



International Association for
Food Protection®

Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2023

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2024 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: ssmith@foodprotection.org.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 5, 2024 (late reports will not be considered for awards)**:

REQUIRED:

- This completed form *(in English)*.
- Your Association’s list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

OPTIONAL:

- Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.
- IAFP now accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee. To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.*
- Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

Arkansas Association for Food Protection

Affiliate Name

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Provide the information requested for your Association’s current official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and official Contact for IAFP correspondence. (Delegate must be an IAFP Member.)

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Delegate Name	Jennifer Acuff
Address 1	2650 N Young Ave
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Fayetteville, AR 72704 USA
Phone Number	479-575-2108
Email address	jcacuff@uark.edu
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate “same” if person also serves as Delegate)

Contact Name	Same
Address 1	
Address 2	

City, State ZIP Country	
Phone Number	
Email address	
IAFP Member? Y or N	

2. Membership

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: 120
- b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2023? 55

3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

- a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.

September 26-28, 2023 - 230

- b. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):

September 24-26, 2024

- c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2023 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

Name of Meeting	Date(s) Held	Number of Attendees
Arkansas Association for Food Protection 15th Annual Meeting	Sept. 26-28, 2023	230 attendees; follow-up meeting on Sept. 28 with 9 attendees

4. Awards and Scholarships

- a. List members who were honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2023. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Award Name	Recipient Name	How did recipient qualify for award?
Food Safety Including Fundamental Understanding of Pathogens. -1 st Place Poster	Kavita Patil	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Food Safety Including Fundamental Understanding of Pathogens. -2 nd Place Poster	Sitong He	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category

Food Safety Including Fundamental Understanding of Pathogens. -3 rd Place Poster	Manita Adhikari	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Interventions, Pre and Post Harvest. -1 st Place Poster	Anh Dang Trien Do	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Interventions, Pre and Post Harvest. -2 nd Place Poster	Gayatri R. Dhulappanavar	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Interventions, Pre and Post Harvest. -3 rd Place Poster	Evans Ameyaw Owusu	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Other and Misc (Undergraduate, Food Animal Safety and Health, etc.). -1 st Place Poster	Lauren Laverty	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Other and Misc (Undergraduate, Food Animal Safety and Health, etc.). -2 nd Place Poster	Kristen Martin	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Other and Misc (Undergraduate, Food Animal Safety and Health, etc.). -3 rd Place Poster	Carolina Trujillo	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Postdoctoral and Technical Staff. -1 st Place Poster	Nanje Gowda Appanna	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Postdoctoral and Technical Staff. -2 nd Place Poster	Jesus Maguey	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category
Postdoctoral and Technical Staff. -3 rd Place Poster	Karina Desiree	Submitted an abstract for review, judged by a panel of 2 or 3 judges and ranked out of all presentations within category

b. List scholarships awarded during 2023; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

Scholarship Name/Amount	Recipient Name	How did recipient qualify for scholarship?

5. Web Communication

Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email and other communications to your general membership.

Please provide your existing Affiliate’s website address AND date last updated:

<https://www.arkafp.org> – last updated Jan 2024

Did you launch a new Affiliate website in 2023? Yes No

Attachment A (completion required)

Association Officers List

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (REMINDER: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below, or sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2023–2024) for your current Executive Board: 2023-2024

Officer Title	President
Name	Kristen Gibson
Address 1	1371 West Altheimer Dr
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Fayetteville, AR 72704 USA
Phone Number	479-575-6844
Email address	Keg005@uark.edu
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Vice President
Name	Nancy Gushing
Address 1	1500 North 55th Terrace
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Fort Smith, AR 72904
Phone Number	479-461-4287
Email address	ngushing@okfoods.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	N

Officer Title	Secretary/Treasurer
Name	Dana Hite
Address 1	1746 Autumn Ave
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Memphis, TN 38112
Phone Number	901-463-3894
Email address	dana.hite@biomerieux.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	N

Officer Title	Past President
Name	Jennifer Acuff
Address 1	2650 N Young Ave
Address 2	
City, State ZIP Country	Fayetteville, AR 72704 USA
Phone Number	479-575-2108
Email address	jcacuff@uark.edu
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:

CHECK HERE AND RETURN ELECTRONICALLY BY 3/5/24 IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OR MORE 2024 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required to complete Attachment B.)

CHECK HERE IF YOUR AFFILIATE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A 2024 AFFILIATE AWARD. (You are done! It is not necessary to complete Attachment B.)

