



North Carolina Food Safety and Defense Task Force

Established 2003

2011 Task Force Conference **Achieving Excellence Together: Using the Task Force Model to Improve Food Protection**

Speakers

(In order of appearance)

Dr. Jeffrey Engel

Dr. Jeffrey Engel was named North Carolina's State Health Director in March 2009. Prior to that, he served for seven years as the State Epidemiologist and chief of the Epidemiology Section for the State Division of Public Health. He has been a Professor of Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Engel received his undergraduate and medical degrees from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Travis Goodman

Travis is a Consumer Safety Officer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration working in the Division of Federal-State Relations. He is currently focusing on the implementation of the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards. Prior to working for FDA, he was a Public Health Administrator and Food Defense Program Coordinator in the Division of Food Protection at the Indiana State Department of Health. He was detailed to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security from June 2008-2009, as a Food and Agriculture Sector Specialist to provide a State perspective on developing projects and initiatives. Mr. Goodman Chaired the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) National Food Protection and Defense Committee from 2005-2010. He established the Indiana Food Safety and Defense Task Force and the Indiana Environmental Health Association's Terrorism and All-Hazards Preparedness Committee.

Betsy Kaesontae

Betsy is the Director of Quality Assurance and Food Safety for Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. She was born in Pennsylvania, and attended Kansas State University, receiving her B.S. in Animal Science in 1995. Since July 2005, Betsy has worked in the Quality Assurance and Food Safety Department for Cracker Barrel. As a Director of QA and Food Safety, Betsy is responsible for Restaurant and Retail Food Supplier and Product Compliances and Restaurant Equipment and Supplies Compliances along with Regulatory Compliances. Betsy has 15 years of experience in food quality that include; food service, food production, food microbiology and regulatory standards.

Trevor Phister

Dr. Trevor Phister has been an extension specialist in the North Carolina State Food Science Department with a 75% Research: 25% Extension appointment for just over 4 ½ years. He is a founding member of the North Carolina Fresh Produce Safety Task Force, a group bringing academic, extension, government and industry members together to address concerns about the safety of the states produce through research and education. Trevor received a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Iowa, a Masters degree from Clemson University and a Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Minnesota. His produce safety related research interests focus on the interaction of enteric bacteria with plants.

Steve Tracey

Steve is the Manager of Supply Chain Food Safety for Delhaize America (Food Lion, Hannaford, Sweetbay). He has 27 years consumer products quality and safety experience with 23 years in food from manufacturing to consulting and retail. He has been an auditor and HACCP coordinator for manufacturing plants and distribution centers, and for the last nine years, has been a leader in food safety and food defense for retail grocery operations. At Food Lion, he has helped build a program of training, auditing, and performance measurement. The program was laid on the foundation of food safety reviews, computer based training, and sanitation vendor coordination. Steve received a BS in Food Science from NC State University in December, 1983.

Timothy Johnson III

Tim is an Emergency Management Coordinator who serves as the Assistant Human Services Program Manager of the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management. Tim has 12 years of experience in Emergency Management beginning with Hurricane Floyd. He has also worked for a global humanitarian organization which allowed him to organize and implement more than 22 long-term recovery organizations in 4 States from 2004-2007. For the State of NC, Tim has worked in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Public Assistance Program, and the State Emergency Operations Center. Mr. Johnson has a Bachelor of Science in Psychology and Education from the University of Southern Mississippi and a Masters of Public Administration from Troy State University.

Don Delozier

Don is the state director for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Meat and Poultry Inspection Division (MPID). Don has a dedicated staff of 87 field inspectors, 9 area supervisors, 7 field veterinarians, 3 full-time trainers, 5 compliance officers, and 10 office staff support whose daily mission is food safety for the consumers of North Carolina. Don spent several years in private industry before joining USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service where he spent 35 years holding various positions from inspector, trainer, supervisor, Q.C. specialist, and staff officer. He attended the University of Baltimore for Business Management, Ohio State University for Food Science courses, and received his food technology certification from Mississippi State University. He is HACCP-certified with numerous course work in all phases of meat/poultry complex processes. Don has been with NCDA&CS for over 10 years and has been director for MPID for the past 3 years.

