

NCFST Sprout Safety Task Force Update

May 20, 2010

ISGA Meeting
Chicago, IL



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



National Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST)



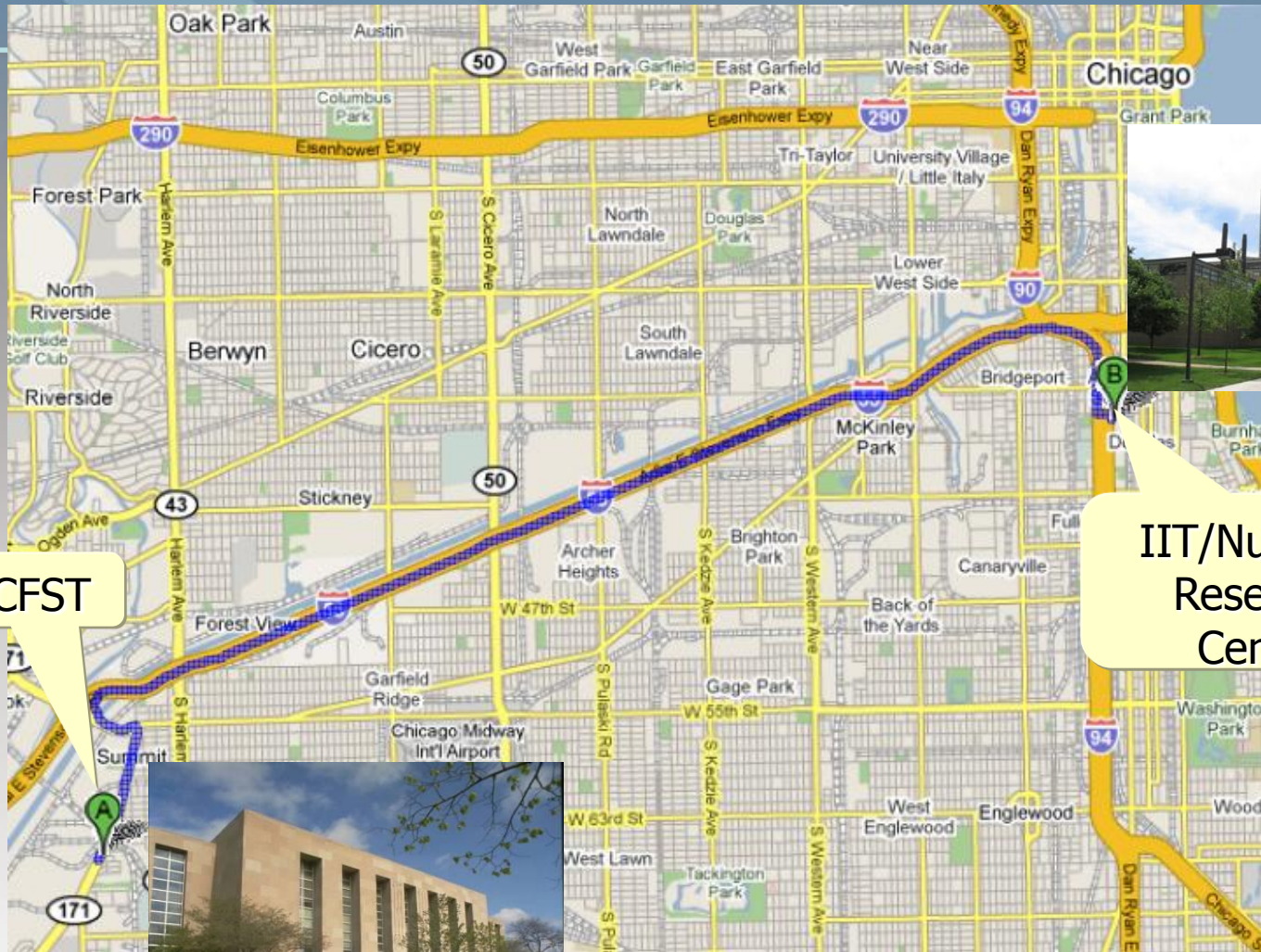
National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



