

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT:

Carolyn Speakman  
Communications Manager  
708.563.8160  
speakman@iit.edu

### **NCFST Honors Unilever Food Safety Scientist at the Food Safety World Conference**

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Michael Cirigliano, Ph.D., Group Manager of Microbiology at Unilever Foods NA, New Jersey, has been awarded the NCFST 2006 Annual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Food Safety across Government, Academia, and Industry. The award will be presented at the Food Safety World Conference & Expo on March 9, 2006 at the Award Presentation Ceremony and Reception in Washington, D.C.

"I am delighted with the selection committee's choice of Mike Cirigliano as this year's recipient of the NCFST award. Mike is a shining example of collaboration in food safety across industry, government and academia. Despite being a very busy industrial food microbiologist, he has always found time to share his real world practical experience and challenges which had a significant effect on the direction of research at NCFST as well as being a positive benefit for his own company, Unilever."

Cirigliano has worked in food safety for 35 years, beginning in 1971. He has worked for Unilever or one of its subsidiaries for the past 28 years after working for 7 years with American Brands Sunshine Biscuit Company. As a powerful champion for collaborative work between the FDA, the CDC, and industry, Cirigliano chaired the Grocery Manufacturer's Association Microbiology Task Force where primary concern was on *Listeria monocytogenes* and *E. coli* O157:H7.

At the NCFST, Cirigliano was the first chairperson of the Food Safety Working Group and has been involved in the Biotechnology Working Group, as well. Cirigliano also organized the Food Microbiological Research Conference. The Association of Dressing and Sauces awarded Cirigliano their prestigious Scientist of the Year Award. Currently, Cirigliano has about 20 patents on Food Safety and Preservation.

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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