List of Attendees

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Executive Director SSFPA

DR. PATRICIA BORRUSO
FDA, CONSUMER SAFETY OFFICER
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Dr. Patricia Borrusso has earned a Ph.D. in Biology from Drexel University and a B.S. in Nutrition Sciences from Russell Sage College. At Drexel University, Patricia’s research focused on investigating consumer behaviors associated with the presence of foodborne pathogens in the domestic environment. After completing her Ph.D. in Biology, Patricia began a career in public service in the Washington Metro Area. Patricia started working at the FDA in 2014 as an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) fellow in the Office of Analytics and Outreach (OAO). In OAO Patricia worked on a comprehensive literature review of consumer food safety education strategies and outcomes, and developed a list of recommendations for government, industry, and educators to improve education outcomes. In 2015 Patricia joined the Office of Food Safety (OFS) Division of Produce Safety as a Consumer Safety Officer, where she plays an instrumental role in drafting policy guidance documents related to the Produce Safety Rule, including the sprouts guidance for industry. As a consumer safety officer, Patricia has also led several efforts to improve the safety of seed for sprouting. Patricia also works with the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) Network to provide technical expertise during outbreaks of foodborne illness. Dr. Borrusso has published three academic papers in peer reviewed journals, presented research findings in numerous settings (including webinars and conference symposia), presented to key industry stakeholder groups, has been interviewed in news articles related to food safety, and was the keynote speaker at an international health hygiene conference.
CINDY DAI
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
241-2205 EAST MALL
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MSc student

Cindy obtained her BSc in Food Science with Honours from UBC in 2016. She completed her undergraduate thesis project in 2016 studying the extraction and quantification of bioactive Maillard reaction products from bread. Her current area of research is on developing mitigation strategies for reducing Salmonella contamination on alfalfa sprouts.

KAI Ping Deng
<Via telephone during Sprouter Training>
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Sarah Doyle
EATMORE SPROUTS & GREENS
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For the past 10 years Sara has been the Human Resources Manager at Eatmore Sprouts & Greens Ltd as well as a valuable member of Eatmore’s Food Safety Team. Sara has seen her share of large scale food production working for companies such as Sara Lee and Nestles where she developed a passion for food safety. While at Nestles Sara pursued that passion, completing several courses in Food Safety and Food Microbiology. Sara was part of the team that helped Nestle Canada become one of the first Canadian companies to become HACCP compliant. These days when not happily dancing through the garden with the Eatmore Sprouts team Sara can be found beachcombing or collecting Lego.
PETER DUNCAN  
PARILLA FRESH  
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Peter Duncan is the General Manager of Parilla Fresh Australia. Parilla Fresh grows packs and distributes a wide range of sprouts and ready to eat salads on the East Coast of Australia from Townsville around to Adelaide. We supply to the major retail supermarket retailers in Coles and Woolworths as well as independent supermarkets through the Sydney and Melbourne Growers Markets. Parilla Fresh is a privately owned company operating since 1985 employing approximately 40 people and is committed to supplying quality healthy sprouts to all Australian families.

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Sunny Creek Farm Inc. is a diversified family owned, small, agricultural business located in the Western Carolina foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Sunny Creek produces the best and most carefully grown sprouts in the Southeast and distributes a select line of specialty produce to the wholesale market. The current customer base spans 11 states in the Southeastern United States.

In 1990 28-year-old Lee Ewing was working as an assistant chef at the Pine Crest Inn in Tryon. He noticed that it was a challenge to obtain fresh quality sprouts. Having been a manager of a sprout farm in California he immediately saw the opportunity to start up a local sprout farm operation. Lee began to grow Alfalfa Sprouts and Mung Beans selling them to local stores and restaurants and by 1995 his company, then called Green Creek Sprouts, had become a major supplier in our area to include some large regional grocery chains.

KAREN FONG  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
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PhD CANDIDATE  
Karen obtained her BSc in Microbiology at UBC Okanagan in 2012. She completed her MSc degree in Food Science in 2015, where she studied the survival of Salmonella in low water activity food products. She has since published these findings in Journal of Food Protection and Food Microbiology. Currently, Karen is a second year PhD candidate in Dr. Siyun Wang’s lab at UBC, where her project is focused on characterizing virulent bacteriophages for effective control of Salmonella in food products.
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QA Manager

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MARY ALICE’S SPROUT FARM  
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We are a small commercial sprout growing facility in Reno, Nevada.