Where we are located



IIT/NCFST

IIT/Nutrition
Research
Center



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

NCFST – At a Glance

Snapshot

- **History**
 - Consortium formed in 1988
 - Building donated by Corn Products
- **Primary focus food processing safety**
- **Location for FDA Division of Food Processing Science & Technology**
- **Masters and Professional Certificates in FST and FPE**
- **Locations:**
 - Moffett Campus, Summit-Argo, IL
 - IITRI Tower, State street, Chicago
- **Funding base ~\$12 million (inc. FDA)**

People

- **85 - 45 IIT and 40 FDA**
- **80 Students**



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**⁴

Government



- FDA Div. Food Processing Science & Technology physically located within NCFST
- Cooperative grant allows for collaborative research program
- Ability to evaluate new technologies for improving public aspects of food
- Collaborative research program to ensure policy and new regulations based on sound science



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Industry 2010



Smuckers



AmeriVap Systems

BiaDiagnostics

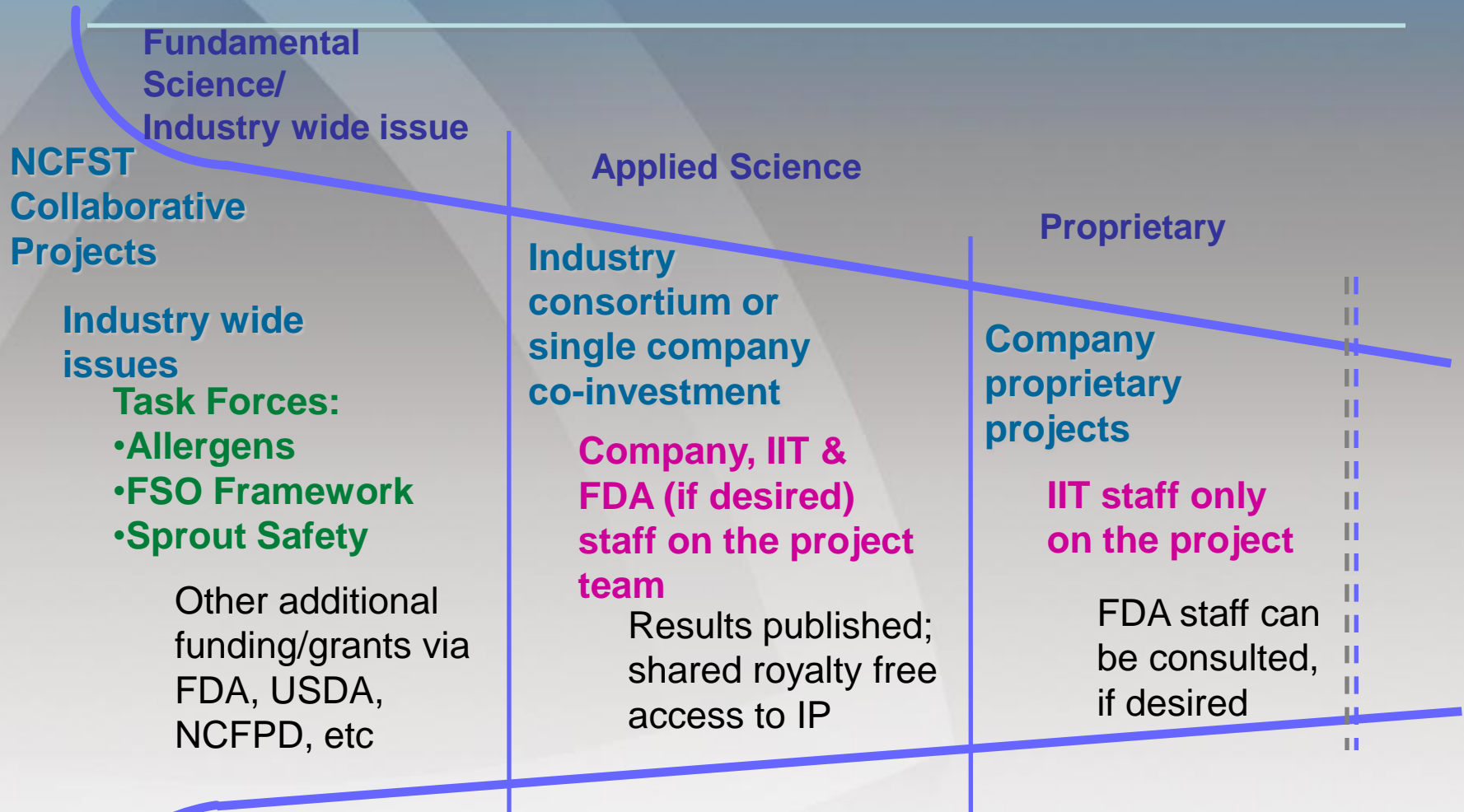


Michigan Research Institute

NCFST Research

- **Proactive leadership - risk management of food safety issues**
 - CFSAN world class food safety organization
