research occurring within the Center.



The EAB complimented the NFSTC on several initiatives including its collaborations with the Michigan Departments of Agriculture (MDA) and Community Health (MDCH); ongoing research in antibiotic resistant strains of common pathogens on organic and conventional farms; and the online Professional Master of Science (ProMS) in Food Safety program and the on-campus International Short Course in Food Safety. The EAB also noted the Center's variety of research in food safety, toxicology, and public health in such areas as allergenicity, carcinogenicity, pathogenicity, susceptibility, and the development of animal models of human disease.

Draft recommendations from the EAB included additional collaborations with Cooperative Extension, MDA, and MDCH; exploring emerging toxicological issues and other possible carcinogens linked to food preparation; and developing new partnerships with international centers of food safety and protection.

The NFSTC Faculty Advisory Committee is reviewing the EAB recommendations and will meet with the EAB again for future planning initiatives for the NFSTC.

Photos clockwise from top right: Muralee Nair (NFSTC) and C. Smith De Waal; Norbert Kaminski (CIT & NFSTC); C. Smith De Waal; MJ K. Selgrade and P. Griffin; Susan Ewart (NFSTC); J. Schlundt and A. Torres



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“Current Trends to Streamline the Safety Assessment of Pharmaceuticals” Workshop



James Trosko, Ph.D., was an invited lecturer at the Servier Pharmaceutical Company conference in November in Paris, France. In his presentation, Dr. Trosko outlined the scientific bases for toxicity (mutagenesis; cytotoxicity) and gene expression, and included discussion into the use of normal human adult stem cells, which can induce three-dimensional

“organoids” that mimic structures found in all human organs. These organoids would be the closest surrogates for testing a drug on a human being, no longer requiring the use of animals for testing. Dr. Trosko indicated that while no assay, including normal human adult stem cell-derived organoids, can be a perfect surrogate for all stages of human development or for all unique human beings, at least organoids formed from two genders would be possible.

Ryser Named Fourth Scientific Co-Editor of The Journal of Food Protection

Elliott T. Ryser, Ph.D., has been selected to join Dr. P. Michael Davidson, Dr. Joe Frank, and Dr. John Sofos as Scientific Co-Editor of the Journal of Food Protection (JFP), effective January 1, 2006. Dr. Ryser is an Associate Professor of Food Science at Michigan State University and has been actively involved with JFP for many years, having served as a member of the Editorial Board since 1993 and a member of the JFP Management Committee from 2003 to 2005. He also served on the Developing Scientist Committee in 2004 and the Black Pearl Award Committee in 2001. In addition to his journal-related activities for the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), he served as Scientific Editor of the Journal for Food Science published through the Institute of Food Technologists from 2000 to 2004. He has been an Ad-Hoc Reviewer for 25 scientific journals, has published three books, 15 chapters, one patent, 58 papers (23 in JFP), 78 abstracts (25 at IAFP) and delivered over 100 presentations.

NFSTC Faculty Advisory Committee Update

At its November meeting, the NFSTC Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC) welcomed new members and leadership as members cycled off from the committee. The following faculty will serve on the FAC for the coming year: **Thomas Whittam** (Chair), **Jack Harkema** (Secretary), **Muraleedharan Nair**, **Craig Harris**, **Timothy Zacharewski**,

John Linz, and **Ewen Todd**. The FAC extended its appreciation to outgoing chair, **Muraleedharan Nair**, outgoing secretary, **Craig Harris**, and outgoing members, **Elliot Ryser** and **Robert Roth**, for their service on the FAC during the past year.

NFSTC Faculty Poster Presentation During MSU International Week

Thomas Whittam, Ph.D., presented the poster **Population Genetics and Molecular Epidemiology of Global Infectious Diseases: Collaborative Biomedical Research at Michigan State University** in

November during the University’s International Week activities. Scientists at MSU have several projects with international components centered on the theme of the population genetics and molecular epidemiology of bacterial pathogens. These include a



Thomas Whittam, Ph.D., Hannah Distinguished Professor, with collaborative poster during **MSU International Week** November 2005

collaborative study with the University of Bergen, Norway, on diarrheal agents in West African children; a collaborative study with scientists at the Center for Emerging Pathogens, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, on the global dissemination of tuberculosis strains; the investigation of new Shigella strains that cause dysentery in Bangladesh with researchers from the Centre for Health and Population Research, Bangladesh; and a new team-study lead by **Dr. Dele Davies**, Department of Pediatrics, which is focused on group B streptococcus strains causing newborn invasive disease in Canada which will be expanding in the near future. Contributors to this poster presentation were **H. Dele Davies**, **Shannon Manning**, **Hans Steinsland**, and **Weihong Qi**.

Foods that Mingle...

According to the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**, foods that mingle the products of many individual animals at harvest can be particularly hazardous because a pathogen present in any one animal may contaminate the whole batch. A single hamburger may contain meat from hundreds of animals.



