

Dr. Sócrates Trujillo

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Dr. Trujillo is currently a Supervisory Biologist at the Office of Applied Research and Safety Assessment (OARSA), CFSAN, FDA. He provides leadership, oversight, and direction to staff members on biological research matters and works closely with the Directors of the Division of Virulence Assessment, the Division of Molecular Biology, and the Deputy Office Director, to make certain that the research conducted in the division is within the parameters needed for supporting all regulatory programs. Socrates' career at FDA started in 2001 at CFSAN as a postdoctoral fellow. His research was in developing assays to detect naturally occurring toxicants in FDA regulated foods. Later, due to his background in produce production environments, biochemical engineering, food microbiology, and analytical chemistry, he worked at the Division of Microbiology, developing and validating DNA-based detection methods for foodborne pathogens, specifically in produce. His knowledge of produce production environments positioned him to provide advice to FDA Investigators during produce outbreaks. He joined the Produce Safety Staff, now Division of Produce Safety, and was part of the team that developed the Produce Safety Rule. He also worked at the Office of the Center Director as the team lead of the successfully implemented Systems Recognition program, working with counterparts from New Zealand, Canada, Australia, and the European Union, to evaluate each other's food safety systems. Prior to joining OARSA, Socrates was the original member of the Produce Safety Network, first working at the Southern region, and then assigned to the Northeast Region and Texas. He explained policies and programs related to the produce safety rule through talks, participation in trainings, presentations, and meetings. He worked closely with the state counterparts to craft educational farm visits for specific commodities on specific topics throughout the region.