Our Vision

The Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention (CFI) was founded in 2006 to help America create innovative, science-based solutions for the food challenges of the 21st Century. Our vision is to become the premiere science-based advocacy organization dedicated to preventing foodborne disease.

We view ourselves as knowledge brokers, working to translate science into practical, evidence-informed policies that protect public health and prevent foodborne disease. Our objectives are to 1) bring scientific information to the attention of policy makers and the public; 2) ensure that policy design is consistent with the best available science; 3) ensure that those formulating policies consider the relevant science; and 4) create sustained behavior changes from farm to table and beyond that reduce the risk and impact of foodborne disease.

We’ve Moved!

Our new physical address is:
1017 Main Campus Drive, Ste 1500
Raleigh, NC 27606

Our new mailing address is:
P.O. Box 33458 Raleigh, NC 27636

You can also reach us at :
Toll Free: 855-242-9600
Office: 724-458-0767
cfi@foodborneillness.org

Over the past five years, CFI has worked diligently to establish our credentials, and we are viewed as a reliable and trusted source of food safety information and evidence-informed solutions. CFI’s success has been a testament to our pragmatic approach.

We are now poised to take the next step towards our goal of becoming the leading science-based advocacy organization in the food safety arena.

To achieve this, CFI must grow our organizational capacity, seek new models for blending research and policy, and consider expanding our focus beyond bacterial foodborne disease. CFI has already taken the initial steps by relocating its offices to North Carolina State University’s Centennial Campus in Raleigh and establishing a Science and Policy Advisory Council.
MAKING OUR FOOD SAFER

Broadening the DISCUSSION …

• CFI co-founders, Barbara Kowalcyk and Patricia Buck, were featured in the 2009 Oscar-nominated documentary, Food, Inc., sparking a national discussion on the safety and sustainability of our food supply.

• CFI drew international attention to foodborne disease when Barbara Kowalcyk received the 2010 LennonOno Grant for Peace and advocated for a holistic One Health approach that integrates human, animal and environmental health.

• CFI’s efforts to change the debate in food safety were recognized when Barbara Kowalcyk was voted the 2010 Ultimate Game Changer in Food by Huffington Post readers.

Translating SCIENCE into action…

• CFI’s CEO, Barbara Kowalcyk, was a co-author of the 2010 National Academies of Science report Enhancing Food Safety: The Role of the Food and Drug Administration, which served as a blueprint for FDA reform in the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010.

• CFI worked to secure an agreement that reversed a 10-year-old data sharing problem between three federal agencies. Thanks to this agreement, USDA/ARS can more easily share the PFGE patterns obtained from Salmonella isolates collected through regulatory testing with human disease experts at HHS/CDC’s PulseNet.

• In 2009, CFI collaborated with medical experts to release a scientific white paper on the long-term health outcomes associated with foodborne disease that highlights the gaps in research and need for improved surveillance and data sharing.

• In 2010, CFI received FDA funding to continue its research on the long-term health outcomes associated with foodborne disease. The project, which is being overseen by a committee of scientific experts, will examine the feasibility of tracking these long-term outcomes.
Providing an **INDEPENDENT VOICE**... 

- CFI advocated for restoring food safety objectives in Healthy People 2020, the nation’s decade-long agenda for improving public health; for improving regulatory microbial testing programs and labeling regulations; and for the use of appropriate metrics in evaluating food safety programs.

- CFI met with numerous Senators, Representatives and staff in the successful effort to pass the Food Safety Modernization Act of 2010 (FSMA). In every phone call, e-mail or in-person meeting, CFI provided information to help decision-makers make policy choices based on the best available science.

- CFI provided scientific advice and recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services on issues related to food safety by serving on several national advisory committees, including the National Advisory Committee for Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF), the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) and CDC’s FSMA Surveillance Working Group.

Creating a **CULTURE** that promotes food safety from farm to fork and beyond... 

- CFI raised awareness about the impact of foodborne illness and the importance of a shared commitment to food safety among all stakeholders by presenting at numerous conferences, including CDC’s Annual PulseNet/OutbreakNet Meeting, the 2010 Food Safety Education Conference, the 2011 Global Food Safety Initiative Annual Conference, and the 2011 International Association for Food Protection.

- CFI and Pew Charitable Trusts developed a fact sheet, *Children and Foodborne Illness*, that was endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and highlights the impact foodborne disease has on children.

- Recognizing the importance of risk communication, CFI provided advice on the development of USDA/Ad Council’s campaign, *Food Safe Families*, by serving on their expert committee. CFI also provided input on the development of a national food safety education plan by serving on the Partnership for Food Safety Education’s Scientific Panel and Steering Committee.

- CFI is currently collaborating with Cornell University on a pilot project that will look at drivers of a positive food safety corporate culture and the role of corporate governance.

- In 2012, CFI will seek funding for a study on the knowledge, attitudes and practices of health-care practitioners, who are trusted sources of information and often the first responders to foodborne disease, towards foodborne illness diagnosis, reporting and patient education. We will also seek funding for Operation Health SNACK, an initiative to promote healthy, safe eating among middle and high school students.
The Food Safety Matters Challenge

Over the past five years, CFI has accomplished a great deal—all on a shoestring budget. However, in order to continue our work and grow, we must now invest in our organization. To support these efforts, CFI is challenging all food safety stakeholders to demonstrate their commitment to food safety by helping us raise $250,000 in early 2012. This funding will enable us to:

• Hire full-time support staff.
• Improve our website and communication materials.
• Develop and implement a sustainable revenue model.
• Utilize our staff and board more effectively.

In return, CFI will continue to provide an independent voice, committed to using the best available science to develop evidence-informed policies and creating a positive food safety culture from farm to table and beyond.

Our Team
Barbara Kowalcyk, Ph.D., CEO
Patricia Buck, M.S./M.A., Director of Outreach & Education
Laura Trivers, Communications Consultant
Kit Whitley (Bluecrab Marketing), Website & Marketing Support

Our Board of Directors
Tanya Roberts, Ph.D., Retired USDA, WA, Chair
Ken Costello, MBA, Retired pilot, WY, Secretary
Patti Waller, M.S., MarlerClark LLP, WA, Treasurer
Elizabeth Armstrong, Marketing Consultant, IN
David Buck, Ph.D., Thiel College, PA
Lee Falconbridge, M.S., Lakeview School District, PA
Michele Jay-Russian, DVM, UC-Davis, CA
Kath Norback-Ley, Norback-Ley & Associates, WI
Teresa Schwartz, J.D., Emeritus at George Washington University, DC

Help CFI continue to grow!
• Sign up for our e-mail list.
• Follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
• Tell 10 friends about CFI.
• Make a tax deductible donation to CFI.

Since 2006, CFI has grown in reputation and is now poised to become the nation’s leading science-based food safety advocacy organization. But we cannot succeed without your help. As a 501 (c) (3) organization, we depend on your support to make our work possible. Together we can make our food supply safer.