

## ROBERT SANDERSON AND BARBARA SANDERSON NAMED 2018 IFSH DARSH WASAN FOOD SAFETY AWARD RECIPIENTS

(Burr Ridge, IL) September 25, 2018 – The Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), has awarded its prestigious 2018 IFSH DARSH WASAN FOOD SAFETY AWARD to Robert and Barbara Sanderson, Co-Founders of Jonathan’s Sprouts.

The award was announced by Robert Brackett, Ph.D., IIT Vice President and IFSH Director, at the IFSH Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony at the Chicago Marriot Southwest in Burr Ridge, IL. IFSH celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year for the establishment of the National Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST).

“IFSH presents its annual award to recognize the achievements of individuals in the field of food science and technology who have made outstanding contributions to food safety or nutrition across government, academia and industry”, says Jason Wan, Ph.D., IFSH Associate Director and coordinator of the IFSH Award nominations. Nominations are evaluated by a selection panel consisting of representatives from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), IIT, and the food industry.

“As if owning and operating their small family-run business were not sufficient challenges, Robert and Barbara Sanderson have been national and international leaders in promoting food safety practices among the fresh sprouts industry for many years. They have been instrumental in helping the industry to develop sanitary guidelines for growing sprouts, and they have had immense impacts in supporting and advancing outreach and research efforts in sprout safety. Their involvement in IFSH activities such as the Sprout Safety Task Force and the Sprout Safety Alliance, as well as food safety organizations such as the International Association for Food Protection, is well-recognized and appreciated. Robert and Barbara are truly deserving of the Darsh Wasan award for their tireless dedication to food safety.” stated Dr. Mary Lou Tortorello, Branch Chief-Food Technology FDA CFSAN DFPST.

Barbara and Robert Sanderson, owners of Jonathan Sprouts, were very surprised and honored to be given this award for their commitments to enhancing the safety of sprout products. “Our relationship of 18 years with the IFSH (formerly NCFST) continues to be a primary source of encouragement, technical expertise, and guidance to us and to the whole sprout industry. We look forward to many more rewarding collaborative efforts to maximize sprout safety, quality, and nutrition with this unique organization.”

Robert and Barbara Sanderson join the previous IFSH Award recipients, which includes Jonathan W. DeVries, Ph.D., General Mills (2005), Michael Cirigliano, Ph.D., Unilever (2006), Richard Whiting, Ph.D., U.S. FDA CFSAN (2007), Katherine M.J. Swanson, Ph.D., Ecolab (2008), Paul A. Hall, Ph.D., AIV

Microbiology & Food Safety Consultants, LLC (2009), Daniel G. Brown, Hormel Foods (2010), .C. Patrick Dunne, Ph.D., U.S. Army (2011), Will Daniels, Earthbound Farm (2012), Donald L. Zink, Ph.D., FDA CFSAN (2013), Wilfredo Ocasio, Ph.D., the National Food Lab (2014), Bruce Tompkin, Ph.D., (2015), Kurt Deibel, Ph.D., KraftHentz (2016), and Ruth Petran, Ph.D., Ecolab Inc.(2017). Since 2013, the IFSH Award has been named as the Darsh Wasan IFSH Food Safety Award.



Dr. Robert Brackett, Bob Sanderson, Barbara Sanderson, Dr. Darsh Wasan, Dr. Rich McDonald and Dr. Jason Wan

Illinois Institute of Technology's (IIT) Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) is a one-of-a-kind applied food research institute that provides stakeholders in government, industry and academia the opportunity to develop and exchange knowledge and expertise to address key issues in food safety, food defense and nutrition. Powered by a singular combination of in-depth food science expertise and state-of-the-art research capabilities, IFSH's collaborative research model helps stakeholders define and design innovative and practical approaches to solving real-world challenges in food industry operations. Located at IIT's Moffett Campus in Bedford Park, IL, IFSH is also home to the FDA CFSAN Division of Food Processing Science and Technology. For more, visit [www.iit.edu/ifsh](http://www.iit.edu/ifsh)

## 2018 IFSH AWARD WINNERS-SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOUNDERS AWARD

(Burr Ridge, IL) September 25, 2018 – The Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH) at Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT), has awarded a 2018 IFSH SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD to David Armstrong, Ph.D., Retired Associate Director for Research, FDA CFSAN NCFST, Karen Carson, Retired Deputy Office Director, FDA CFSAN OPDFB and Darsh Wasan, Ph.D., Distinguished Motorola Professor of Chemical Engineering, Vice President, IIT.

The awards were announced by Robert Brackett, Ph.D., IIT Vice President and IFSH Director, at the IFSH Annual Meeting Awards Ceremony at the Chicago Marriot Southwest in Burr Ridge, IL. The awards were presented as part of the IFSH Annual Meeting 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Session. “IFSH presents the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary special recognition founders award to individuals for their pioneering contributions that established the research consortium between FDA, IIT and the Food Industry,” says Dr. Brackett.

Following the event David Armstrong, former FDA CFSAN NCFST Associate Director for Research (1989-2005), expressed his thanks to his IFSH colleagues “It is with a great deal of pride that I receive this Special Recognition award. At the start of NCFST many in FDA said that such a collaboration among FDA, IIT and the food industry could not last. Some of these critics became our greatest supporters”.

Karen Carson, former FDA Project Officer for NCFST (1988-2004), expressed her thanks, “I’m honored to receive the special recognition award for my work in establishing the National Center for Food Safety and Technology, forerunner of the Institute for Food Safety and Health. Thirty years ago, the concept of merging the talents and expertise of FDA with academia, and industry scientists in collaborative research, beginning with focus on the safety of innovative food processing and packaging technologies, was new. The value and strength of IFSH to consumer protection is proven over and over as research and academic programs have expanded to encompass food safety issues, such as bioterrorism, never dreamed of 30 years ago. NCFST/IFSH was a highlight of my FDA career and the award is a lovely honor.”



Dr. Robert Brackett, Dr. Darsh Wasan, Karen Carson, Dr. David Armstrong, and Dr. Jason Wan

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## 2018 IFSH AWARD WINNERS-SPECIAL RECOGNITION

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Following the event, Dr. Chuck Sizer, former Director for NCFST (1998-2003), expressed his thanks to his IFSH colleagues, “I am honored and privileged to have been allowed to contribute to the efforts at the Institute for Food Safety and Health. I was thrilled to attend the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting and participate in a Task Force that is making significant progress in improving the safety of foods. It is so seldom that you see people from government, academia and industry working harmoniously together for the good of the citizens of the country. IFSH is to be congratulated for its progress and its continuing contributions to the health and safety of foods.”

Jenny Scott, FDA Project Officer for IFSH 2010-2014, stated that she was “honored to be recognized for contributing to the success of the IFSH research program, which has made so many excellent contributions to science and food safety.”

Dr. Martin Cole, former Director for NCFST (2004-2009), stated, “It was a pleasure to be able to contribute to the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IFSH. The collaborative model between Government, Academia and Industry is a unique one, and it has been wonderful to see how the work of the institute has grown over the years. Given the challenges of food safety and health globally, work at the Institute is even more relevant now than when it was established 30 years ago.”



Dr. Robert Brackett, Jenny Scott, Dr. Chuck Sizer, Dr. Jonathan DeVries, and Dr. Jason Wan

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