Attachment B (optional)

Affiliate Award Considerations

*To be considered for one or more of the five Affiliate Awards to be presented at IAFP 2024, Affiliates are **required** to check the box next to the award(s) for which you wish to be considered and provide the related criteria (in English). (REMINDER: Please confirm IAFP Membership of your Affiliate President and Delegate **before** completing Attachment B to avoid award disqualification.)*

Affiliate Membership Achievement Award

How did your Affiliate grow **AND** retain members during the past year? Please provide details on:

- how new members were recruited throughout the year;
- the number of new members joining the Affiliate;
- the percent increase in membership from 2022 to 2023;
- specific efforts on how you retained existing members; and
- other methods related to helping grow and maintain your membership.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

○ Affiliate Communication Award

How did your Affiliate communicate information to your Members during the past year? Please provide a description of the types of communication sent to your general membership and include samples with your Annual Report. Samples can be printed copies/screen shots of blast emails, website (include frequency of updating), electronic/print newsletters, brochures, etc., along with respective dates sent. If available, provide how effective specific communication was toward meeting your goals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

○ **Affiliate Education Award**

What types of food safety education did your Affiliate provide to its members during the past year? Provide the following details on all technical meetings, educational conferences, webinars, workshops, classes, and other methods pertinent to the interests of the membership:

- Background;
- Objectives;
- Agenda;
- Target audience;
- Dates held; and
- Numbers of attendees.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

X Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award

Did your Affiliate hold an outstanding self-sustainable (***not sponsored/co-sponsored by IAFP***) food protection meeting which you consider 'over and above' those normally held? If so, provide the following details, if applicable, on what led to a highly successful meeting:

- Type of meeting and the value it brought to Affiliate Members/attendees (does not need to be your Annual Meeting):
- Mission statement for meeting (if relevant);
- Content;
- Numbers of attendees:
 - Number of and overall percentage of Affiliate Members:
 - Number of Guests (non-dues-paying Affiliate Members) and their affiliation to the Affiliate Chapter and/or meeting's topic(s):
- Audience participation (through roundtable discussions, exercises, etc.);
- Topics (program attached)
- Speakers and their employer affiliations;
- Sponsors;
- Diversity of meeting participants (range of sectors represented, i.e., students, academia, extension, government, NGO, industry representatives, etc., which can be broken down into services, i.e., retail, education, research, manufacturing, etc., if available);
- Other information.

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

The Arkansas Association for Food Protection (AAFP) requests consideration for the Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award for our 15th Annual Meeting that was held in the fall 2023. Our meeting demonstrated an exceptional commitment to advancing food safety through a multidisciplinary educational conference that brought together industry, government, and academia members.

The AAFP 15th Annual Meeting provided significant value to affiliate members and attendees by offering a diverse range of educational sessions with a focus on multidisciplinary food safety that was applicable to the attendees, who in Arkansas, come from all sectors of the food industry. The event fostered sharing research, collaboration, and networking opportunities, aligning with our mission to further knowledge of and cooperation in food safety for stakeholders in Arkansas and surrounding states.

The meeting commenced with a student and professional poster competition involving 39 participants from various universities. The technical sessions covered crucial topics such as setting testing standards, updates to Appendices A and B, pet food safety, and innovative technologies from corporate sponsors. Notably, sessions on poultry processing strategies, media trends in education, and predictive modeling for food safety risks provided unique insights by combining recent research with application to our attendees and stakeholders.

With a record attendance of 200 affiliate members and 30 guests (non-due-paying attendees), the AAFP Annual Meeting achieved a significant turnout. The diversity of participants, including students, academia, cooperative extension, government, and industry representatives, showcased a well-rounded representation across various sectors. Notably, efforts were made to promote diversity in the program, resulting in a balanced 18-speaker lineup, including ten women and eight people of color. The planning committee tirelessly worked to curate a lineup of experts from academia, government, IAFP board members, and the food industry to provide diverse perspectives from a variety of topics. The support from over 20 industry sponsors and contributors for raffle prizes enhanced the meeting's success.

The meeting prioritized active audience participation through a vibrant poster competition, Q&A sessions, a vendor booth activity, and several receptions. Attendees actively engaged with vendors, solving word scrambles for a chance to receive a free IAFP membership, and continuing conversations with speakers during breaks and receptions outside the initial Q&A sessions.

In conclusion, the Arkansas Association for Food Protection 15th Annual Meeting went "over and above" in delivering an exceptional educational experience and fostering networking opportunities. The event's success is attributed to the diverse content, active audience engagement, and commitment to inclusivity and representation. We believe our meeting exemplifies the spirit of the "Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award" from IAFP and kindly request your consideration. Thank you for your time and consideration! (Complete program attached to application).

X C.B. Shogren Memorial Award

How did your Affiliate demonstrate exceptional overall achievement during the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP (*“To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply”*)? “Overall achievement” should encompass at least several of the following activities/accomplishments of your Affiliate during 2023:

- Exceptional achievement in membership;
- Types and effectiveness of communication and education;
- Awards and scholarships presented;
- Attendance numbers at meetings;
- Collaboration with other professional organizations;
- Donations to the IAFP Foundation;
- Representation at the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (held July 16, 2023);
- Other pertinent information.

