



Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) for the Food Industry

Current Procedures, Advances, Obstacles and Solutions

An IFSH Symposium, May 22-23, 2017

Chicago Marriott Southwest at Burr Ridge

Burr Ridge, Illinois

Synopsis: Various governmental agencies that oversee and safeguard human health and food safety have embraced whole genome sequencing (WGS) technology as a next step in the evolution of the diagnostic tools to positively identify and track microorganisms that influence our food safety and health. Recognizing its superiorities over the traditional tools, they are moving fast to implement it in their daily investigative and regulatory procedures. However, its extensive use by the food industry to improve food safety and quality has been impeded for a variety of reasons. In this symposium, we will hear from the leading industry practitioners about the hurdles to implement, use and benefit from WGS technology, the obstacles they have encountered, and their real life or potential solutions. Also, in order to demystify the whole regulatory process, the experts from FDA, CDC and FSIS/USDA will present the current standardized methodologies, the inter-agencies synergies and convergences in various areas including analytical methodologies, data interpretations and validation.

What to expect: In this symposium, the industry practitioners will talk about the obstacles hampering the recognition, adoption and implementation of the WGS technology by the industry, and the difficulties delaying it to formulate, design and employ the more advanced food safety measures based on this new technology. A panel of industry experts will be present to answer the questions from the participants.

The participants will also have the chance to learn about the procedural guidelines that regulatory agencies follow at each step from sample collections and processing, WGS data production and interpretation, to making a regulatory decision and taking actions. Case studies will be presented to explain these guidelines in more details, using real life examples. A panel of experts from the governmental agencies will be there to answer the questions and concerns of the attendees.

Who should attend: This symposium is for food safety professionals from industry, academia and government in food processing, food safety, quality assurance, regulatory functions, public health administration, and those involved in developing or using pathogen detection equipment and methods.

Location: The symposium will be hosted at the Chicago Marriott Southwest Hotel in Burr Ridge, Illinois.

Web: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whole-genome-sequencing-wgs-for-the-food-industry-current-advances-obstacles-and-solutions-registration-31262319439>

Contact: Haley Tomlinson at htomlin2@iit.edu or (708) 563-8278 for additional information

Preliminary Program Hours and Pricing:

Monday, May 22, 2017:

Presentations: From 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Networking Event: From 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Tuesday, May 23, 2017:

Presentations: From 8:30 am to 2:00 pm

Networking Event: From 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Registration fees:

Early Bird: Now to March 31, 2017

Members \$199

Non-members \$259

From April 1 to May 19, 2017:

Members \$259

Non-members \$299

On Site Registration:

All \$359