



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

FOOD INNOVATION CENTER

Ohio State Food Innovation 2013-14



From ideation to impact, the members of the Ohio State Food Innovation Center have an impressive record of achievement. In the last year the Food Innovation Center's Food for Billions Conference focused national attention on how food keeps pace with population growth. As thought leaders on the most important food issues, we continued the conversation with a summit on the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. The food mapping team succeeded in assembling a team of experts who share common interest and launched a survey mapping the food environment of Columbus, OH. Several FIC events built upon the collaborative interests of our members, ranging from the February Food Collaborators Conference to fun networking opportunities like our Cook & Connect at The Kitchen event. Our Mountains of Data Summit enriched the campus-wide conversation on data analytics in food. Our recently announced grant programs include support for established teams seeking extramural funding. FIC researchers reside in every college and nearly every discipline at Ohio State, earning \$8.4M in research awards making investment in food innovation a smart strategy with high returns. Learn more about the FIC and our grant funding programs at fic.osu.edu.

Tackling 'Food for Billions'

To sustain nine billion people by 2050, the world's food supply must increase by a staggering 70%. But increasing production is not enough to eradicate hunger and improve human health. Roughly one-third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally to flaws in process, economics, energy, behavior, and policy. Our global food system must improve and innovate to advance us toward a healthier, hunger-free world. On September 12, 2013 the Food Innovation Center hosted *Food for Billions*, a pivotal event conceived by FIC members at The Ohio State University. Our goal was to inspire researchers, policy makers, community organizers, industry leaders, and enthusiasts to brainstorm, innovate and invent the system that satiates billions in a nutritious, healthy and sustainable way. Over 200 participants from the public and private sector convened on campus to engage in the conversation on the future of food.



Mapping the Food Environment

Mapping the cost and availability of healthy food has long been a focus area of the FIC. In 2011 the FIC provided support to Dr. Casey Hoy from CFAES and his team to look at the cost of food in relationship to location and household income. In 2012, the FIC worked with the College of Social Work to recruit Dr. Michelle Kaiser, noted for expertise in the study of food access and availability. In 2013, now under the leadership of Dr. Kaiser, The OSU Food Mapping Team developed into an interdisciplinary group of OSU researchers and community stakeholders (Columbus Public Health, Franklinton Gardens, Local Matters, Mid-Ohio Foodbank and more) who share an interest in using mapping and spatial analysis to gain a deeper understanding of our food environment. With the support of a \$50,000 FIC Innovation Initiative, this team launched a survey in early 2014 to residents of certain ZIP Codes in central Columbus designed to help the team gain a better understanding of how and where residents get their food, and what factors influence their decisions about what they eat. Once compiled, the primary data from the survey (as well as secondary data from the USDA's food environment atlas, Columbus Public Health, the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources) will be housed in a food access data hub at CURA and will be publicly available. OSU faculty will use the analysis for further research, while community partners will be able to use the knowledge gained to inform their work in the community.

More information about the team and the project can be found at foodmapping.osu.edu.

FOOD INNOVATION AT A GLANCE

392 members from all 14 OSU colleges

\$1,810,050 peer review awards engaging 2 or more colleges

\$8.4 million extramural awards

58 publications in print

79 professional presentations



2014 Food Collaborators Conference

The Food Innovation Center held the 2014 Food Collaborators Conference at the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. FIC members took a tour of the food bank operations and enjoyed presentations from current and past FIC project teams. A highlight of the event was a powerful presentation by MOFB President/CEO Matt Habash on the local hunger climate and the great strides taken by the food banking system to provide nutritious meals to those in need. FIC teams also presented posters on their research, with FIC members Jessica Cooperstone, Jill Clark, Kristine Dugan and Julie Fox all being recognized for their work.



Mountains of Data Summit

Many national datasets exist to aid researchers, interventionists and policy makers to keep a finger on the pulse of the US health and can be carefully mined to provide valuable formative data to explore relationships. The data affords investigators a venue to gain preliminary data to explore potential relationships of nutrients, functional foods or food patterns to numerous risk factors and health outcomes, which can be used to support targeted interventions. However, these rich sources of data are grossly underutilized because they require special expertise to manage such large quantities of data.

In June 2013, Dr. Chris Taylor, associate professor in the College of Medicine, received a \$50,000 Innovation Initiative grant from the FIC to promote, educate and facilitate the proper use of large data sets in research. Dr. Taylor hosted an event called the *Mountains of Data Summit* in January 2014 to teach OSU faculty, staff and students best practices, opportunities and pitfalls surrounding big data.

Cook & Connect at The Kitchen



In August 2014, the Food Innovation Center hosted a participatory dining experience at The Kitchen in German Village, Ohio. Attendees took part in a team building experience while preparing a four-course meal with a focus on foods for health. This unique event connected several new collaborators and highlighted the important role the FIC plays in building the food research network at Ohio State.

The New Dietary Guidelines for Americans Summit

On November 20, 2014 the Food Innovation Center hosted "The New Dietary Guidelines for Americans: Preparing for the 2015 Release." This inaugural summit covered topics relevant to the current American diet, implications of the nation's foremost nutrition policy document and how important it is for all of us to work together to create a positive change in dietary patterns. The conference brought together key nutrition influencers including current and former DGAC members, USDA CNPP and USDA ERS representatives, leading nutritional and behavioral science academics, WIC and extension professionals, as well as industry innovators to consider multi-disciplinary and public/private approaches as we prepare for the upcoming 2015 Dietary Guidelines. Over 200 people attended in person with an additional nationwide audience online to hear key presentations and lively panel discussions and participate in audience Q&A.

