

2014 FDA Food Safety Challenge

About the Challenge

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

While the American food supply is among the safest in the world, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 6 Americans is sickened by foodborne illness annually, resulting in about 3,000 deaths each year. It is estimated that the overall negative economic impact of foodborne illness in the United States, including medical costs, quality-of-life losses, lost productivity, and lost-life expectancy, may be as high as \$77 billion per year. *Salmonella* represents the leading cause of deaths and of hospitalizations related to foodborne illness. Contaminated produce is responsible for nearly half of foodborne illnesses and almost a quarter of foodborne-related deaths.

The 2014 FDA Food Safety Challenge is a call to scientists, academics, entrepreneurs, and innovators from all disciplines to submit concepts applying novel and/or advanced methodologies to foster revolutionary improvements in foodborne pathogen detection. **Specifically, concepts should apply cutting-edge techniques to achieve significant improvements in the speed of the FDA's detection methods for *Salmonella* with identification to the subtype/serovar level in minimally processed fresh produce.** FDA is most interested in concepts that explore the acceleration or elimination of sample preparation and/or enrichment in the testing process, and/or those that employ novel or revolutionary techniques to achieve pathogen detection.

Additional Background Reading

1 in 6 Americans are sickened by foodborne illness annually. Read more on foodborne pathogens at <http://www.foodsafetychallenge.com/about/pathogens/>

80% of America's domestic and imported food supply is regulated by FDA. Read more on the FDA at <http://www.foodsafetychallenge.com/about/fdabackground/>

Metagenomics, Nanotechnology & Revolutionary Materials. Cutting-edge approaches could transform food testing. Read more on testing technology at <http://www.foodsafetychallenge.com/about/testingtech/>