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ILSI's Food Safety Associate Director Joins NCFST

Chicago, Ill. – April 18, 2006

Catherine Nnoka has been appointed Director of Operations Support at NCFST. As Director of Operations Support at NCFST, Nnoka will direct, manage, and lead general management and operational support for NCFST's nonscientific business functions. She will plan and direct member relations, information technology, communications and library resources in accordance with overall organizational strategies. She will work with FDA to meet operational needs. She will formulate policies, short and long term strategies, procedures, and systems to provide operational support for NCFST's business functions.

"We are excited to have Catherine Nnoka join the team here at NCFST. Effective customer service and stakeholder management is a crucial element to the ongoing growth and success of the Center," said Martin Cole, director of NCFST. "Catherine's experience in working across government, academia and industry in the food business and her exceptional organizational and communication skills will be an invaluable benefit to the NCFST and its stakeholders."

Nnoka comes to the Center from the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) North America where she served as associate director and program head of the food safety program. At ILSI, Nnoka managed numerous technical committees, subcommittees, task forces, and working groups employing a broad range of strategies to address a variety of food safety and nutrition issues, including acrylamide, aspartame, bioterrorism and food defense, diet and behavior, food allergy, food labeling, food microbiology, food toxicology, fructose, functional foods, lead in foods, macronutrient substitution, and oral health. At one time, Nnoka also managed the Allergy and Immunology Institute of ILSI, working with physicians and research scientists on a grant program to support basic

research on adverse immunologic reactions to food and efforts to improve public education and awareness of allergic diseases.

At ILSI, Nnoka planned and organized more than 40 national and international conferences, workshops, and symposia on nutrition issues, emerging foodborne pathogens and other microbial food safety issues, bioterrorism, and food allergy. She coordinated publication of 20 volumes of scientific papers and reports. She also designed and administered research grant programs involving more than 100 investigators and 7.5 million dollars, primarily in the areas of food safety and food allergy.

Before going to ILSI, Nnoka was senior program associate with the Washington-based International Council on Education for Teaching. There, she ran a government funded international intern program, and managed the boards of director and trustees, traveled extensively overseas as a spokesperson for the organization, planned and organized 15 international conferences (including several aboard the *S.S. Universe*, a floating university program Semester at Sea), and led five overseas study tours. Nnoka also worked as a bilingual secretary for an accounting firm in Monte Carlo.

Nnoka received her education in the U.S. and abroad. She is a magnum cum laude graduate of Georgetown University with a Bachelor of Science degree. She attended Westtown School (a Quaker boarding school), Simon's Rock Early College, and the University of Nice, France. She received a Presidential Recognition Award from the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) for her contributions to its annual meeting programs in 2001 and the Harold Barnum Industry Award for service to IAFP, industry, government, education, and the public in 2005. In 2005, she also received a Special Citation Award from the Director of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition for advancing food safety, food defense, and applied nutrition, fostering the exchange of knowledge among industry, academic, and government scientists through leadership of ILSI scientific committees, and providing invaluable assistance to the agency.

The National Center for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST) is a research consortium of industry, government, and academia which addresses the food safety implications of emerging technologies in food processing and packaging. The National Center serves as a neutral ground for food safety research, education, and information exchange among food industry, government, and academic scientists. NCFST is located at Illinois Institute of Technology's Moffett Campus (near Chicago) in Summit-Argo, Illinois.

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