 - Network of government/academia/industry required for most effective and timely assessment and management of real vs. perceived risks
- **The facilitation of innovation**
 - Assessing the safety of new technologies & products
 - Promoting the use of new technologies/approaches that could improve public health

NCFST R&D Partnership Schemes



Membership services



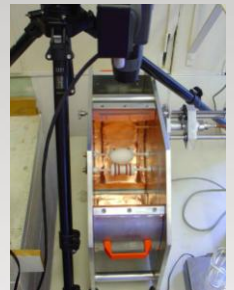
National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

NCFST Science focus

- Processing and Packaging
- Microbiology
- Chemical Constituents and Allergens
- Health Promoting Foods



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/nctst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Microbiology

- Risk management options for fresh produce

Production & Primary Handling



Minimizing
initial levels



Processing & Packaging



Reducing
levels



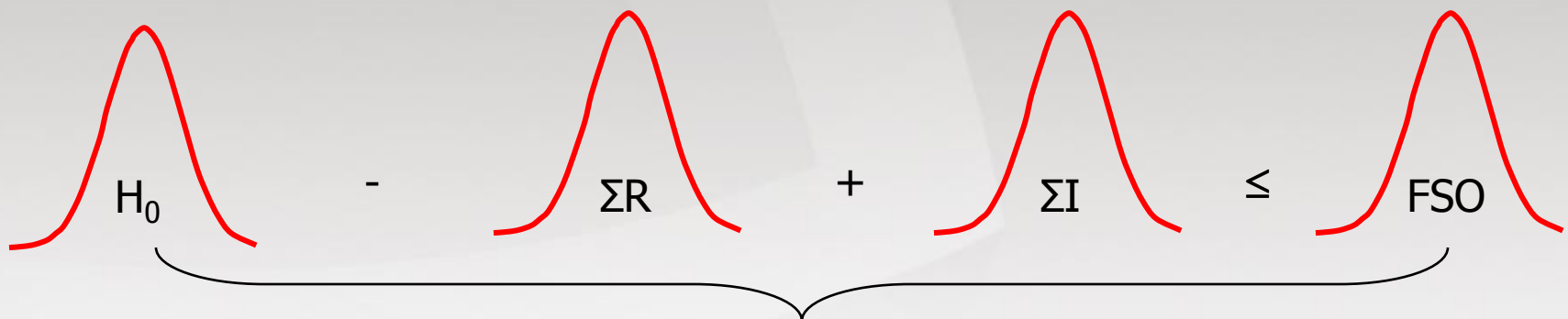
Distribution & Shelf-life



Minimizing
an increase
in levels



Food Safety
Objective



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Biological Safety Level-3 Laboratory



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/nctst



**ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY**

Bio-safety Facilities

- Bio-containment Pilot Plant Configured for Fresh Produce Wash Line



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/nctst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



