

Dr. Purnendu C. Vasavada is a Professor of Food Science at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and Food Safety and Microbiology Specialist with the UW-Extension. His teaching and research interests include rapid methods in food microbiology, food safety and quality assurance, food processing, milk quality and dairy technology and cultured dairy products. Dr. Vasavada has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters and abstracts and invited articles in professional and trade publications. He has educated thousands of Food Industry professionals through numerous short courses and workshops in around the world, most recently, in Turkey.

For the past 27 years Dr. Vasavada has organized the annual UWRF Food Microbiology Symposium: Current Concepts in Foodborne Pathogens and Rapid and Automated Methods in Food Microbiology and has been an invited speaker and/or convener at international conferences, workshops and symposia dealing with rapid methods and automation in microbiology, food safety and food quality assurance, HACCP and TQM and food science education in the U.S., and over twenty countries in North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America. He is active in several scientific associations including the International Association for Food Protection, the Institute of Food Technologists, the Wisconsin Laboratory Association and has frequently served in leadership roles including the chair of the IFT- Food Microbiology division, the American Dairy Science Association's (ADSA) Dairy Foods division, the president of the WLA and the WAFP and has served or is currently serving on the editorial board of the Food Protection Trends, J. Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology, J Food Protection and the Food Quality magazine.

Dr. Vasavada has received the Joseph Mityas Laboratorian of the Year Award (1987) Certificate of Merit Award (1989), the IAMFES Educator award (1997) and the WAFP Sanitarian of the year award (1998). He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, the IFT Distinguished Lecturer Dr. Vasavada holds a B.S., M.S. and M.Sc. degrees in Microbiology and a Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology from the University of Georgia.