Save the Date – March 16, 2015

10AM – 1PM CST

Workshop: Whole Genome Sequencing for Food Safety – Opportunities and Applications to the Food Industry

Synopsis: Whole genome sequencing (WGS) technology has emerged as a new high-resolution tool for rapid and accurate differentiation and tracing of foodborne pathogens to their sources of contamination to facilitate implementation of adequate food safety control measures. The FDA has created an integrated pilot network of state and federal laboratories to use WGS to enhance trace back of foodborne pathogens. Known as GenomeTrakr, the network is creating a publically available, global database containing the genetic makeup of thousands of foodborne disease-causing bacteria including *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *E. coli* and other common foodborne pathogens. The WGS initiative is impacting regulatory science in FDA’s Foods Program. This workshop will provide an opportunity for the food industry to learn about the latest development of the WGS technology, and discuss how the food industry can benefit from these new capabilities. An Industry Working Group is expected to be established as one of the outcomes of the workshop to facilitate the use of WGS technology benefiting the food industry.

What to expect: The workshop will feature speakers from the FDA, academia and the food industry:

- Overview and current status of WGS technology
- Whole genome database of foodborne pathogens and benefits to the food industry
- Industry perspective on use of the WGS technology
- Role of IFSH and Industry Working Group

Who should attend: This workshop is for food safety professionals from industry, academia and government in food processing, food safety, quality assurance, regulatory functions, public health administration, and those involved in developing or using pathogen detection equipment and methods.

Location: The workshop will be hosted by the Institute for Food Safety and Health, Bedford Park, IL. Face-to-face attendance of the workshop is encouraged. The workshop will also be available through webinar. *Space is limited.*

Registration: Online at [http://ifsh-wgs-registration.eventbrite.com](http://ifsh-wgs-registration.eventbrite.com)

Please contact Haley Tomlinson at htomlin2@iit.edu or (708) 563-8278 for additional information.