



the First Section

January Meeting Recap

Analytical Challenges in Emergency Response to Chemical Contamination Events in Foods: Douglas Heitkemper, Ph.D. Inorganic Laboratory Branch Director, Forensic Chemistry Center, U.S. FDA

I was a pleasure to see everyone at the Chicago Section IFT January meeting. It was a packed house of over 85 people. It was truly an honor to have Douglas Heitkemper, Ph.D. from the U.S. FDA Forensic Chemistry Center in Cincinnati as our guest speaker for the dinner meeting held at Maggiano's Little Italy in Skokie, IL. We received many positive responses to his talk.

Dr. Heitkemper started his presentation with the history and timeline of the Forensic Chemistry Center, which started as the Elemental Analysis Research Center (EARC) in 1979. The Tylenol® tampering incident occurred in 1982, which resulted in 7 deaths caused by cyanide poisoning. The Federal Anti-Tampering Act passed by Congress in 1983.

But it was the Chilean grape crisis in 1989 that resulted in expansion of capabilities, staff and establishment of the Forensic Chemistry Center (FCC). The role of the FCC is forensic casework serving FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations (OCI), laboratory support in traditional FDA investigations as needed, research and method development related to product tampering, counterterrorism, counterfeiting, and fraud, special health instances and emergencies (national and international) and provide assistance to other regulatory and law enforcement agencies as needed. FCC casework involves chemical contamination/product tampering/terrorism, counterfeit foods and pharmaceuticals; and unapproved drugs via dietary supplements and identification (qualitative analysis) and quantitation.

Some case studies were then provided which included baby food tampering (July 2004), Suspected Tampering with dairy cattle on a Washington state farm (2004), dietary supplement analysis for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), melamine/cyanuric acid pet food crisis (2007), Deepwater Horizon oil spill (2010), and Arsenic in apple juice and rice. What a fantastic way to kick off the New Year!! I look forward to seeing everyone at the February dinner meeting.

February Event

Topic: Food Technologists Can Change the World - for Better or for Worse

Speaker: Michael Jacobson, Co-Founder & Executive Director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest

Date: 10-Feb-2014

Location: Northbrook Hilton, Northbrook, IL

John Budin

Program Committee Chair, and Chair Elect CSIFT

19-Jan-2014