

Enhancing Food Safety Education Through Shared Teaching Resources

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The public is concerned about food safety and there is a growing realization that we are ill-equipped to handle major foodborne illness outbreaks and bioterrorism. Veterinary medicine plays an important role in assuring the safety of our nation's food supply. This presentation describes an integrative collaborative approach for creation and dissemination of engaging food safety teaching resources for veterinary faculty. The USDA-funded project, *Design to Dissemination: Developing Materials and Repository for Integrative Veterinary Food Safety Education*, involves expert teachers in diverse fields and from multiple veterinary schools.

The project purpose is to create materials that teach students food safety from farm to fork and offers teachers difficult to create or locate and clinically relevant teaching resources. Examples of resources include virtual field trips to food production operations, slaughterhouses, and processing plants; and case-based learning exercises where students apply and solidify the food safety principles they've learned. In this way, faculty will be able to augment their courses and curriculums with materials they lack to provide veterinary students with a broad-based, comprehensive foundation in food safety. The educational materials will be created as smaller "building blocks" of content, focused on individual learning objectives, which can be more easily shared and re-used or re-purposed for other courses and applications. As part of the presentation we will demonstrate the Repository for Integrative Food Safety Education where the learning objects will be catalogued, stored, and accessible and where faculty can search, evaluate, and download teaching materials to use in their courses. This innovative use of flexible, high quality learning materials nationally and internationally will elevate the caliber of food safety education in veterinary schools and other educational settings.

Biographies:

Jeannette McDonald, is a veterinarian with a PhD in distance education. For the past 8 years she has been managing and directing the development of online programs, courses, and learning objects. She is the originator and the director of the newly formed Technology for Learning Center at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine and principal investigator of this USDA project.

Marilyn Erickson is an Associate Professor in microbiology at the Center for Food Safety, Department of Food Safety and Technology. She is the UGA program coordinator for the USDA project. Her major area of research involves mechanisms of action of antioxidants in food and model systems, oxidative responses, and antioxidant capacity of pathogens. For the past five years, she has had extensive experience compiling and summarizing material on a range of food safety subjects.