MSU Provost Wilcox Visits NFSTC

MSU Provost Kim Wilcox visited with faculty and staff during his tour of the NFSTC on October 26, 2005. Accompanying Provost Wilcox was **Jan Krehbiel**, Acting Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. **Dr. Ewen Todd**, NFSTC Director, provided Provost Wilcox with an overview of the Center's history and scope of research capabilities. During his visit, the Provost toured each lab housed within the NFSTC and discussed current research activities undertaken by NFSTC faculty. Below, **Dr. Muralee Nair**, **Dr. Ewen Todd**, **Provost Wilcox**, and **Dean Krehbiel** (L-R) discuss Nair's research.



Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry Announces Most Accessed Articles

The Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry has announced its listing of most-accessed online articles for the period of July - September 2005. Listed among the top twenty most-accessed articles is the article coauthored by **Muraleedharan Nair, Ph.D.**, titled "**Insulin Secretion by Bioactive Anthocyanins and Anthocyanidins Present in Fruits**" (J. Agric. Food Chem. 2005, 53(1), pp 28-31). Collaborating on the article with Dr. Nair were Bolleddula Jayaprakasam, Shariju K. Vareed, and L. Karl Olson. To review this article online, visit http://pubs.acs.org/journals/jafcau/promo/most_accessed/index.html.

NFSTC Welcomes New Faculty

Maria Lapinski, Ph.D., recently joined the NFSTC as an Assistant professor jointly appointed in the Center and the Department of Communication in the College of Communication Arts and Science. She received her doctorate from Michigan State University and her M.A. from the University of Hawaii, Manoa. Dr. Lapinski's research interests include the impact of persuasive messages on health and environmental risk perceptions and behaviors. Her primary research is comparing people in the United States with people in Asia, the Pacific Rim, and Africa, specifically

looking at ways in which sources and content of messages impact people's perceptions and behaviors. She is currently working on a National Science Foundation-sponsored project and has applied for additional NSF funding to continue this work. With **Drs. Ewen Todd** and **Elliot Ryser**, Dr. Lapinski recently submitted a proposal to the USDA-CSREES to create a risk assessment and risk communication program on consumption patterns of raw milk cheese among the Latino population; and is responding to a NIFSI Request For Proposal with the NFSTC education team to propose an integrated approach to risk communication about food security in the state of Michigan.

Professional Master of Science (ProMS) in Food Safety Program Accepting Applications

The online **Professional Master of Science (ProMS) in Food Safety** program, through the National Food Safety & Toxicology Center and MSU's College of Veterinary Medicine, has announced an application deadline of April 15, 2006 to the program. Designed for professionals already working in the food system in government, industry, or academia, the ProMS program is a unique 30-credit hour online master of science program consisting of an initial on-campus, 10-working day course with the remaining course work completed online. The program includes four core courses, nine-credit hours of elective courses, and an independent project. Students interested in applying to this graduate-level program may do so, online, at www.foodsafe.msu.edu/proms/. Students admitted to the program will be eligible to enroll in course VM 810-Introduction to Food Safety and Professional Development, which will take place, on-campus, June 9 through June 18, 2006.

For additional information about the ProMS program or to apply, contact **Pattie McNiel** at mcnielpa@cvm.msu.edu.

Lifelong Education Courses Now Available through the NFSTC

Lifelong Education online courses, now available through the NFSTC's ProMS program, are for those individuals wanting to keep up on current topics and trends within the food system, yet who may not be able to commit to a full degree program while maintaining a career. Lifelong Education courses are applicable toward the graduate-level degree offered through ProMS. Though Lifelong Education courses began January 9, 2006, it is never too late to think about moving your career and education forward. For information about Lifelong Education courses, visit www.foodsafe.msu.edu/education/lifelonged/ or contact **Kristie Gates** at gatesk@msu.edu.



Update Your NFSTC Newsletter Subscription Preference



In an effort to provide our colleagues with up-to-date news about the NFSTC's activities in research, education, and outreach, while holding down escalating production and postage costs, the NFSTC Networker Newsletter will be available via an electronic subscription

with the publication of the Spring 2006 edition (April 2006). To update your newsletter subscription preference, visit the NFSTC Web site, www.foodsafe.msu.edu, then click on the link **Subscribe to the NFSTC Newsletter**. Choose either email receipt or U.S. postal receipt when you complete and submit the online subscription form. Subscribers choosing the e-newsletter version will receive NFSTC newsletters, delivered in a PDF format, directly to their designated email address.

Who Should Consumers Call with Food Product Investigation Concerns?

Government agencies are responsible for protecting and regulating various segments of our food supply - but who should consumers call with problems or concerns about food products? For help with restaurant food problems, consumers should contact the city, county, or state Health Department where the establishment is located. For concerns regarding meat, poultry, and egg products, consumers may contact the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854, staffed by food safety experts. To investigate a potential food problem, consumers should provide 1) original container or packaging; and 2) any uneaten portion of the food (refrigerate or freeze to preserve). Consumers should provide the following information for a food product investigation: 1) personal contact information; 2) brand, product, or manufacturer name of product; 3) size and package type; 4) can or package codes and dates; and 5) name and location of the store and date product was purchased. **If you think you are ill from a food product, consult a physician**, especially if you feel the illness may have resulted from the use or consumption of a meat or poultry product.

Michigan State University Founders' Day - February 9, 2006 visit www.msu.edu for information

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