AFDO Announces Availability of FDA Scientific Conference Grant Program Scholarships

The Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) will apply for a scientific conference grant from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The purpose of the award is to provide scholarships to state and local food & drug regulatory personnel to attend the 2020 AFDO Annual Educational Conference (AEC). This year's AEC is being held June 27 – July 1, 2020 at the Renaissance in Glendale, AZ.
All applications must be submitted no later than the close of business on Friday, April 3, 2020.

MCAFDO Holds Annual Meeting; Pierquet Recognized

The 2020 Mid-Continental Association of Food and Drugs Officials (MCAFDO) Annual Educational Conference was held last week in Rogers, Arkansas. AFDO Enews will have more coverage of the meeting in next week's edition. We will also have additional reporting on the annual awards held at the conference.

Congratulations go to Jennifer Pierquet, AFDO Project Manager, as she was honored with one of the Outstanding MCAFDO Awards. Pierquet was recognized in part for assisting those MCAFDO state programs that utilize USAFoodSafety or USAPlants in her current position.

Pierquet has been an active member of MCAFDO from her early days of working for the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals - Food and Consumer Safety Bureau. She was the main
While she worked for Iowa, Pierquet was the Manufactured Foods Regulatory Program Standards (MFRPS) Coordinator and she helped in developing the Coordinators Manual. This is a guide that is helpful to all programs that are enrolled in the MFRPS. She was also instrumental in developing a workshop for Program Standards Coordinators during the annual MFRPA meeting. Congratulations, Jenny!

The Global Food Safety Initiative 2020

Executive Director Steven Mandernach participated in annual The Global Food Safety Initiative 2020 last week in Seattle. GFSI is an industry-driven global collaboration to advance food safety. GFSI is powered by The Consumer Goods Forum. Over 1,000 delegates from around the world in Seattle for the 19th iteration of the GFSI2020 Conference! Representatives of governments from countries such as the Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Japan and many others also attended. Mandernach participated in the Government to Government and Government to Business meeting as part of the US FDA delegation. The G2B meetings had a large focus on e-commerce. During the meeting Mandernach was able to meet with many AFDO members and partners such as Partnership for Food Safety Education, Nestle, Ahold Delhaize USA, Ecolab, Testo, Wendy’s, Amazon, McDonald’s, Instacart, ConAgra, Wegman’s, STOP Foodborne Illness, and Food Safety Magazine.
AFDO and N.Y. Department of Agriculture Host Training

AFDO and the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets co-hosted an Instructor Skills Training (IST) in Albany, NY (last week Tuesday to Thursday). AFDO participants included board members Natalie Adan (Georgia Department of Agriculture), Liz Wirsing, (Vermont Department of Health), and Angela Montalbano (New York Department of Agriculture and Markets). The board members all reported they found great value from participating in the training. Representatives of the above agencies, FDA, and Virginia Department of Agriculture also participated.

If you are interested in future ISTs, please send an email to afdo@afdo.org.

Free Resource Available as Food Industry Faces COVID-19 Threat
Information is key in the developing fight against COVID-19. As part of the Acheson Group (TAG) commitment to supporting the food supply chain, they have developed a resource for the food industry including a website and daily newsletter as the threat changes each day. TAG is a global food safety consulting group that helps companies throughout the food supply chain more effectively mitigate risks, improve operational efficiencies, and ensure regulatory and standards compliance. The website can be found at https://www.achesongroup.com/covid-19. For further information and advice on the impacts of COVID-19 on the food industry and advice/insights on managing assets, use of face masks, and other practices, you can subscribe to TAG’s daily COVID-19 newsletter.

Come Early. Stay Late. Learn and Experience More at the AFDO Education Conference

With the AFDO Education Conference open for registration, now is the time to book your participation in pre-conference training opportunities and tours. Spaces will go fast and available for an additional $50 fee beyond the conference registration. Visit https://afdoconference.org/registration-2020/ to register for conference and get your seat in these great opportunities listed below. Learn more by clicking here.

