

ABSTRACT

Vegetables and fruits have become leading vehicles of illnesses associated with foodborne outbreaks. Fresh-cut produce can pose an increased public health risk because this wounded plant tissue enables microbes to more easily attach and grow on nutrients released from the plant. These leaking juices also can interfere with disinfectant activity. Neither processors nor consumers have a treatment that assures the microbiological safety of fresh produce contaminated with large populations of pathogens. Effective food safety interventions to minimize such contamination are needed throughout the production, processing and distribution of fresh and fresh-cut produce. About 15% of food consumed in the U.S. is imported and is on pace to be more than 50% within 20 years. Developing countries are major food exporters and will likely become predominant sources of the U.S. food fruits, vegetables and nuts. Food in many developing countries is not produced under acceptable sanitary practices, and FDA inspects <1% of more than 9 million imported food entries annually. Unless food production, harvesting, and processing practices are upgraded in food exporting countries that have major holes in their food safety nets, there are likely to be major increases in the occurrence and size of foodborne outbreaks in the U.S. in the future.

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

Michael P. Doyle, Ph.D., is currently Regents Professor of Food Microbiology and Director of the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia in Griffin, GA. His current research projects focus on defining the association of foodborne pathogens with fruits and vegetables and animals used in food production, and developing practical interventions to reduce pathogen contamination throughout the food chain. Doyle graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a B.S. in bacteriology, and went on to receive an M.S. and Ph.D. in Food Microbiology. Doyle has received many prestigious awards and is widely published. He currently chairs the NAS Institute of Medicine Food Forum and is past chair of the FDA Science Board.

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LUNCH ~ N ~ LEARN SEMINAR



THE NATIONAL COALITION FOR
FOOD & AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Program:

Wild Pigs and Spinach

*Current Food Safety Microbiological Concerns of Fresh Produce and
Microbiological Issues Associated with Imported Foods*

September 10, 2007

PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction

WHITNEY TULL

National C-FAR Board Member

Distinguished Speaker

DR. MICHAEL DOYLE

University of Georgia

Open Forum

Closing

WHITNEY TULL



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