



# NATIONAL COALITION FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

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## ACCELERATING THE PATH TO IMPROVING PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH FOOD BASED SOLUTIONS

*Leveraging Collaborations between Government and Academia  
to Create a More Convenient and Healthful Food Supply*

**Washington, DC**—May 9, 2017, for Immediate Release – Research collaborations between government and academia on improving public health through food-based solutions will be the subject of NCFAR’s seminar on Friday, May 12, at 10 AM in 328A Russell Senate Office Building, and again at noon in 1300 Longworth House Office Building. The presenters are Dr. Mario Ferruzzi, a professor in the Plants for Human Health Institute and the Department of Food, Bioprocessing and Nutrition Science at North Carolina State University, and Dr. Janet Novotny, a Research Physiologist with the USDA Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center.

“Collaborations between the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and academic institutions are critical to unraveling how plant foods can promote health and how we can transform our food systems to best deliver these benefits to American consumers,” says Dr. Ferruzzi.

“Today’s busy adults need innovative solutions to ensure they and their families eat healthy diets. Research partnerships between federal agencies, like the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), and academia are fast-tracking advances to create a healthier, more convenient food supply,” says Dr. Novotny.

“This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research, extension, and education in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges and opportunities,” says Andy LaVigne, President of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR).

**Highlights:** Maintaining health through fresh-ingredient cooking is increasingly difficult as adults juggle demands of their jobs and households. Therefore, improving public health through diet will require new insights into a convenient, affordable, healthful & palatable food supply. Scientists with a broad range of expertise in agriculture, food science, and nutrition from both academia and government are joining efforts to study how dietary plant bioactive components (phytochemicals) may reduce the risk of chronic health threats, including cardiovascular disease and diabetes. This multiprong approach includes defining 1) phytochemical amounts & types in food, 2) phytochemical absorption & metabolism, 3) efficacy for preventing disease, and 4) development of new technologies for a more convenient, affordable, palatable, and efficacious food supply. These powerful collaborations provide an opportunity for translation of basic research into practical, consumer friendly food-based solutions to improve and promote public health by reducing disease risk through diet.

The seminar is open to the public and the media.

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The **National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based, and *customer-led* coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and Extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, Extension, and education. NCFAR’s Hill Seminar Series, now in its tenth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series helps demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 67 percent per year on average, and \$20 in economic benefit from every \$1 investment in food and ag research.

Go to [http://www.ncfar.org/Hill\\_Seminar\\_Series.asp](http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp) for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with National C-FAR President Andy LaVigne are available by request. For additional information, go to [www.ncfar.org](http://www.ncfar.org); or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at [tom@vanarsdall.com](mailto:tom@vanarsdall.com) or (703) 509-4746.