While not a requirement, strong consideration will be given to an Affiliate whose officers (beyond the requirement for the President and Delegate) are also IAFP Members. Provide a description and include any supporting documents. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use separate pages if necessary; please limit your explanation to 1,000 words or less in 12-point type.

The Arkansas Association for Food Protection (AAFP) requests consideration to receive the prestigious C.B. Shogren Memorial Award. AAFP has demonstrated exceptional overall achievement in the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP through various initiatives that have significantly impacted our affiliate's growth, communication, education, collaboration, and representation. The results of these efforts include making the missions of AAFP and IAFP better known and achieved through enhanced collaboration and cooperation among food safety professionals in the area and worldwide.

One of the key areas of excellence for the AAFP is in membership growth. Over the past year, our affiliate has added more than 55 new members not only from Arkansas but also from several other states. This surge in membership underscores our commitment to expanding our reach and fostering a diverse community of food safety professionals. This was reflected in the increased attendance at our 15th Annual Meeting, which hosted more than 200 attendees converging from across the United States.

In terms of communication and education, AAFP has excelled in utilizing various channels to effectively reach our audience. Throughout 2023, we strategically employed advertisements, including save-the-date notices, flyers, postcards, and magnets, leading up to our highly successful 15th Annual Meeting. Additionally, there is a communications and marketing committee who regularly sends emails to AAFP members about activities and events throughout the year. These efforts resulted in better engagement from students at University of Arkansas and others, as well as involvement from industry members who live in Arkansas and surrounding states. An example of the successful communication was attracting 39 posters from students and professionals across Arkansas and other states at the 15th Annual Meeting, showcasing the effectiveness of our communication strategy in engaging the next generation of food safety leaders.

Awards and scholarships are integral to recognizing excellence and encouraging active participation. At our Annual Meeting, we presented awards for outstanding poster presentations and awarded a one-year IAFP membership to an individual who successfully completed the vendor word scramble. These initiatives not only celebrate achievements but also incentivize continued involvement within our affiliate. With heightened activity in recent months and greater revenue from the most recent annual meeting, our affiliate has planned other awards and scholarships to help our members continue to engage in the local AAFP, as well as IAFP.

Our commitment to fostering a vibrant community is reflected in our record-breaking attendance at meetings. The 15th Annual Meeting achieved a record attendance of 230 participants, generating revenue of \$25,000. These financial resources empower us to organize and sponsor activities such as Student PDG events at the IAFP Annual Meeting, lunch-and-learn workshops throughout the year, and other initiatives that contribute to the growth and development of our members.

Collaboration with other professional organizations is another area where the AAFP has excelled. We hosted technical sessions at our annual meeting with vendors and have initiated plans for a joint meeting with the Oklahoma Association for Food Protection in the near future. This collaborative effort aims to promote knowledge exchange, enhance attendance, and create a stronger network of food safety

professionals across our region.

Our dedication to supporting the broader food safety community is evident in our contributions to the IAFP Foundation and affiliate activities. We sponsored IAFP Student PDG events through donations and provided items for the silent auction at the Annual Meeting in Toronto, showcasing our commitment to advancing food safety on a global scale. We also strive to always have an AAFP delegate or representative at the Affiliate Council breakfast hosted during the IAFP Annual Meeting. Representing our affiliate at the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting held on July 16, 2023, Jennifer Acuff provided valuable input on various matters discussed during the meeting. This active involvement demonstrates our commitment to contributing to the larger IAFP community and aligning our efforts with the broader goals of the association.

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of planning for the future, the AAFP has taken steps to increase involvement in organizing the next annual meeting, such as forming committees (scientific programming, member engagement, marketing and communication, and annual meeting planning). By forming committees and engaging more individuals throughout the year, we aim to generate additional activities, enhance communication, and provide year-round educational opportunities, thereby broadening our impact on food safety in Arkansas and surrounding states. The results of these efforts are reflected in our sustained membership and repeat sponsors and attendees of our annual meeting and other activities.

In closing, the AAFP's achievements in membership growth, communication, education, collaboration, and representation are exemplary. Our dedicated officers, board members, and attendees, many of whom are IAFP members, consistently collaborate and engage with food safety professionals globally. This not only contributes to the advancement of food safety in Arkansas but also aligns with IAFP's mission to advance food safety worldwide.

Thank you for considering the Arkansas Association for Food Protection for the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award. We are confident that our commitment to excellence and contributions to the food safety community make us a deserving candidate for this recognition.



