

Seminar on Gluten-Free Food

The Ashtown Food Research Centre, Teagasc, in conjunction with The Coeliac Society of Ireland, recently hosted a seminar entitled 'Gluten-Free Foods: New Developments for Bakery Products'.

The aim of the seminar was to raise awareness among food producers of the critical importance of the gluten-free diet for those affected by the coeliac condition and the implications of the new European regulations setting much stricter control on the gluten levels within 'gluten-free' and 'very low gluten' foods. A range of presentations were given on relevant topics, from recent research to the requirements for 'start up' gluten-free bakeries, packaging and labelling and the new coeliac food list.

Speakers at the event included Dr Mary Flynn, FSAI; Susan Zaidan, Odlum Group Ltd.; Dr Andrew Flanagan, Public Analyst Laboratory; Dr Eimear Gallagher, Ashtown Food Research Centre/UCC; John Redmond, Mulligan's Gluten-Free Bakery and Denise O'Callaghan, Delicious – The Gluten-Free Bakery.

Attending the seminar were those wishing to keep up-to-date with developments in relation to gluten-free products, specifically, gluten-free bakers, caterers, retailers, dieticians and entrepreneurs.



Pictured at the seminar are: Back (l-r): Dr Nicholas Kennedy, President, Coeliac Society of Ireland; Dr Andrew Flanagan, PAL, Galway and Dr Eimear Gallagher, Ashtown Food Research Centre. Front (l-r): Ms Susan Zaidan, Odlums Group Ltd.; Dr Mary Flynn, Chief Specialist Public Health Nutrition, FSAI and Ms Anne Manning, Coeliac Society of Ireland

Presentation on the Irish Dioxin Crisis



Pictured here are Alan Reilly, CEO, FSAI with Nick Gathergood, Chair, SCI Republic of Ireland Group and Lecturer in Organic Chemistry at DCU

'The Irish Dioxin Crisis: six days that shook the nation' was the title of a public lecture given by Mr Alan Reilly, CEO, FSAI, at the AGM of the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) in the Chemistry Department of Trinity College Dublin recently.

In December last year, the Irish food sector faced a major food crisis that had public health, political and economic consequences. All pork products produced from animals slaughtered in Ireland between 1 September and 6 December 2008 were recalled from both the domestic and international markets; the largest recall of foods in the history of the State.

Mr Alan Reilly was invited by the SCI to give an overview of what happened during the six days of the pork dioxin crisis. The SCI is an international forum where science meets business on independent and impartial ground. The SCI offers information-sharing from food and agriculture, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology and energy, to environmental science and safety.

FSAI-Sponsored IFSTI Competition in Memory of Ann Westby

Dyan Sari (pictured) was the winner of an essay competition in memory of the FSAI's late CEO, Ms Ann Westby. The competition was run by the Institute of Food Science and Technology of Ireland (IFSTI) and the €1,000 prize was sponsored by FSAI. Ms Sari was in her second year of the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) European MSc degree in Food Science, Technology and Nutrition when she entered the competition. The title of her essay was '*Cronobacter sakazakii*: The importance of understanding the correct way to reconstitute powdered infant formula'.

The essay explains the epidemiology of *Cronobacter sakazakii* (formerly known as *Enterobacter sakazakii*) which causes illness mainly in neonates and children from three days to four years old. It reviews the evidence for the link between illness in neonates and contaminated powdered infant formula, a product which many people mistakenly consider to be a sterile product. Finally, it describes the World Health Organization's guidelines for infant formula preparation, storage and handling and explores the practicalities of following these guidelines.

To view the winning essay, see www.ifsti.com.

For further information on this topic, see FSAI Guidance Note No 22 - Information Relevant to the Development of Guidance Material for the Safe Feeding of Reconstituted Powdered Infant Formula at: <http://tinyurl.com/mepb5l>



Dyan Sari, winner of the essay competition