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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

CARA HANEY  
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA  
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Dr. Cara Haney is an Assistant Professor in the department of Microbiology and Immunology and Michael Smith Labs at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Haney’s research focuses on interactions between beneficial plant-associated microbes (the “microbiome”) and plant growth and disease resistance. She received her B.S. in Plant Science from Cornell University and her Ph.D. in Cell and Molecular Biology from Stanford. She worked at Harvard as a postdoc developing a model system to study plant-microbiome interactions prior to joining the UBC faculty in 2016. Dr. Haney holds the Canada Research Chair in plant-microbiome interactions.

RAY JONES  
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President of International Specialty Supply for the past several years after working in the Automotive and Manufacturing field for over 25 years. He has worked for several companies ranging from Fortune 500 to small entrepreneurial companies. His engineering background coupled with a business degree afforded the opportunity to be deeply involved with Quality Operating Systems, Six Sigma, Lean Manufacturing, Distribution, and Organizational Development.
BERNHARD JUURLINK
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Professor emeritus, Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, College of Medicine

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Sylas Linsley a is Marketing Manager at Pearson Foods, a fresh-cut produce processor in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The company’s sprouts division Aqua Greens has been producing safe sprouts for 30+ years, and Sylas is transitioning into the role of research and development for that category, among others. Sylas graduated from Michigan State University in December 2016 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agri-Business Management.

JOE MAHONEY
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Jack and the Green Sprouts, Inc. is a family owned business, which started over thirty five years ago. We produce; alfalfa, daikon, broccoli, sunflower, bean mix sprouts, onion, clover, pea shoots and wheatgrass. We are a green company besides green sprouts we also have gone green with energy savings solar panels that make electricity.

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Vincent Mahoney has been a part of Jack and the Green Sprouts, Inc. since 2007 and is currently serving as the Vice President. Vincent and Blake are currently working with their father Joseph Mahoney to become the next owners of the family business Jack and the Green Sprouts, Inc.
GREG McLAREN
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MARKETING & BUSINESS ADVISORY TEAM
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MANAGING DIRECTOR
Greg McLaren is a business management and marketing professional specializing in marketing, business development, and workshops for Farm|Food|Drink businesses and organizations. Greg has over 30 years of experience in marketing and sales operations and the teaching of these same processes. He and his team have developed and managed business planning projects, marketing programs, and advertising campaigns within a corporate structure and for business associations. However, his focus is on growing local and regional food producers and farm businesses throughout B.C.

RYAN MELYNK
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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Dr. Melnyk received his PhD in Microbiology from UC Berkeley. He then spent time working at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab and in the Computational Biology group at Bayer CropScience before joining the Haney Lab as a postdoctoral fellow in 2016. His main research interest is applying genetics and bioinformatics to better understand how beneficial plant-associated bacteria colonize plant roots and compete with other bacteria. Ultimately, his goal is to develop the understanding of the plant microbiome to improve agricultural biologicals used for disease control and yield enhancement.

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Mumm's Sprouting Seeds grows and supplies certified organic seed for home and commercial sprouting. The Mumm family has been farming organically since the 1970s, and selling high quality organic sprouting seed for over 30 years. Mumm's Sprouting Seeds is modeled on the core principles of organic agriculture: environmental stewardship and sustainability.

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Mumm's Sprouting Seeds grows and supplies certified organic seed for home and commercial sprouting. The Mumm family has been farming organically since the 1970s, and selling high quality organic sprouting seed for over 30 years. Mumm's Sprouting Seeds is modeled on the core principles of organic agriculture: environmental stewardship and sustainability. Lisa is a fourth generation farmer, and has been involved in growing spouts and sprouting seed her entire life. Together with her parents, Jim & Maggie Mumm, she runs the family farm and business. Lisa is excited to be part of the international sprouting community and the movement to promote nutritious, sustainable food.

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VP, Sales and Marketing

Liz Reilley has been with Jonathan's Sprouts for the last 10 years of it's 40+ year history. As niece of the owners, Liz has watched the company grow from its inception. She spent time in the summers during her high school and college years on the assembly line hand-packing sprouts. Liz went on to have a 15 year career in the fashion industry as National Sales Manager for Guess Inc. and Danskin, Inc. After a 7 year “retirement” to raise 3 baby boys through their toddler years, Liz returned to the sprout farm full time. She is passionate about sprouts and spends as much time promoting sprouts to consumers at vegetarian festivals as she does with buyers at industry trade shows.