SEPT. 26-28, 2023 | FAYETTEVILLE, AR



Conference Overview

Wednesday, Sept. 27

8:15 AM	Registration Opens
9:00 AM	Conference Welcome
9:15-11:50 AM	“Setting Standards” featuring talks from Mark Carter, Erin Crowley, Ben Miller, Tina Rendon, and Pathotrak
12:15-1:30 PM	Lunch on the Downtown Fayetteville Square
1:30-4:30 PM	“Advances in Pet Food Safety” featuring talks from Billie Johnson, Susy Tejayadi, Michele Sayles, Jarrod Kersey, Saldesia, and Neogen
4:30 PM	Vendor and Poster Viewing
5:00-7:00 PM	Networking Reception

Thursday, Sept. 28

8:15-9:45 AM	“Food Safety Regulatory Updates” featuring talks from José Emilio Esteban, Kis Robertson-Hale, and Hany Sidrak
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	“Looking into the Future of Food Safety” featuring talks from Manpreet Singh, Frank Yiannas, Barb Chamberlin, and Mike Clark
12:00- 1:30 PM	Lunch on the Downtown Fayetteville Square
1:30-3:00 PM	“Risks: Evergreen and Emerging” featuring talks from Carmen Cano Roca, Danah Vetter, and Kaliramesh Siliveru

Thank you to our sponsors, without whom this meeting would not be possible!

Platinum



Gold



Silver



Bronze



Special Events





Arkansas Association for Food Protection 15TH Annual Meeting and Educational Conference

September 26th-28th, 2023

Fayetteville, AR

Tuesday, September 26th

Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences (1371 West Altheimer Dr., Fayetteville, AR)

5-6:30pm Poster Competition, Welcome Reception, Registration
Food and Beverages Sponsored by Hygiena and Diamond Pet Foods
Poster Prizes Sponsored by Hygiena, Inficon, Ova, and AAFP

Wednesday, September 27th - Morning Session

Fayetteville Town Center (15 W Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR)

8:15 AM Registration Opens – Front Entrance

9:00 AM **AAFP Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Jennifer Acuff, University of Arkansas, President AAFP



Jennifer C. Acuff is an assistant professor of food microbiology and safety at the University of Arkansas. Prior to her current appointment, Acuff received a B.S. in Biology at Abilene Christian University in Abilene, TX, after which she attended Kansas State University (Manhattan, KS) for a M.S. in Food Science, where she studied strategies for mitigation of Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* in beef during post-harvest processing. Acuff earned a Ph.D. at Virginia Tech in Food Science, primarily conducting research in low-moisture food safety and evaluating the survival of foodborne pathogens on the surfaces of dried fruits and nuts during low-temperature vacuum-steam treatments. Acuff currently leads the Food Safety, Microbiology, And Research Technology Lab (also known as the Food SMART Lab), which focuses on low-moisture food safety with projects focused on understanding persistence of foodborne pathogens in a low-moisture food environment and validating and optimizing thermal and non-thermal interventions used for low-moisture food treatments. Acuff also teaches courses in food microbiology and food biosecurity, as well as serves as an extension specialist in Arkansas for food processors.

Setting Standards

Moderators: Nancy Gushing (OK Foods), Josh Hasty (Tyson Foods)

9:15-9:45 AM **Statistical Sampling Plans and Development**
Mark Carter, MC Squared



Mark is the Senior Product Manager for Software at Hygiena. Mark also currently serves as the President Elect of the Internal Association for Food Protection (IAFP) and owns MC Squared (MC2) an independent consulting firm with in-depth expertise in business, technology development and deployment. MC2 works with companies and organizations that are focused on improving public health.

Mark has extensive international business and technical experience. He recently served as COO of Matrix Sciences as well as the Executive Vice President of Corporate Development where he was responsible for Matrix Sciences M&A activity. Mark previously held positions as CEO of QCL and Corporate Vice-President of R&D at Merieux Nutrisciences, Mark spent 15 years in the food industry at McKee Foods Corporation and Kraft. Mark has experience in various technical, quality and business functions and is an active member of IFT, IAFP, AOAC and ASM (American Society for Microbiology). He serves on the AOAC Expert Review Panel for Food and Environmental Methods. Mark has served on the advisory boards of the food science and nutrition departments at both Cornell and Tuskegee

University. He also spent time on the board of Safe Tables Our Priority (S.T.O.P.), an advocacy group dedicated to serving those affected by foodborne illness. Mark is a graduate of University of Georgia with a B.S. in Microbiology and holds an M.S.A. from Columbus State University. He is also a registered clinical and public health microbiologist (RM AAM) with the American Academy of Microbiologists. He has extensive training and experience in statistics, epidemiology, and diagnostic development.