Dan Ragan

Dan is the director of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food and Drug Protection Division. He is a registered pharmacist who has worked for the Department for more than 11 years. Since September, he has served as director of the Food and Drug Protection Division, and prior to that he was administrator of our drug protection program. In October, 2009, he was invited to and testified before a U.S. Senate sub-committee focused on food safety. He has been appointed by the Governor's office to be a member of the executive committee of the Food Safety and Defense Task Force. In 2010 Dan attended the 50 states FDA meeting on the integration of a unified food safety system. Dan grew up in Raleigh, N.C. and received his undergraduate BS degree in Animal Science from NC State University in 1978. He graduated from pharmacy school in 1982 from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill before opening his own practice in 1987. He has run multiple retail pharmacy operations as well as worked as a consultant in long term care pharmacy operations.

Larry Michael

Larry has environmental health experience at both state and local government levels. At the local level, he worked as an Environmental Health Specialist in Lee County. Later, Larry joined the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and worked as a Regional Environmental Health Specialist and Field Supervisor with the Division of Environmental Health (DEH). In 2006, Larry joined the Food Protection Branch of DEH and served as the first Food Defense Coordinator with the Environmental Health Services Section. In May 2007, he was promoted to his current position as Head of the Food Protection Branch. Larry earned a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health from East Carolina University and a Master of Public Health from the University of NC at Chapel Hill.

David Sweat

Mr. Sweat is the Foodborne Diseases Epidemiologist with the North Carolina Division of Public Health. He earned his Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1993. As a field epidemiologist with the Texas Department of Health and the North Carolina Division of Public Health he has investigated numerous infectious disease outbreaks associated with enteric disease pathogens such as *Cyclospora*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Salmonella*, Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli*, *Noroviruses*, and others. He is a published author and contributing author on numerous published papers and presentations. He holds adjunct faculty appointments with the school of public health at UNC-Chapel Hill and with Louisiana State University. He also represents the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials on the national Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response and helped edit the CIFOR Guidelines, published in 2009.

Doug Saunders

Doug is Deputy Director of the Division of Animal and Food Industry Services for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services where he oversees the activities of the Office of Animal Care and Health Policy, the Office of Dairy and Foods, the Office of Laboratory Services, the Office of Meat and Poultry Services, and the Office of Veterinary Services. Doug has been a very active member of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) and the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States (AFDOSS) and has held many different positions within the organizations. Doug has also been actively involved with developing the concept of a National Food Safety System (NFSS), a project that began with the 50 – State Food Safety Initiative Meeting held in Kansas City, MO in September 1998. He subsequently worked with FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in October 1998 to prepare the summary report from that meeting, and was selected as one of three Vice Chairmen of the NFSS Coordinating Committee. Doug received his Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Virginia Tech.

Brett Weed

Brett Weed is an Emergency Response Coordinator and State Program Liaison for the US Food and Drug Administration Atlanta District, based in Raleigh, NC. Prior to joining FDA, Brett served as the Food Defense Coordinator and Compliance and Preparedness Administrator for the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Food and Drug Protection Division. Brett has a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry and Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from East Carolina University and a Master of Science in Biochemistry and Biophysics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Marc Meyer

Marc is the food and lodging supervisor for Durham County Environmental Health division. He has worked as an environmental health specialist in Durham County since 1994. Marc was the lead hazard risk assessor for Durham County environmental health from 1998 to 2008. Marc worked 10 years in the contract food service management industry prior to joining Durham County environmental health.

Leslie Wolf

Dr. Leslie A. Wolf received her B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Kentucky and her Ph.D. in Immunology from the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. She completed a CDC/APHL Emerging Infectious Disease Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health, and then became the first Public Health Scientist with her focus on using molecular diagnostics and molecular epidemiology in the public health laboratory setting. Dr. Wolf set up the PulseNet laboratory in 1999. She has been involved in Food Safety/Food Defense initiatives, Laboratory Preparedness, Quality Assurance and Laboratory Safety programs since transitioning into Laboratory Administration. Dr. Wolf has been Director of the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health since August 2006.