BARBARA SANDERSON
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Barbara began Jonathan’s Sprouts in 1976 with her husband, Bob. She also founded New England Sprout Growers Assn. in 1983 to win Federal State Marketing Improvement Grants three years in a row to create a marketing presence for sprouts in New England. The company was a founding member of ISGA in 1989, originally to get a Federal Marketing Order for sprouts to promote the sale of sprouts in Canada and the USA. She has served many years as Treasurer and also as President. A member of the Sanitation committee since 1992: helped write the original ISGA Sanitary Guidelines in 1992 and updated with Dr. Rob Wick in 1996. She has stayed with the committee as it has changed its name to Technical Review Board and now the Sprout Safety Task Force. Barb is committed to helping create a healthy sprout industry to feed a population in need of inexpensive quality food.
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President of ISGA & Jonathan’s Sprouts, Inc., which has been supplying fresh sprouts to New England and beyond since 1976. Bob has long felt that the unique properties of sprouts, and the ways in which they are grown, require novel approaches to assuring their safety, and has questioned whether lab results from sanitization treatments accurately reflect what is achieved in the production environment. For this reason, he has been committed to improve sampling and testing protocols, and working to make sure they are being uniformly applied. He has also promoted alternative interventions, such as competitive exclusion, that have shown some promising preliminary results.

BENGT SCHUMACHER
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In both an advisory and compliance role, I work with sprout producers and the sprouting industry to enhance their food safety practices. This helps to ensure business and industry success and safe products for consumers.

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PAT AND STEVE SAUER
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Steve and Pat Sauer have been running Sunsprout Farms of Central Ohio since purchasing it 31 years ago. They grow a variety of sprouts that include Alfalfa, Mung Bean, Clover, Broccoli, Spicy, Crisy and Onion Sprouts. Sunsprouts is a family run farm that prides itself on maintaining high quality sprouts for their customers. Being a member in ISGA for years and the information gained at conferences throughout the years has been an extremely important and valuable asset to the success of their business.

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In both an advisory and compliance role, I work with sprout producers and the sprouting industry to enhance their food safety practices. This helps to ensure business and industry success and safe products for consumers.

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PRESIDENT
I am born and raised at a nursery, where my parents were producing seeds for Rijk Zwaan. Products like Pepper, tomato, lettuce and cabbage. Since 2001 I start to work for a small and specialized flower seed company SAHIN Zaden in the Netherlands. As youngster I had the opportunity to travel frequently with the owner to many flower specialist over the world, from India to Ecuador and we collecting different flowers species which we used in our breeding programs. In 2007 Takii Seed bought SAHIN Zaden and I shift my position from breeder to seed production specialist. The last 10 years I have start up and arranged the international seed production in a wide range of products, flowers as well vegetables. Since 1st of January 2017 I started to work for Koppert Cress/ Sango Seeds, as Manager Sango Seeds. Sango Seeds is the producer and supplier from seeds to Koppert Cress, the Koppert Cress franchise companies and Cress growers around the world. We produce our seeds with full attention to these standards and supply seeds, tested for the absence of pathogenic bacteria, MRL’s and with high germination and physical purity.
SIYUN WANG
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ASST PROFESSOR OF FOOD SAFETY ENGINEERING

Dr. Wang is an Assistant Professor of Food Safety Engineering at UBC. Her career on food safety started at the Institute for Food Safety and Health at Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, where she was a PhD student. Prior to joining UBC in 2013, she was a postdoctoral associate at the Department of Food Science in Cornell University. Over the past several years, Dr. Wang has published more than 20 papers and book chapters on microbial food safety.

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ALEXANDER WU
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Chief Operating Officer
Alex has worked closely with his parents Jay and Mei Wu at JC Bean Sprouts Inc. The family owned business has expanded from Alexandria to King George Virginia. They are the leading suppliers of mung bean sprouts in Virginia, Maryland and Washington DC. They also do business in New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina as well. JC Bean Sprouts Inc is currently in the process of expanding again and hopes to continue growing successfully.

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Director of Overseas Business Department

Shaanxi Hengshan Import&Export Company Ltd. was established in 1999 which was converted from Hengshan County Grain & Oil Foreign Trade Company. Over the last 20 years, guided by the president Yao, we provide our consumers with green pollution-free food and pursuing excellent quality. Amazing achievements have been obtained in all sectors after an extraordinary development for decades.

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CEO

We Hengshan Group has been a reliable Chinese green mung bean supplier for almost 30 years. Our aim of providing best quality sprouting beans has never been changed, this secured us as the biggest supplier in China and also made us captured the largest market share in Japan, at the same time, we export sprouting mung beans to Europe.