9:45-10:15 AM **Choosing AOAC Methods for Your Testing**

Erin Crowley, Q Laboratories



Erin Crowley is the Chief Scientific Officer at Q Laboratories, Inc in Cincinnati, Ohio. Erin and her R&D team have served as an independent third-party laboratory with a primary focus on providing high quality method validation for microbiological rapid detection methods. These validations include Independent laboratory evaluations for pathogen detection, qualitative methods and confirmatory assays for AOAC Official Methods of Analysis, AOAC Research Institute Performance Tested Methods Program, MicroVal and AFNOR NF Certification Programs. Erin frequently presents technical symposia globally on Method Validation, Method Verification, Harmonization and ISO standards development often representing the perspective of the third-party laboratory. In addition to being an active member of the International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) and AOAC, Erin serves as Past-President of the AOAC International Board of Directors, Past-Chair of the AOAC Official Methods Board, a member of the MicroVal Technical Committee (MVTTC), ISO TC34/SC9/WG 3 Committee on Method Validation and Chair-Elect of the JIFSAN Advisory Council. Erin earned a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati and an M.A. from Tufts University.

10:15-10:30 AM

BREAK (Vendor Booths and Poster Viewing)

Food Sponsored by McKee Foods, Beverages Sponsored by TBA

10:30-11:00 AM **Client Communication on Testing and Sampling**

Ben Miller, The Acheson Group LLC



Dr. Miller has more than twenty years of experience in food safety, public health, epidemiology, and infectious disease outbreak investigations. Ben earned his Ph.D. in Environmental Health with a background in infectious diseases and his Master of Public Health in Epidemiology. He currently serves as the Executive Vice President of Regulatory and Scientific Affairs at the Acheson Group where he works across multiple sectors advising on food safety, food safety culture, traceability, public health, outbreak-related and regulatory issues. Dr. Miller also has extensive food regulatory experience and, as previous Division Director at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, led the State of Minnesota's Human and Animal Food regulatory work. In his role as a state regulator, Dr. Miller developed experience implementing legislative reforms on topics related to food safety and is an expert in FDA traceability requirements. He is currently a member of the International Association of Food Protection Program Committee.

11:00-11:30 AM **Appendix A Updates**

Tina Rendon, Pilgrim's Pride



Tina Rendon graduated from Texas A&M University with a B.S. in Poultry Science. She began her career in 1998 as a Quality Assurance Supervisor, and has held various positions in Food Safety and Quality Assurance since then, with the majority of her career with Pilgrim's Pride Corporation. In her current position, Tina focuses on Regulatory Compliance, where she participates in trade organization meetings, conducts hands-on HACCP training, as well as communicates and implements the latest regulatory updates to 33 poultry slaughter and processing establishments. Tina has previously served as chairperson on the National Chicken Council Tech and Reg Committee, and served on the National Advisory Committee for Meat and Poultry Inspection. Tina has a passion for food safety and regulatory compliance, and truly enjoys being part of the nation's safe food supply.

11:30-11:50 AM **Sponsorship Talk**

Pathotrak Inc., Gold Sponsor – Javier Atencia

11:50-12:15 PM Announcements: Poster Prize Winners, Student Representative to IAFP
Vendor Booths and Poster Viewing

12:15-1:30 PM **Lunch on the Square (on your own)**

Wednesday, September 27th – Afternoon Session

Advances in Pet Food Safety

Moderators: Paula Schwarz (Flexxray), Jennifer Starkey (Tyson Foods)

1:30-2:00 PM **Farm to Fork for Pet Food—traceability and what this means in the Pet Food Sector**
Billie Johnson, BJH USA



Dr. Billie Johnson has a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Oklahoma. She is the Food Safety & Regulatory Compliance Manager for BJH North America, a pet food ingredient manufacturer, overseeing 9 plants in the US and Canada. Previously she was with Menu Foods / Simmons Pet Food for 19 years overseeing Food Safety Programs for 5 pet food manufacturing locations. She has extensive knowledge in internal auditing, GFSI certified audits, HACCP / PC development and maintenance of supplier approval programs including supplier auditing, and development of raw material in-process food safety testing protocols. She has been involved with the Editorial Team for the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) group responsible for creating the FDA approved curriculum for the “Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Hazard Analysis and Risk Based Preventive Controls for Food for Animals, Final Rule” and is a lead instructor for PCQI implementation for animal foods. She has presented at the most recent Pet Food Forum in Kansas City and has been an invited guest lecturer for Cornell University.

2:00-2:30 PM **Interventions for Raw Pet Food**
Susy Tejayadi, Consultant (Former Chief Scientific Officer at Instinct Pet Food)



Dr. Susy Tejayadi has had 33 years of experience in research and development in the human and pet food industry and is recently retired in March 2023. She is the Founder and President of TPS Consulting LLC. In her last position as the Chief Scientific Officer at Instinct Pet Food she has developed a science-based approach in making safe raw pet food. Driven by the science-based approach, Instinct is the only raw pet food company in the USA that employs full time experienced scientists having a college or advanced degree in food science, animal science, and a Board-Certified veterinary nutritionist. While at Instinct, Dr. Tejayadi collaborated with outside institutions such as the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Arkansas, log 10 and Institute of Food Safety and Health/Illinois Institute of Technology to conduct research. Dr. Tejayadi has extended the science-based approach beyond product development, initiating a multi-year research collaboration with the University of Helsinki Dog Risk study and the University of Georgia to build a scientific body of knowledge for the health benefits of feeding raw to pets.

