

August 28, 2006

CELT Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

TEACH Grant Final Report

Project Description: Visiting Guest Lecturer in Food Safety. Funds were requested to defray the costs associated with bringing a high-profile Food Safety leader to campus.

Background: Recently, the Battelle Memorial Institute identified Food Safety as an essential component of Iowa's plan for biosciences-driven economic growth and security. The University plays a central, leadership role in promoting the ideas and culture that will help fuel this growth. With initiatives such as the Institute for Food Safety and Security, participation in the Food Safety Consortium and the recent introduction of an interdepartmental undergraduate minor in Food Safety, there is a building momentum and interest in Food Safety-related topics on campus. The proposed Visiting Guest Lecturer in Food Safety will contribute further to the University's development as a center for Food Safety knowledge and excellence.

Outcome: Dr. Martin Cole, director of the National Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST), Summit-Argo, IL visited our campus on April 26th, 2006. This was the second in this successful series of high-profile Food Safety expert speakers funded by the TEACH Grant program.

The National Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST) in Chicago, Illinois, is a research consortium combining the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) and members of the food industry. Established 17 years ago, the NCFST incorporates the FDA's Division of Food Packaging and Processing and was formed by the FDA to link industry with its experts in food technology. The NCFST is the only center where industry can work collaboratively on projects with FDA scientists on food safety and technology research. Membership in the NCFST allows companies to gain early insights into emerging food safety issues from the CFSAN perspective and to assess the safety of new technologies that may foster innovation. This early collaboration with FDA may also enhance speed to market through the regulatory process. Dr. Cole gave an overview of the role and structure of the NCFST and how his center is approaching the next set of key problems in food safety. Dr. Cole identified collaboration among academic partners as an important source of the innovation in food safety that his membership seeks. Dr. Cole also introduced the concept of a Food Safety Objective (FSO), a means for translating an identified public health risk into a definable and addressable goal, such as reduction in numbers of a certain pathogen to a given level.

Faculty, Student and Staff Involvement: Dr. Cole's talk was held as part of the Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN) departmental seminar schedule. In an effort to maximize attendance, multiple outlets were used to announce this seminar. These included email invitations to all FSHN and Institute of Food Safety and Security (IFSS) personnel, newspaper postings (The Ames Tribune – see attached scan) and word of mouth. As a result, turnout at the lecture was excellent. This visit by Dr. Cole also facilitated key interactions with FSHN and IFSS faculty involved in food safety initiatives at Iowa State University, including Dr. Manjit Misra, the newly appointed director of the IFSS. Dr. Brehm-Stecher, the faculty host, was subsequently invited to visit the NCFST (August 1st and 2nd, 2006) and give a talk on his current research. This visit has helped cement additional collaborative relationships and projects between Dr. Brehm-Stecher and

NCFST personnel, including Dr. Peter Varelis, IIT (effect of n-alkanol series on antimicrobial uptake) and Dr. Marylou Tortorello, FDA (rapid detection of *Salmonella* in seed sprouts via flow cytometry). Overall, Dr. Cole's visit was a success, engaging ISU personnel at all levels in a shared learning experience focused on food safety and facilitating invaluable face-to-face dialog on opportunities available to the ISU research community in the area of food safety.

Contact Person: Byron Brehm-Stecher, Assistant Professor, Food Safety and Microbiology, Dept. Food Science and Human Nutrition, 2581 Food Sciences Building, Phone: 294 6469, FAX: 294 8181, E-Mail: byron@iastate.edu

ISU

Food safety is lecture topic

The Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition at Iowa State University will host a talk by food safety expert Martin Cole on "Food Safety Technology and Innovation in the Food Industry" at 4:10 p.m. Wednesday in 1210 LeBaron Hall.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

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Compiled by Ian Anderson
Phone: 232-2160, Ext. 341
E-mail: communitylife@amestrib.com

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