NCFST Task Force Update



National Center for Food Safety and Technology

Working Together to Assure the Safety of Our Food Supply www.ncfst.iit.edu
Illinois Institute of Technology • 6502 South Archer Road • Summit Argo, IL 60501 • 708.563.1576

Proposal for Participation in NCFST Sprout Safety Task Force

Background

Since 1996, there have been 30 reported outbreaks with 1,800 cases of illness associated with consumption of raw and lightly cooked sprouts. In 1998 The National Center for Food Safety & Technology (NCFST) sponsored an industry task force to address best practices and provide FDA with industry perspectives towards forming subsequent guidance. In 1999 FDA developed and issued two guidance documents to industry concerning sprout safety. Following release of the sprout guidance the number of outbreaks and illness cases associated with sprout consumption appeared to decline. From 2005 through most of 2008 there were no reported outbreaks associated with sprouts. However, in late 2008 there was one sprout associated *Salmonella* outbreak. In 2009 an on-going *Salmonella* outbreak linked to sprouts has resulted in more than 200 confirmed cases of illness, with 26 hospitalizations. Sprouts have also been linked to *Listeria* illnesses in 2009. It has been suggested that either the current guidelines are not fully practiced or that the guidance requires further clarification. The NCFST is in the process of formulating a proposal to create a new sprout safety task force.

Proposal

The National Center for Food Safety & Technology is a unique consortium of leading food companies, the U.S Food and Drug Administration and university-based scientists working together to ensure the safety of food processing and packaging technologies. Building on this relationship with both FDA and industry members, and on merits achieved from its first sprout safety effort the NCFST is proposing the formation of a new sprout safety task force among its members, FDA, sprout growers, and other stakeholders to undertake the following objectives:

- 1) Update and build further clarity into 1999 FDA guidelines on sprout safety
- 2) Increase industry compliance with current FDA guidelines
- 3) Facilitate any necessary research critical for updating the FDA guidelines

Next Steps

If sufficient industry members indicate interest in participating along with FDA and NCFST an initial meeting will be held to further define the mission and work plan for the task force. September 16, or 23, 2009 are two dates offered for the initial meeting at NCSFT. After this meeting, membership in the Center will be required for the task force to go forward. Annual membership is scaled based on annual revenue, e.g. \$4,000/year for companies with revenues less than \$50 million. All inquiries regarding the task force or Center membership should be addressed to Armand Paradis, NCFST Business Development Officer who can be contacted by phone at 708 563 8175 or by e mail at aparadi2@iit.edu.

Task force proposed August 2009

Objectives:

- 1) Update & build clarity on 1999 FDA guidelines on sprout safety
- 2) Increase Industry compliance
- 3) Facilitate necessary research for updating FDA guidelines



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

NCFST Sprout Safety Task Force

IIT:

Alvin Lee
Armand Paradis
Jason Wan

FDA:

TJ Fu
Jim Gorny
Rich McDonald
Michelle Smith
Laura Tarantino
Mary Lou Tortorello

ISGA:

Michael Lalley
Jay Louie
Bob Rust
Robert Sanderson
Kelly Warren

United Fresh Produce Association:

Dave Gombas

Brassica Protection Products:

Earl Hauserman
Antony Talalay

Caudill Seed:

Dan Caudill
Steve Benjamin

Jonathan Sprouts:

Barbara Sanderson
Rich Wolfe

Expert Panel

Rutgers University:

Don Schaffner

USDA, ERRC

Kathleen Rajkowski

Plus Tom Ross, Larry Beuchat



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

NCFST Task Force Update

- First Meeting convened October 2009
- Action Items:
 - 1) Arrange for next task force meeting- participants and topics
 - 2) **Create road map for achieving objectives**
 - 3) **Safety Audit Checklist**
 - 4) Teleconference after checklist circulated to go through task force agenda, in 2 weeks
 - 5) Food Safety guidelines to be brought forward later
 - 6) Next meeting in first week December.



