

# **Chemical Contaminants & Residues in Food Community**

**BRINGING SCIENTISTS AND INDUSTRY TOGETHER  
TO DEVELOP AND VALIDATE BETTER METHODOLOGIES**

## **“Unknowns” Subgroup**

**Co-Chairs: Jonathan Litzau - Food and Drug Administration**

**Mark Goldschmidt – Sensient Technologies**

# Focus of the “Unknowns” Subgroup

- Unknowns Subgroup of the Chemical Contaminants and Residues Community
  - Emerging Issues in Food or Food Contact Contaminants and Residues (example: melamine in pet food)
    - Reaction Products
    - Intentional Adulterants
    - Unapproved Additives and Processes
    - Formation of an "Emerging Issues" Network
  - Screening Methods for Unknowns/Adulterants
    - Raw Material and Finished Product Screening
    - Method Performance Criteria (at time of use vs. full validation)
    - Criteria for Identification of Unknowns
- This subgroup is rather unique in that there is not a single target analyte/matrix for which methods can be discussed and developed, but rather the target analytes are "unknown contaminants/adulterants" and methods are needed to screen for and identify such compounds.

# Why are we here?

- Pet Food Contaminated with Melamine
- Tooth Paste contaminated with DEG
- Heparin contaminated with chondroitin sulfate
- Pathogen contamination of peanut butter, meat, spinach, tomatoes .....

....and just last week

- Dairy products contaminated with Melamine resulting in infant deaths and illness

# What does it Cost?

- Health, safety and welfare of individuals
- \$100's of millions in law suites, product liability and loss.
- Company image and brand destruction
- Out of Business

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# “Unknowns” Subgroup

Where have we been?

Where are we going?

## “Unknowns” Subgroup

Where have we been?

Subgroup formed at the 2007 conference.

Established Subgroup Mission / Charter

Established website

Submitted request for Method Performance Criteria

Method Performance Criteria feedback

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Where are we going?

- We need to identify a priority method and a laboratory to champion that method
- We want to keep this Chemistry and/or Food at this point.
- Write a Single Laboratory Validation Guideline (SLV)
- Submit SLV to the OMB for AOAC Official approval

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# Communication

- **Community-1<sup>st</sup> Website**  
[www.flworkshop.com/community-1st.html](http://www.flworkshop.com/community-1st.html)
- **AOAC ILM Articles**
- **E-mail**
- **Person to Person**
- **Conference Calls?**