

# Environmental monitoring for pathogens and spoilage organisms

29 September 2016



Dear KwaZulu-Natal Branch member

Gellert Family Professor in food safety at Cornell University, Martin Wiedmann will be speaking to members on *Environmental monitoring for pathogens and spoilage organisms: a necessity for any food processor.*

Molecular biology tools and molecular subtyping methods are transforming our ability to detect foodborne disease outbreaks and the sources of food contamination. Today, through the use of these new methods, many foodborne disease outbreaks that would have gone undetected 15 to 20 years ago are detected and traced back to a specific source. Some estimates suggest that foodborne disease outbreaks today are > 20 times more likely to be detected as compared to before 1997. Similarly, social media has been responsible for triggering a number of costly recalls due to food spoilage issues that may also would have gone unnoticed a decade ago. Importantly, sources of pathogen (e.g., *Listeria monocytogenes*) and spoilage organisms are often traced back to the food processing environment; molecular subtyping methods also often help to identify specific sources responsible for contamination with pathogens and spoilage organisms. A main focus of this presentations will be on new insight on environmental sources of pathogens and spoilage organisms and how to translate these findings into the development of robust environmental monitoring programmes.

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**DATE:** Thursday 29 September 2016

**VENUE:** Kerry premises, Block 1, 2 & 3 Nguni Park, 4-6 Lucas Drive, Hillcrest, Durban

**TIME:** 17h00

**COST:** No charge. Tea and snacks will be served.

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RSVP: [SharonB@turnerssecretariat.co.za](mailto:SharonB@turnerssecretariat.co.za)

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## *Save the date!*

SAAFoST's 2017 Congress will take place from 03 – 06 September 2017.

See [www.saafofost2017.org.za](http://www.saafofost2017.org.za)



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