



# Insights

Your Monthly Update of News and Notes from HESI



## September 2014

**Welcome to HESI!** Welcome to HESI's newest members Axiogenesis, Q-State Biosciences, and UCB Pharma!

**HESI Extends Global Reach to Africa.** At the invitation of the Kenya National Biosafety Authority (NBA), the HESI Protein Allergenicity Technical Committee (PATC) conducted two workshops and participated in the NBA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Biosafety Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in August. As a result of these productive interactions, Dr. Willy Tonui (CEO of NBA) wrote that the PATC team "...not only demonstrated competency in their fields of expertise, but they were also well grounded in explaining their own experiences practicing agricultural biotechnology to the participants." The NBA has expressed a keen interest in future collaboration and partnership with HESI and ILSI.

**7–8 August 2014 GM Food/Feed Safety Assessment Training Workshop for Regulators.**

Approximately 25 Kenyan government representatives participated in this interactive workshop held at the KCB Leadership Center just outside Nairobi. Agencies represented included the NBA, Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service, National Environment Management Authority, Kenya Port Health, Department of Veterinary Services, National Public Health Laboratories Services, Kenya Medical Research Institute, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards. Workshop materials and presentations can be found [here](#).



*Participants in HESI PATC-sponsored training workshop for regulators on GM Food/Feed Safety Assessment, 7-8 August 2014, Nairobi, Kenya.*

**11–12 August 2014 Food Allergy and Safety Assessment Workshop.** A faculty of 20 speakers from Europe, the United States, and East, West, and South Africa shared research, experiences, and perspectives on food allergy and agricultural biotechnology safety assessment to a group of over 60 participants. Significant discussion and information sharing were featured during the two-day event. Workshop materials and presentations can be found [here](#).



*Faculty of speakers, 11-12 August 2014 Food Allergy and Safety Assessment Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya*

For more information about the HESI PATC's August 2014 activities in Kenya, contact Ms. Nancy Doerrer ([ndoerrer@hesiglobal.org](mailto:ndoerrer@hesiglobal.org)).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **HESI Co-Sponsors September Events in Argentina:**

- Seminar on Risk Assessment in the 21st Century: Leverage of Internationally Established Frameworks (24 September 2014, Buenos Aires, Argentina). This workshop for SENASA and the Argentina Ministry of Health, co-sponsored by HESI, will include reviews of HESI's RISK21 approach, the WHO/IPCS/ILSI Human Relevance/Mode of Action Framework, the OECD Adverse Outcome Pathway Programme, and the HESI Agricultural Chemical Safety Assessment (ACSA) tiered testing scheme.
- XXXII Argentine Conference on Interdisciplinary Toxicology and Iberoamerican Congress of Toxicology (24–27 September 2014, Comodoro Rivadavia, Argentina). Dr. Vicki Dellarco (retired from the US EPA) will speak at the annual Congress of the Argentina Toxicological Association on the "use of experimental evidence in the risk analysis and risk management of crop protection products." Dr. Dellarco's participation is sponsored by HESI.

**REGISTER TODAY: Immunomodulators and Cancer Risk Assessment Workshop** (20–21 October 2014; US FDA White Oak Campus, Silver Spring, Maryland). Registration for this workshop, co-organized by the Immunotoxicology Technical Committee and the US Food and Drug Administration, is now open. To register, click [here](#). For more information, visit the [workshop website](#), or contact Dr. Connie Chen ([cchen@hesiglobal.org](mailto:cchen@hesiglobal.org)).

**DRAFT AGENDA AVAILABLE: CIPA Update Workshop** (11 December 2014; Doubletree, Silver Spring, Maryland). A draft agenda is now available for the CIPA Update Workshop. Visit the [meeting website](#) to learn more and view the agenda. Contact Ms. Jennifer Pierson ([jpierson@hesiglobal.org](mailto:jpierson@hesiglobal.org)).

## HESI Staffing News

Please join us in welcoming Oscar M. Bermudez, Jr., to the HESI staff as a Scientific Program Associate!



Oscar earned a BS in biology from Radford University in Virginia, and has worked at the Parenteral Drug Association as a laboratory education coordinator and at the Henry Jackson Foundation's HIV research program as a research assistant.

### ILSI Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI)

1156 Fifteenth Street, NW  
Suite 200

Washington, DC 20005-1743

202.659.3306 phone

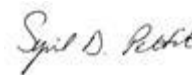
202.659.3617 fax

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This month, I'd like to give special recognition to HESI's first official workshop conducted in an African country. The allergenicity and GM food / feed safety assessment scientific program, held in Nairobi in partnership with the Kenyan National Biosafety Authority, received high commendation from senior scientific authorities in Kenya and from many local academic and government-sector participants. The HESI Protein Allergenicity Technical Committee and its volunteer and staff leadership are to be commended for helping to further fulfill HESI's commitment to global scientific engagement. HESI's newly formed Global Platforms Initiative (GPI) program also seeks to diversify HESI's outreach over the coming years. We welcome your input on how to improve human and environmental health through quality science worldwide.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Spil D. Rohit".