

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Elizabeth Cunningham, National Center for Food Protection and Defense,
cunning@umn.edu, 612-624-2459

Fighting Food Terrorism: Research Projects Funded

*University of Minnesota's National Center for Food Protection and Defense Funds
Universities Across the Country to Research Bio-Terrorism Mitigation*

MINNEAPOLIS / ST. PAUL (11/17/2011) – In October 2011, the University of Minnesota's National Center for Food Protection and Defense (NCFPD), a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Center of Excellence, funded 12 research projects for a total of \$1,730,001 at universities across the nation and Canada to research bio-terrorism mitigation for the food supply in 2011-12. This funding represents the second of six years of funding made possible through a DHS cooperative agreement to the Center.

John Ambrosiano, Los Alamos National Laboratory Scientist, New Mexico Consortium, NM, Analyzing Ingredient-Product Relationships to Enhance Traceability, \$110,799 (2011 award)

Alan Erera, Associate Professor and Co-Director, SCL Center for Global Transportation, Georgia Institute of Technology, GA, Risk Mitigation and Food Supply Chain Design and Control, \$277,070 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Emma Hartnett, Risk Sciences International, Canada, Modeling Health Care Surge Capacity Requirements during an Intentional Attack on the Food Supply, \$278,601 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Eric Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, Novel Methods for Detection of Clostridium botulinum and Botulinum Neurotoxin in Complex Food Matrices, \$432,812 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Ted Labuza, Morse Alumni Distinguished Teaching Professor of Food Science and Engineering, Department of Food Science and Nutrition, University of Minnesota, MN, Application of Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy in Detection of Chemical and Biological Terror Agents in Food Matrices II, \$297,901 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Alvin Lee, Institute for Food Safety and Health, IIT, IL, Validation of Agent Inactivation and Isolation from Food Systems, \$174,513 (2011 award)

Robert Littlefield, Professor of Communication and Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Professor, Department of Communication, North Dakota State University, ND, Refining and Enhancing Risk Message Testing for Use with Vulnerable Populations and the General Population, \$251,743 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Jennifer McEntire, Institute of Food Technologists, IL, Food Product Tracing Technology Capabilities and Interoperability, \$231,221 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Abbey Nutsch, Assistant Professor, Food Science Institute and Department of Animal Sciences & Industry, Kansas State University, KS, Integrated Education Programming; Food Defense Curriculum/FIX, \$521,921 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Timothy Sellnow, Professor and Associate Dean for Graduate Programs University of Kentucky, College of Communications and Information Studies, University of Kentucky, KY, Advancing the Robust Case Study II, \$292,155 (2010 & 2011 awards)

Lawrence Wackett, McKnight Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Biophysics and BioTechnology Institute University of Minnesota, MN, Modular and Expandable Detection Platform for Current and Potential Food Toxins and Adulterants, \$360,002 (2010 & 2011 awards)

“We are thrilled to invest in the work of these global experts,” said Amy Kircher, NCFPD Associate Director. “This funding will build capabilities necessary to protect our global food system from threats and hazards that can cause human harm and economic damage.”

The National Center for Food Protection and Defense is a multi-disciplinary consortium that works on addressing potentially catastrophic threats of intentional contamination of the nation's food supply. Launched in 2004, NCFPD, located at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, works as a national and international consortium of academic, private sector, and public sector partners. Through Department of Homeland Security funding, NCFPD supports research in the areas of detection and disposal of chemical and biological agents, event modeling, risk and crisis communication and supply chain and systems studies. Its initiatives include developing countermeasures to close vulnerabilities within the food/agriculture system, devising practical methods to identify, contain, and recover from intentional contamination events, and implementing programs of study to develop future expertise in food defense. For more information about NCFPD, visit www.ncfpd.umn.edu.