2:30-3:05 PM **Sponsorship Talks**
Saldesia, Silver Sponsor – Michael Becker
Neogen, Gold Sponsor – Wilfredo Dominguez

3:05-3:30 PM BREAK (Vendor Booths and Poster Viewing)
Food and Beverages Sponsored by TBA

3:30-4:00 PM **Practical Approaches for the Prevention and Remediation of Dry Surface Biofilms in Food Settings: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly**
Michele Sayles, Diamond Pet Food



Dr. Michele M. Sayles has over 23 years experience in Food Safety, Quality and Food Microbiology. Michele’s current role is Executive Director of Food Safety and Quality for Diamond Pet Foods. Prior to joining Diamond, Michele was responsible for the Global Food Safety and Microbiology Program at Hill’s Pet Nutrition. Michele has held key Food Safety and Quality positions across various industries. She was the Sr. Corporate Quality Assurance & Food Safety Manager for the Sara Lee Corporation; the Director of HACCP and Food Safety for Seaboard Foods; and Director of Pork Safety for the National Pork Board. Michele holds a Ph.D. in Food Microbiology from Oklahoma State University,

a Masters of Science degree from Kansas State University and a Bachelor of Science degree from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.

4:00-4:30 PM **The Impact of Regulations, Consumers and Customers on Pet Food Safety**

Jarrood Kersey, Simmons Pet Food, Inc.

Jarrood is the Vice President of Quality and Government Affairs for Simmons. He has a wealth of experience in the regulatory and pet food safety arena, stemming from work early in his career as a trade association representative interacting with the Food & Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine and the Association of American Feed Control Officials. Jarrood's career includes roles with Procter & Gamble's Iams and Eukanuba brands, the American Feed Industry Association, and Mars Pet Food. He holds multiple degrees in his field, including a PhD from the University of Arkansas.

4:30 PM

Vendor Booths and Poster Viewing

5:00-7:00 PM

Networking Reception - Patio (Open Bar and light Hors d'oeuvres)

Bar Sponsored by Pepper Source; Food Sponsored by bioMérieux

Thursday, September 28th - Morning Session

Fayetteville Town Center (15 W Mountain St., Fayetteville, AR)

Food Safety Regulatory Updates

Moderators: Jerri Lynn Pickett (Tyson Foods), Peggy Cook (Neogen)

8:15-8:45 AM

USDA Office of Food Safety Updates

José Emilio Esteban, USDA FSIS

Dr. José Emilio Esteban was sworn in as under secretary for food safety on January 4, 2023. In this role, Dr. Esteban leads the Office of Food Safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), overseeing the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which has regulatory oversight for ensuring that meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled. In August 2018, he was appointed FSIS chief scientist. In this capacity, Dr. Esteban served as the primary scientific advisor on matters of public health and food safety that affect the mission of the agency, with primary responsibility for scientific initiatives within the FSIS Office of Public Health Science (OPHS). Dr. Esteban's efforts directly supported [FSIS' Strategic Goals 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health](#), and 2: Transform Inspection Strategies, Policies and Scientific Approaches to Improve Public Health. In 2002, Dr. Esteban joined OPHS as the director of the Western Laboratory. In this role, he directed the implementation of the sampling program and was responsible for the facility, equipment and personnel infrastructure. In 2008, he was appointed as the FSIS science advisor for laboratory services and then as executive associate for laboratory services, where he harmonized the operation of all three FSIS laboratories, maintained operations to meet with the ISO17025 standard and coordinated emergency response. Prior to joining FSIS, Dr. Esteban worked in several positions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 1994 to 2002, he was as an epidemic intelligence service officer; a staff epidemiologist in the National Center for Environmental Health; and an assistant director for the CDC Food Safety Office. He received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Mexico's Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, a Master of Business Administration from the Panamerican Institute, and a Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, as well as a doctorate in epidemiology from the University of California at Davis.

8:45-9:15 AM

FSIS Salmonella Initiative Update

Kis Robertson-Hale, USDA FSIS Office of Public Health Services

Rear Admiral Kis Robertson Hale is the Deputy Assistant Administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service's Office of Public Health Science and serves as the agency's Chief Public Health Veterinarian. In these roles, she oversees the science behind FSIS' regulatory agenda and represents the agency in One Health engagements. She has worked in multiple offices within the agency, including the Office of Field Operations. In 2008, she joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and in 2010, she was assigned to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene as a CDC Preventive Medicine Fellow. Her educational background includes a BS from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a DVM from Tuskegee University, and an MPH from the University of Minnesota. She is also board certified in veterinary preventive medicine. As a flag officer in

the Commissioned Corps of the US Public Health Service, she also is an Assistant Surgeon General. RADM Hale has received numerous awards and recognitions. In 2018, she received the James H. Steele One Health Outstanding PHS Veterinary Career Award and in 2019, she was named an Honorary Diplomate of the American Veterinary Epidemiology Society for outstanding contributions to One Health.

