

- Save the Date! - September 18, 2014

Symposium: Rapid Methods for Food Safety Microbiology

Current Challenges and Leading Technologies for the Path Forward

Chicago Marriott Southwest Burr Ridge, Burr Ridge, IL

Co-organized by IIT's Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Food Research Institute (FRI).

Synopsis: Advances in molecular and analytical technologies have led to the development of new rapid detection methods that provide improved accuracy, sensitivity, reproducibility and faster time-to-result than traditional methods. Whether used for foodborne disease tracking, surveillance, or regulatory action, methods to detect and identify foodborne pathogens are essential to ensuring the public health. Equally critical to the discussion is an understanding of the relationships among microorganisms and the food processing environment. These interactions influence foodborne pathogen colonization, survival, biofilm formation and detection. This symposium will address the critical role and state of rapid detection methods in key food industry segments. Given that methods and approaches vary widely across and within industry segments - what are the challenges to ensuring a timely and reliable food safety assessment? How can current and emerging methods best be applied? Critical questions like these will be explored in this thought-provoking symposium.

What to expect: Symposium sessions will feature speakers from government, academia and the food industry covering these four important areas:

- **Public Health Considerations:** Advancements in molecular microbiology, bioinformatics, and instrumentation technologies with examples of how they are being implemented in public health applications.
- **Sample Preparation and Sampling Plans:** The latest developments in methodologies and technologies for the isolation, concentration and enrichment of target organisms from food and environmental samples.
- **New Technologies:** New and near market technologies for rapid detection and identification of foodborne pathogens in food and food processing environments.
- **Microbial Ecology:** The microbiome of foods, food manufacturing environments and humans in hopes of better understanding the impact of these relationships on product quality, pathogen detection, and health.

Who should attend: This symposium is for professionals from industry, academia and government in food processing, food safety, quality assurance, regulatory functions, public health administration, and those involved in developing or using pathogen detection equipment and methods.

Location: The symposium will be held at the Chicago Marriott Southwest Burr Ridge, Burr Ridge, IL. Early registration will be available on-line at: www.iit.edu/ifsh after July 21, 2014.

Please contact Ms. LaShondra Stephens at 708-563-8278 for details.