- **The Food Program Management Development Course (Limited to 24 Participants)** This session is June 26th from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.
- **Evaluating Active Managerial Control (AMC) Training Methods (Limited to 20 Participants)** Get those answers here all day Friday, June 26, 2020.
- **2020 Active Managerial Control 4-Hour Workshop**, Saturday morning, June 27
Wednesday, July 1, 50 people will be able to participate in the special AFDO cannabis offsite tour. More details will be coming on this must see, hands on tour.

To take advantage of these great opportunities, go to https://afdoconference.org/registration-2020/ now and reserve your space and invest in your professional growth with this economical training opportunities.

Exhibit at the AFDO Annual Educational Conference

Do you want your business to be recognized by attendees from all over the nation? Do you want to gain more exposure to draw in more business? Exhibiting at the AFDO Conference will provide allow you to be noticed by regulatory, industry, and local agencies all over the nation.

The AFDO Conference will give you the opportunity to network and market your products/services to approximately 300 top-level decision-makers, representing Federal and State, and local 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 and through our Exhibitors Stampede game that encourages exhibitor exposure. Learn more about how to become an exhibitor on the AFDO Conference Website.

Become a sponsor for the AFDO Annual Educational Conference

Is there something that you want to see implemented at the AFDO conference? Or do you want to be recognized for assisting at the conference? Consider being a sponsor of the AFDO conference!

Sponsorship offers

- Visibility to both the regulatory and industry communities
- Positions your organization as a supporter of AFDO, a nationally recognized nonprofit

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
Food Labeling Workshop 2020 - Institute for Food Laws and Regulations

The Institute for Food Laws & Regulations at Michigan State University will present a Food Labeling Workshop on July 21-22, in East Lansing, Michigan. This workshop is designed for food industry personnel and regulatory officials who are responsible for reviewing food labels and labeling for compliance with state and U.S. federal law. Those involved with label development or review will find the course invaluable. Trade association staff, food consultants, and attorneys will also find this program valuable. Save $100 by registering before April 15. Learn more at https://www.canr.msu.edu/events/food-labeling-workshop-2020

Proposed Rule: Laboratory Accreditation for Analyses of Foods

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, Agency, or we) is proposing to amend its regulations to establish a program for the testing of food in certain circumstances by accredited laboratories, as required under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FD&C Act). Establishing such a
program will help FDA improve the safety of the U.S. food supply and protect U.S. consumers by helping ensure that certain food testing of importance to public health is conducted subject to appropriate oversight and in accordance with appropriate model standards, and produces reliable and valid test results. Read more and submit comments....

124th AFDO Annual Educational Conference - Early Bird Registration Now OPEN!

This year's annual educational conference will be co-hosted by the Western Association of Food and Drug Officials and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Conference will take place in Phoenix, AZ from June 27 - July 1, 2020

Get ready for five days of educational sessions focused on five content tracks. Make new connections with peers and find out how they are managing common challenges.

In addition, several training opportunities will be offered the Friday before the conference, June 26th, including an active managerial train the trainer session and a workshop for new program managers among others. If you have interest in the additional learning opportunities, announcements will be out shortly so don't make your travel plans just yet.

Early Bird registration is open until March 15, so register ASAP to get the discounted rate!

REGISTER
Maybe you have had an intern or you know a college student who has interest in the professional. You could be their hero by telling them about this scholarship opportunity. The Association of Food and Drug officials offers three $2,500 undergraduate scholarships each spring.

To be eligible, students should be a junior with a 3.0 grade average during first two years of undergraduate study with demonstrated leadership capabilities and a desire to serve in a career of research, regulatory work, quality control, or teaching in an area related to some aspect of foods,drugs, or consumer product safety. Apply by March 15, 2020. Application info may be found at: http://www.afdo.org/awards under scholarship.