9:15-9:45 AM **OFO Inspection Update**

Hany Sidrak, USDA FSIS Office of Field Operations

Dr. Hany Sidrak was appointed deputy assistant administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Office of Field Operations (OFO) in May 2018. Dr. Sidrak has been committed to ensuring the FSIS' Strategic Goals – 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health; 2: Transform Inspection Strategies, Policies and Scientific Approaches to Improve Public Health; and 3: Achieve Operational Excellence – have been successfully implemented. Some of Dr. Sidrak's major accomplishments consisted of developing and leading modernization efforts, including the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point-based Inspection Models Project, New Swine Inspection System, and New Poultry Inspection System. He plays a critical role in guiding OFO district offices that oversee more than 6,800 geographically dispersed plants to ensure that meat, poultry and processed egg products are inspected for wholesomeness, safety and proper labeling. In addition to domestic and exported products, Dr. Sidrak leads the inspection of imported products to ensure that public health is protected at home and abroad. Dr. Sidrak joined FSIS in November 1991 as an in-plant veterinarian covering large volume poultry producing establishments in the Delmarva and Shenandoah areas. Moving to FSIS headquarters in March 1997, he has served as a staff officer with the Office of Policy and Program Development, director of the Recall Management Staff, and program manager for field operations. Dr. Sidrak served as an executive associate for regulatory operations from April 2012 to May 2018, where he provided leadership to the district offices and field personnel to protect the public's health. Dr. Sidrak is a 1984 graduate of Cairo University, College of Veterinary Medicine.



9:45-10:00 AM

BREAK (Vendor Booths and Poster Viewing)

Food and Beverages Sponsored by TBA

Looking into the Future of Food Safety

Moderators: Phillip Fruechting (Arkansas Dept. of Health), Keith Day (Twin Rivers)

10:00-10:30 AM **Poultry Processing Technologies and Innovations for Mitigation and Regulatory Compliance**

Manpreet Singh, University of Georgia

Manpreet Singh is a Professor and Head of the Department, for the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Georgia. He received his MS in Food Science from Kansas State University, and PhD in Food Science and Technology from Iowa State University. He worked as a faculty member in the Department of Poultry Science at Auburn University from 2007-2013, the Department of Food Science at Purdue from 2013-2016, and the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Georgia from 2017-2020, prior to starting his position as Department Head in July 2021. His research and outreach activities have focused on innovation and optimization of intervention technologies against Salmonella and Campylobacter during poultry processing. He has published over 60 peer-reviewed papers and numerous proceeding papers and abstracts that have been presented at national and international conferences. He has garnered in excess of \$5 million in extramural funding from USDA-NIFA, USAID, US Poultry and Egg, poultry industry contracts, and other funding agencies. His outreach activities have provided over 5000 industry professionals networking and educational opportunities worldwide and his programming includes several training workshops on pathogen control in poultry processing, Onfarm control measures for Salmonella and Campylobacter, and pathogen detection technologies to assist the poultry processing industry. Dr. Singh served as the program chair for the annual PSA meeting in 2018.



10:30-11:00 AM **Leadership and Food Safety Culture**

Frank Yiannas, Smarter FY Solutions

Frank Yiannas is a renowned food safety leader and executive, food system futurist, author, professor, past president of the International Association of Food Protection, and advocate for consumers. Most recently, he served under two different administrations as the Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), a position he held from 2018 to 2023, after spending 30 years in leadership roles with two industry giants: Walmart and the Walt Disney Company. Through his career, Frank has been recognized for his role in strengthening food safety standards in new and innovative ways, as well as building effective food safety management systems based on modern, science-based, and tech-enable prevention principles.



11:00-11:30 AM **Choosing the Right Media for Food Safety**

Barbara Chamberlin, New Mexico State University

Barbara Chamberlin's office is a bit different from those at other universities: she has lego flowers and a sword of Gryffindor and toys and a lite brite. It's clear that she is an advocate for play, which makes sense given the work she and her shop do in the Innovative Media Research and Extension department at New Mexico State University. The Department and her Learning Games Lab create educational tools for a wide variety of content and audiences. For example, they are working on virtual reality programs for a national park, have completed child development apps for toddlers, games on financial literacy and math, and a whole suite of products for college students in agriculture and related majors. We know her because of their extension collection of food safety education tools, including games, animations, videos and interactives. Her team of professional artists, programmers, videographers and developers create amazing tools for millions of users annually. Dr. Chamberlin has been designing learning tools in the field of educational technology with NMSU for almost 30 years, so we've asked her here today to talk about the ways technology should impact the future of our work, and what technology has to do with it.

