AFDO leaders meet with FDA programs in DC Area to discuss Smarter Era of Food Safety comments and joint projects
Several members of the AFDO Board met with key FDA leaders this week including Mark Sestak, President-elect; Natalie Adan, Vice President; Steve Moris, Past President; Elisabeth Wirsing, NEFDOA Rep; Elizabeth Nutt, MCAFDO Rep; and Steven Mandernach, Executive Director.

The meetings focused on retail foods and training. Meetings included with the Retail Food Program Executive Leadership Alignment Team (ELAT): Laurie Farmer, Director Office of State Cooperative Programs; Alan Tart, Deputy Director Office of Partnerships; John Stoll, OTED; and Mary Cartagena representing CFSAN. Further, Pat Alock, Director of Office of Training, Education and Development updated the group on FDA training initiatives. The groups discussed and in particular implementing root cause analysis skills across the curriculum a key component of the Smarter Era of Food Safety Comments.

The group also met with Caitlin Boon, Association Commissioner for Food Policy and Response at FDA to further discuss the Smarter Era of Food Safety Comments submitted by AFDO in December. You can read comments submitted by AFDO representatives here.

Thank you to all FDA leaders for making time available to collaborate with AFDO representatives.

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**Retail Association Collaborative met in Rockville this week**
This week the Retail Foods Regulatory Association Collaborative met in Rockville, MD. The collaborative includes member from AFDO, CFP, NACCHO, NEHA, FDA, and CDC. The collaborative works together to leverage resources to reduce foodborne illness risk factors.

More information from the collaborative will be forthcoming.

Author Deborah Blum Shares Insight Into "The Poison Squad"

*Blum was a keynote presenter at the 2019 AFDO Education Conference*
The American Experience: The Poison Squad that premiered last week on PBS nationwide is based on the book by the same name by Deborah Blum. Those of you who attended the 2019 Annual Education Conference had the treat of hearing about Blum's journey of discovery into beginnings of food safety. We sat down with Blum right after her engaging presentation and talked about Harvey Wiley and how his story impacts what AFDO members do every day in 2020.

This week's podcast features Blum's view on evidence-based food safety policy as well as how the Poison Squad's place in history can inform work with cannabis. You can access the AFDO podcast catalog at the following links. Videos can be found at https://afdo.podbean.com/ and audio podcasts at https://afdoaudio.podbean.com/. Or download the AFDO app (IT'S FREE) so you can listen or watch on the go. The app is available for iPhone and Android.

HACCP Train-the-Trainer Announcement
the standard SHA Basic Seafood HACCP Course, Segment Two HACCP Courses, and the related Sanitation Control Procedures (SCP) Course in accordance with their established protocol recognized by the Association of Food and Drug Official (AFDO) and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Participants are encouraged from academia, regulatory, and commercial programs about the nation and around the world. All applicants will be reviewed to assure experience and intentions to conduct the standard training courses. All approved applicants **MUST have completed in advance of the Trainer Course the SHA Basic Seafood HACCP course, the SHA Internet course (Segment One) plus a Segment Two course since 2011, or a HACCP course provided by the US Department of Commerce/NOAA-Seafood Inspection Program since 2011** to assure they are familiar with the required SHA training materials, regulations and concepts.

Read more....

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**Stop Being Busy, Start Being Productive**

We all suffer from the “busyness disease.” **Over 60% of working Americans say they don’t have enough time to do the things they want to do.** And 40% of full-time working moms say they Always feel rushed!

The scarcest resource professionals and leaders have is their time (not money or people or influence). **Time.** And it’s why the top frustrations of leaders are typically not having enough time, struggling to balance priorities, not being proactive enough and reacting to everyone else’s priorities, and spending too much time doing work that someone else should be doing.

But there is good news...we have a lot more time than we think we do. **One study found that people who say they work 75-hours per week overestimated their working time by about 25 hours!**

There are 4 kinds of work that consume our time: Green Light, Yellow Light, Orange Light and Red Light Work. **But only Green Light Work will give you a successful career.**

Read more and Add to Calendar
AFDO Continuing Education Tuition Reimbursement Awards

In 2017, AFDO established a non-traditional continuing education tuition reimbursement fund to be awarded annually to worthy officials who are currently employed at a state, local, tribal, or territorial government agency and are returning to college or continuing their education to seek better career and work opportunities. Each award amount is not to exceed $1500 and is not renewable. This scholarship is coordinated for AFDO by the Professional Development Committee.

All applications must be received by April 15 of the current year to be considered for the current year’s award.