AOAC International Cannabis Analytical Science Program

Written comments on draft CASP Standard Method Performance Requirements will be accepted until March 6, 2020. Your comments are an important part of the consensus building process. Please view the SMPRs and provide your comments!
• Determination of Moisture in Hemp and Cannabis Plant Matter

• Detection of Salmonella species in Cannabis and Cannabis Products

• Determination of Heavy Metals in a Variety of Cannabis and Cannabis Derived Products

The Next CASP Meeting is almost here!
Registration is still open for the 2020 AOAC Mid-Year Meeting, to be held at the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center. The CASP meeting will include review and consensus on the SMPRs currently in development, information on training and education, and important talks from the cannabis analytical science community. The main CASP meeting will be followed by a CASP Expert Review Panel (ERP), which will review methods submitted against previously approved CASP SMPRs. Learn more about the AOAC Mid-Year Meeting and register today.

Registrar Corp Launches Proprietary Supplier Risk Evaluation Tool
Registrar Corp has launched RegiScore, a patent pending risk evaluation tool that calculates compliance scores for non-US suppliers of FDA-regulated products. This software is the first to enable food, drug, device, and cosmetic importers to easily calculate the risk a supplier may present based on their FDA compliance and shipment history.

RegiScore evaluates data from over two hundred million shipments of FDA-regulated goods as well as FDA Inspections, Warning Letters, Import Alerts, and Recalls related to suppliers and their products within the past five years. Read more...

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.
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
  Elliot O. Grosvenor
- Scholarship

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FDA Warns Jimmy John's and Sprouts Unlimited After Outbreak

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration posted a warning letter issued to Jimmy John’s Franchise LLC for engaging in a pattern of receiving and offering for sale adulterated fresh produce, specifically clover sprouts and cucumbers. The FDA also posted a warning letter to Sprouts Unlimited Wholesale Foods for supplying sprouts to Jimmy John’s which sickened 22 people in November and December 2019.

The FDA, along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local partners, have collaboratively investigated several outbreaks linked to Jimmy John’s restaurants. The warning letter lays out evidence from five outbreaks, including the most recent outbreak in the state of Iowa during November and December 2019, of human infections with *Escherichia coli* O103, a Shiga toxin producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC).

The pathogens associated with these outbreaks are STECs and *Salmonella enterica*. STECs can cause serious illness in humans, including diarrhea, often with bloody stools. Although most healthy adults can recover completely within a week, some people can develop a form of kidney failure called hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS). HUS is most likely to occur in young children and the elderly. This condition can lead to serious kidney damage and death. *Salmonella* is a pathogenic bacterium that can cause serious, sometimes fatal, infections. These infections can be especially serious in young children.

The FDA is currently developing a Strategic Blueprint that will outline how the agency plans to leverage technology and other tools, to create a more digital, traceable and safer food system. This work will build on the advances that have been and are being made in the FDA’s implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act to further strengthen prevention of foodborne illnesses.

For more information:

- FDA In Brief
- New Era of Smarter Food Safety
- FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
Food and Feed Safety Division Assistant Director - MN Department of Agriculture

The purpose of this position is to assist the Director in the overall administration and management of the Food and Feed Safety Division including legal and legislative issues, planning and implementation of multi-jurisdictional programs and fiscal management of associated budgets. The position represents the division in the absence of the Director. This position is also responsible for providing direct oversight of the Commercial Feed Program, Manufactured Food Program, Retail Food Program and Produce Safety Program in the division. This position has similar skill requirements to the director with increased focus on quality regulatory inspection programs and continuous improvement.

Job Posting Title: State Program Admin Manager Senior
Job Opening ID: 38685
Who May Apply: Open to all qualified job seekers.
Date Posted: 02/21/2020
Closing Date: 03/12/2020

To view the job posting and/or apply in the system:

- **Current state employees** - Sign in to Self Service, then click the Careers link and enter the Job ID in Keywords search box at the top.
- **External applicants** - Go to the state careers website at [www.mn.gov/mmb/careers](http://www.mn.gov/mmb/careers), then enter the Job ID number in Keywords search box at the top.

Questions on the posting and the position detail inquires can be directed to Katherine Simon at [Katherine.simon@state.mn.us](mailto:Katherine.simon@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6596

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Other Training Opportunities
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

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EAS Consulting Group Training
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

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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.
Laws and Regulations Committee Updates

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

February 21 - 25, 2020
February 26 - 27, 2020
February 28, 2020