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

NCFST Task Force Update

Proposed Research Objectives:

- 1) Seed Treatments - Options to Chlorine
- 2) Evaluation of sampling & testing methods
- 3) Risk assessment approaches to sprout safety (FSO model)



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



NCFST Task Force Update

Teleconference December 2009

Action Items:

- Draft audit checklist to be organized by sub-team
- Industry to provide data to the group on chlorine alternatives on production scale
- Draft letters to stakeholders
- Next Task Force Meeting to be held in conjunction with NCFST mid-year meeting in April 2010



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



NCFST Task Force Update

- Audit check-list subgroup formed Dec. 2009

FDA:

TJ Fu

Michelle Smith

ISS:

Kelly Warren

Brassica Protection Products:

Earl Hauserman

Jonathan Sprouts:

Barbara Sanderson

Caudill Sprouting

Steven Benjamin



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/nctst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY



NCFST Task Force Update



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst
Illinois Institute of Technology • 6502 South Archer Road • Summit-Argo, IL 60501 • 708.563.1576

Dear Task Force Invitees:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2010 Sprout Safety Task Force Meeting that will occur on Thursday, April 8, 2010, at the National Center for Food Safety and Technology in Summit-Argo, IL. This meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude by 3 p.m. The Task Force will meet to plan for a larger sprout workshop, and to identify key collaborative research project areas for 2010.

NCFST has formed a Sprout Safety Task Force to focus on food safety guidance and critical research needs required for the safe production of sprouts. NCFST members in the task force include Jonathan Sprouts, Caudill Seed, Brassica Protection Products, International Sprout Growers Association, IIT and FDA scientists. A sub-team has been developing an audit checklist to guide sprout growers in following best practices in their operations.

Research areas to be considered will include seed treatments, evaluation of testing methods, and risk assessment approaches to sprout safety. To engage the buying community as key stakeholders in the food supply chain we invite representation from the following organizations such as GMA, United Fresh, FMI, PMA, NRA, etc. We will not only seek to solicit their comments but will endeavor to gain buy-in and support for the approaches under consideration.

I hope that you will join us for this event. Please **R.S.V.P.** your attendance by **March 31, 2010** to LaShondra Stephens at lstephe2@iit.edu. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me (office: 708-563-8175, or e mail: aparadi2@iit.edu). I'm looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Armand Paradis

