



American Society for Quality (www.asq.org) – Washington D.C. and Maryland Metro, Section 509 (www.asq509.org)

Biomed/Biotech Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting

“Melamine in Pet Food – How Poisoning Cats and Dogs Changed the FDA”

To be presented by

Neal Bataller, ME, DVM
(neal.battaller@fda.hhs.gov)

**Director, Division of Surveillance
Office of Surveillance and Compliance (OSC)
Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), US FDA**

Thursday, July 26, 2012

6:00 – 6:20 PM – Networking; Pizza/drink

6:20 – 8:30 PM – Program

8:30 – 8:45 PM – Door-prizes drawing; Networking

Online Registration site: <http://www.asq509.org/ht/d/DoSurvey/i/35817>

Open to Public –

\$5: [non-ASQ members](#) to cover pizza/drink cost;

Free: [ASQ Members, veterans, senior citizens, students, local interns, residents, postdocs, FDA Commissioner’s Fellows, and current job-seekers](#)

Location: Kelly’s Deli Conference Center, 7519 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855

Registration Deadline: Please register by **Thursday noon, July 26, 2012.**

Question: Please contact Dr. C.J. George Chang, Chair of Biomed/Biotech SIG, ASQ509; gchang2008@yahoo.com or 240-793-8425 (cell).

Driving directions: **By Car:** From I-270 (N or S bound): Take Exit 9A and exit from the FIRST right exit; turn left (east) onto Shady Grove Dr.; turn right (south) onto Rockville Pike (**Route 355**); turn left (east) onto East Gude Dr.; turn left (north) immediately onto Crabb’s Branch Dr.; turn left (west) immediately onto Standish Place. The first building on your right side is 7519 Standish Place; open parking). [The venue is on the first floor with its entrance opposite to the left side of building main entrance.](#) **By Metro train:** Off from Red Line **Shady Grove Station**, and take RideOn **Route 59 TOWARD ROCKVILLE** and get off from “**Calhoun Place**” stop. Standish Place is next to the Bus stop. Our venue is within 2 min of walking distance from the stop.

Summary: Melamine in Pet Food – How Poisoning Cats and Dogs Changed the FDA

On an early spring evening in 2007, the FDA received notification from a pet food company that it was recalling a pet food believed being associated with numerous consumer complaints. In addition, some animals on "taste test" trials they had recently conducted had died of renal failure. The company suspected that the pet food might have been contaminated with ethylene glycol, a known renal toxicant for animals. What followed was a never before encountered situation that subsequently revealed weaknesses in the **food safety system** in the United States and a lack of a **safety net** for the pet animal population. The incident also demonstrated the ability of the FDA to quickly mobilize its forces to characterize and contain the problem and to effectively coordinate with other agencies and organizations which it previously had limited interactions. Most importantly, the incident resulted in efforts by US Congress and the FDA to fill in the **food safety gaps** that threatened public and animal health.

The focus of the presentation will be on the **effect of the incident on animal health**. The first half of the presentation will follow the timeline of events as they developed. The second half will highlight the changes in the laws and FDA programs related to animal health.

Presenter's Bio: Neal Bataller, ME, DVM

Dr. Neal Bataller is a **veterinarian** with additional graduate training in nutrition, epidemiology, and biomedical engineering. Aside from a short stint with **the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)**, he has been with the **FDA, Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)** since 1993. During his tenure at CVM, he had the good fortune to participate in building programs in pharmacovigilance, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or mad cow disease) prevention, compounding compliance strategies, and characterizing animal drug use for the support of antimicrobial resistance monitoring.

Prior to being the **Director of Surveillance**, Dr. Bataller served as the **Director of Compliance**, where he had the even better fortune to be placed front and center in the middle of the melamine crisis.