11:30-12:00 PM **Between the Bun: Navigating the Complexities of Pathogen Testing in Plant-Based Meats**

Mike Clark, Life Science Group with Bio-Rad

Mike began his career in 2000 as a microbiologist with Dairy Farmers of America/Chestnut Labs. During his 12 years with Dairy Farmers of America/Chestnut Labs, Mike served as a Food Microbiologist, Laboratory Director and Director of Business Development. In those positions, he conducted pathogen and indicator organism testing, evaluated and implemented new laboratory testing methods, consulted on food safety/quality programs, and method validation. Mike joined Bio-Rad's Food Science Division in 2012 as a Business Development Manager for North America before transitioning in 2015 into his current role as Global Marketing Manager, Molecular Food Diagnostics. As a Global Marketing Manager, Mike is responsible for developing and strengthening Bio-Rad's position in key markets; government and regulatory affairs; and worldwide product and marketing strategy for PCR and ddPCR for food diagnostics. Mike holds a bachelor's degree in biology and a master's in business. Mike is actively involved in AOAC serving on the Board of Directors, Research Institute Advisory Council, Cannabis Analytical Science Program Advisory Council, and multiple working groups, stakeholder panels, and programs.

Vendor Booths and Poster Viewing

12:00- 1:30 PM **Lunch on the Square (not provided)**

Thursday, September 28th - Afternoon Session

Risks: Evergreen and Emerging

Moderator: Karen Beers (Pilgrim's Pride), Kristen Gibson (University of Arkansas)

1:30-2:00 PM **Risk Assessments and Supply Quality**

Carmen Cano Roca, Dairy Farmers of America

Dr. Carmen Cano Roca is the Program Manager for Supply Quality at Dairy Farmers of America. She received her PhD in food science from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her research experience is primarily in the field of food microbiology, with industry experience in bakery, food service and dairy products. With Dairy Farmers of America, she is part of a team focused on supplier auditing and raw material risk assessment throughout the supply chain.

2:00-2:30 PM **Dealing with a Recall**

Danah Vetter, George's, Inc.



I received my Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Mississippi State University (2000). After practicing small animal medicine for two years, I joined the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) in 2002. While employed by USDA/FSIS I enjoyed a diverse 15-year career, which began as a Public Health Veterinarian (PHV) in a large poultry slaughter establishment. I supervised and trained other USDA/FSIS employees in post-mortem carcass inspection and disposition, regulatory verification procedures, food product sampling, food safety system implementation, and documentation of regulatory noncompliance. I was cross trained as an Enforcement Investigations and Analysis Officer (EIAO) in 2003, and a full-time EIAO from 2007 through 2008. In 2009, I joined the Recall Management Staff operating under the Office of Field Operations (OFO) in Washington, D.C. I spent six (6) years in this role and led numerous recall committee deliberations providing leadership, guidance, and feedback to committee members and attendees regarding complex, unusual, or controversial issues covering a full range of inspection matters, regulations, policies, and procedures for meat, poultry, and egg products. In 2014, I joined the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS), Science Staff as a Veterinary Medical Officer in 2014. And although I did not work on recalls full time, I frequently served as the OPHS Recall Committee representative. I also regularly worked on outbreak investigations while in OPHS which included interpreting complex epidemiological information, as well as developing investigative sampling plans and analyses of results. Having over six years of experience organizing, leading, and participating in FSIS Recall Committees has provided me with a diverse knowledge of classifying food safety risks for the purpose of recalls and for determining scope/distribution of a recall by interpreting and analyzing multifaceted food production practices, distribution, and traceback documentation. In addition, I have experience in outbreak-related recalls involving complex epidemiological information. In August of 2019, I joined George's Inc. as the Director of Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs and recently celebrated four (4) years with the company.

2:30-3:00 PM **Blockchain Models for Flour and Grain Safety**

Kaliramesh Siliveru, Kansas State University



Dr. Kaliramesh (Kali) Siliveru is the associate professor of grain processing in the Department of Grain Science and Industry, Kansas State University. He teaches courses over particle technology, advanced grain processing technology, and grain handling. Along with teaching, Siliveru conducts research related to grain processing and storage, food safety, modeling and simulation. During his career, Siliveru has authored or co-authored over 50 refereed journal papers and more than 100 conference papers. Since starting his academic and professional career at K-State, Siliveru has been honored with 15 awards in the department, college, university, national and international levels. A few of these awards include the 2021 Early Career Engineer of the Year of ASABE, The Andersons Early-in-Career Award of Excellence from the U.S. Quality Grains Research Consortium, and the Gamma Sigma Delta Early Career Reward from Gamma Sigma Delta, The Honor Society of Agriculture, ETA Chapter.

3:00-3:15 PM **Meeting Close and Adjourn**