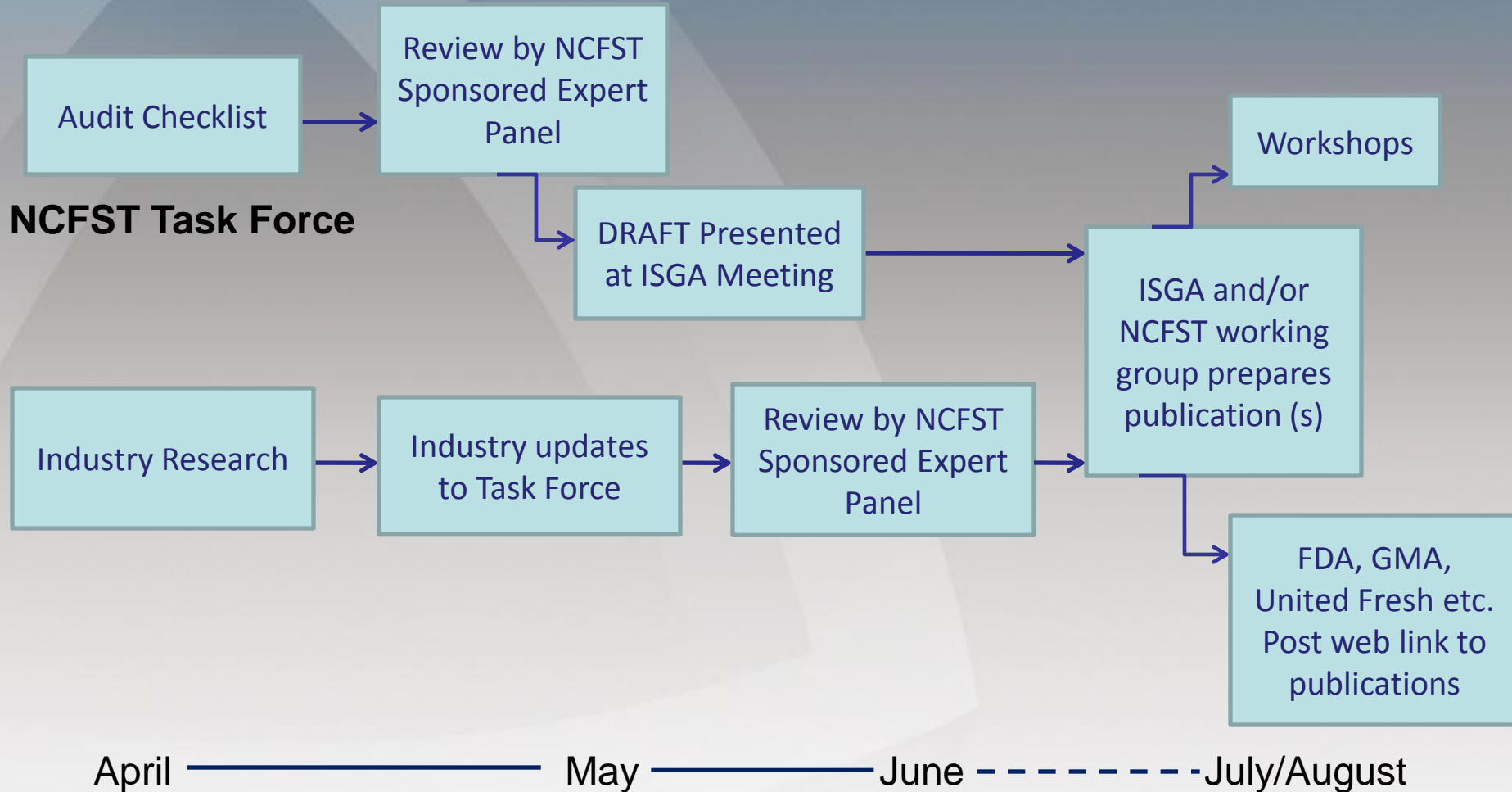
Armand Paradis
Director of Business Development
National Center for Food Safety and Technology
6502 S. Archer Road
Summit-Argo, IL 60501-1957
Office Phone: 708-563-8175
Cell Phone: 708-821-8615
E-mail: aparadi2@iit.edu

- April 8 Task Force Meeting
- Finalize plan for Safety Audit Checklist & Research Review
- Form Expert Panels



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY

Framework for Expert Panel Reviews



Expert Review Panel for Sprout Safety Audit Checklist

NAME	Affiliation	Category
Don Schaffner	Rutgers U.	Academic
Keith Warriner	U. Guelph	Academic
Larry Beuchat	U. Georgia	Academic
Tom Ross	U. Tasmania	Academic
Bengt Schumacher	OMAFRA, Canada	Government
Kathleen Rajkowski	USDA/ERRC	Government
Mary Lou Tortorello	NCFST/FDA	Government
Michelle Smith	FDA	Government
Bob Strong	Steritech	Industry
Dick Whitting	Exponent	Industry Consultant
Mansour Samadpour	IEH Laboratories	Industry/ Services
Dave Gombas	United Fresh Produce	Industry/Retail Grocery
Kent Killebrew	Ahold USA, Inc.	Industry/Services
Dick Spezzano	Spezzano Consulting	Retail Grocery
Gale Prince	Gale Prince	Retail Grocery
TJ Fu	NCFST/FDA	Task Force Co-chair
Armand Paradis	NCFST	Task Force Co-chair



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/nctst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY





Visit us at www.iit.edu/ncfst



National Center for Food Safety and Technology
Advancing Innovations in Food Safety and Nutrition Science www.iit.edu/ncfst



ILLINOIS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY 