

HARNESSING KNOWLEDGE TO ENSURE FOOD SAFETY

Opportunities to Improve the Nation's Food Safety Information Infrastructure

Please join a distinguished group of food safety leaders at **3:00 PM ON MAY 22, 2008**, for a panel discussion to mark the release of a new report that calls for sweeping changes in the way food safety information is collected and shared. The report, "*Harnessing Knowledge to Ensure Food Safety: Opportunities to Improve the Nation's Food Safety Information Infrastructure*," was written by Michael Taylor (The George Washington University) and Michael Batz (University of Florida) under the auspices of the Food Safety Research Consortium and with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

Based on dialogue with the food safety community, the report calls for broader collaboration in the collection and sharing of information that can be used to prevent foodborne illness. Taylor and Batz make the case for a new national policy and program to drive change in current practices, suggest new efforts to make food safety epidemiology and other data collection more responsive to the needs of the community, and detail specific ideas for making existing information more accessible and useful.

Pamela Russo, senior program officer at RWJF, and a distinguished panel of food safety leaders will share their perspectives and ideas, including:

- **DAVID ACHESON** – Associate Commissioner for Food Safety, Food and Drug Administration
- **RICHARD RAYMOND** – Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- **ART LIANG** – Director, Food Safety Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **TIM JONES** – State Epidemiologist, Tennessee Department of Health
- **CAROLINE SMITH DEWAAL** – Director, Food Safety, Center for Science in the Public Interest
- **BOB BRACKETT** – Senior Vice President and Chief Scientific and Regulatory Affairs Officer, Grocery Manufacturers Association

This event will be held in the Cafritz Conference Center Amphitheater in the Marvin Center on the campus of The George Washington University, 800 21st St., NW, Washington, D.C. It will run from 3:00-5:15 p.m, with refreshments and registration beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Please RSVP to foodsafety@gwumc.edu by **MAY 16**. If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie David at Stephanie.David@gwumc.edu.

METRO DIRECTIONS: The Marvin Center is located two blocks from the Foggy Bottom-GWU station on the Orange and Blue lines. After exiting the station on 23rd Street, walk two blocks east on I Street and turn right on 21st Street. The Marvin Center (800 21st Street) is the second building on the right. Go up the stairs to the elevator lobby, take the elevator to the third floor, and turn right for the entrance to the Amphitheater.