Read more and apply

Become a sponsor for the AFDO Annual Educational Conference

Sponsorship offers visibility to both the regulatory and industry communities, and positions your organization as a supporter of AFDO. We offer several levels of sponsorship, and your company name and logo will appear on signage displayed during your sponsored event. A list of Sponsors will also be posted on the AFDO website conference pages, with links to their organizations’ website. Please visit the AFDO Conference website to learn how to become a sponsor.

Exhibit at the AFDO Annual Educational Conference

The Conference will give you the opportunity to network and market your products/services to approximately 300 top-level decision-makers, representing Federal and State health and agriculture departments, as well as industry members representing the food and drug markets. A list of Exhibitors will be posted on the AFDO website conference pages, with links to their organization’s websites. Exhibitors will also be recognized during the Conference program. Learn more about how to become an exhibitor on the AFDO Conference Website.
Katherine Simon Promoted In the Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Katherine Simon, REHS has been promoted to Food and Feed Safety Division Director at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. She has shared her expertise in the past as a member of the AFDO Board, NCAFDO President, and as an IFPTI Fellow. Congratulations to Katherine.

It's time to start thinking about AFDO Awards...

Do you know of someone that deserves recognition? AFDO's awards are presented annually at the Annual Educational Conference during the Wiley Award banquet. The awards are administered by the Awards Committee Chair, with subcommittees for the Wiley and Associate Member that are chaired by the immediate past recipient.

Here's a list of each AFDO Award:

- Achievement
- Industry Associate Member
FDA News

Grants Learning Center

The Grants Learning Center is your portal to the federal grant world. Learn more about the grants, search for grants, submit an application, connect to the federal government agency that supports your grants, and more. This portal is a one-stop-shop for all of your grant needs. Check out the Grants Learning Center

Next Steps for Strengthening Regulatory Systems

Report Calls for Next Steps to Strengthen Global Food and Drug Systems

by Mary Lou Valdez

In today’s global economy, with food and medical products trading across borders, weak regulatory systems in low- and middle-income countries can have significant public health consequences, not just in those countries but in other, more prosperous countries, such as the United States.

Some 10 years ago, our international office, then known as the Office of International Programs, wisely recognized these interconnections and decided to commission the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to study the capacity of regulatory systems in emerging economies and determine what, if anything, could be done to strengthen that capacity. Read more...
Preventive Controls for Human Foods and Foreign Supplier Verification Programs

Preventive Controls for Human Foods Course (PCQI)
Course Information

Foreign Supplier Verification Programs Course (FSVP)
Course Information

Intentional Adulteration Conducting Vulnerability Assessments (IAVA)
Course Information

EAS Consulting Group Training

Hygienic Equipment Sanitation - Best Practices for Food Safety
Three-part series - January 29, February 5, and February 12, 2020

Tips to Streamlining the Drug Master File Process
February 12, 2020

Dietary Supplement Labeling Compliance Seminar
April 14 - 15, 2020 - Long Island, NY

Food Labeling Compliance Seminar
April 16 - 17, 2020 - Long Island, NY

EAS Complimentary On-Demand Webinar Understanding GRAS Submissions and Avoiding Data Pitfalls
The Food Safety Doctor LLC
Promoting Public Health and Food Safety through Training and FSMA Awareness

FSPCA Intentional Adulteration Vulnerability Assessments Qualified Individuals (IAVA-QI) Certificate Training.

- April 1, 2020: New Orleans, LA
- June 9, 2020: San Juan, P.R.
- October 14, 2020: Grand Prairie
- Date TBD: Singapore

https://thefoodsafetydoctorllc.com/fspca-iava-qi-course-sc

FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Foods Qualified Individuals (PCQI) Certificate Training. & International HACCP Alliance (HACCP) Deep Dive Training

- April 21-23, 2020: PCQI: Grand Prairie, Texas
- June 16-18, 2020: HACCP Deep Dive Grand Prairie, Texas
- September 8-9, 2020: HACCP Deep Dive Grand Prairie, Texas

https://thefoodsafetydoctorllc.com/fspca-pcqi-training-1

FSPCA Foreign Supplier Verification Program Qualified Individuals (FSVP-QI) Certificate Training.

- August 11-12, 2020: FSVP-QI: Grand Prairie, Texas

https://thefoodsafetydoctorllc.com/fspca-fsvp-qi-training

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Laws and Regulations Committee Update
A collection of current food, drug, device, and consumer product regulatory issues and news

January 24 - 28, 2020
January 29 - 30, 2020