

IFSH Special Seminar

Tuesday, March 17, 2015
11:00AM – 12:00 PM
Room 100, Moffett Campus

Rebecca Bell, Ph.D. & Jie Zheng, Ph.D.

Research Microbiologists

Molecular Methods and Subtyping Branch, Division of Microbiology
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

“The Search for Salmonella: Trials, Tribulations and Triumphs of Environmental Sampling”

&

“Salmonella – Tomato Plant Interaction and Move Toward Intervention”

Biosketches

Dr. Rebecca Bell is a Research Microbiologist in the Molecular Methods and Subtyping Branch (MMSB) within the Division of Microbiology at the Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Dr. Bell received her Ph.D. in microbiology from The Ohio State University in 2005. Afterwards, she joined CFSAN in 2006 as a postdoctoral fellow in the Division of Analytical Chemistry (DAC) where she worked on bacterial protein profiling using liquid chromatography/mass spectrometry. In 2008, Dr. Bell moved to MMSB. She is currently a lead microbiologist on the newly formed Human Pathogens on Plants (HPOP) research group focusing on the ecological surveillance for Salmonella in agricultural areas of the United States. She also continues to collaborate with the DAC on LC/MS work as well as working on molecular subtyping of Salmonella enterica, the development of rapid screening methods for Salmonella contamination of foods

Dr. Jie Zheng is currently serves as a Research Microbiologist in the Molecular Methods and Subtyping Branch within the Division of Microbiology at the Food and Drug Administration Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Dr. Zheng received her Ph.D. in Food Science from University of Maryland at College Park, MD in 2006 and her dissertation is on ‘Campylobacter jejuni/coli – Host Intestinal Epithelial Cell Interaction’. Dr. Zheng joined the laboratories at CFSAN in 2008 after her two-year post-doc training at UM. She is currently a PI on the newly formed Human Pathogens on Plants research group focusing on the Salmonella-plant interaction and development of intervention strategies. She is also engaged in development of SNP-based detection, identification and subtyping methods for various phyletic and pathovar divisions of pathogenic Salmonella.

Abstracts

Dr. Bell will discuss her results from field environmental sampling and relevance to FDA mission.

Dr. Zheng will discuss contamination of tomato plants and development of potential pre-harvest intervention strategies including the use of bio-control and RNA technology.