

Dear Frozen Food Industry Member:

On behalf of the Frozen Food Foundation Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to present the Foundation's 2022 Annual Report. The Foundation was created as an entity to support research and education intended to improve and benefit the broader frozen food industry. Its research initiatives and collaborations are rooted in principles of scientific excellence and transparency and its goals are aligned with the American Frozen Food Institute's (AFFI) Strategic Plan and its focus areas of advocate, elevate and innovate.

In recent years, the Foundation has played a purposeful and concerted role in advancing food safety research. Post-pandemic, our industry is at the intersection of ever-changing innovations and dynamic consumer demands. Nutrition and health equity are important topics of interest, as is food waste and the sustainability profile of the frozen food continuum. This insight guides future research efforts for the Foundation.

Funding is a critical component of the Foundation's success. This year was highlighted by outstanding contributions from two AFFI member companies, Boardman Foods and Titan Frozen Fruit. Alongside these organizations, we thank all of the individuals who committed in 2022 to progress the critical work ahead of us.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage you to support the frozen food industry and ultimately your business by making a financial contribution to support the Foundation. It is our sincere hope to see all in the frozen food industry support the Frozen Food Foundation.

Sincerely,

Debbie Radie

Boardman Foods

Chair, Frozen Food Foundation

Sanjay Gummalla, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Frozen Food Foundation

2022 Activities

The Foundation's 2022 activities supported the strategic objectives of AFFI to advance the frozen food industry. The Foundation fosters scientific research, public awareness and industry education regarding the nutritional, safety and societal attributes of frozen foods.

Research Program

The Foundation commissions relevant scientific studies to enhance our understanding of key processing, distribution, storage, and consumption of frozen foods. Further, this year the Foundation initiated sustainability-related research.

Food Safety: The Foundation commissioned research to further the understanding of pathogen risks and mitigation strategies in frozen foods. Topics included:

- *Listeria monocytogenes (Lm)*: The Foundation supported multiple studies that examine the control methodologies for *Lm* and policies that are most supportive of public health. Two studies were published in peer-review literature in 2022 and implemented to inform food safety policy.
- Enteric Viruses: The Foundation convened an expert panel comprised of ten global food and environmental virologists, who are now developing a white paper on the science regarding the detection of enteric viruses in berries, and considerations for future testing methodologies.
- Frozen Mango Safety: With support from the National Mango Board, the Foundation is supporting a validation of chemical disinfection methods used in the frozen mango industry and a baseline microbiological profile study. These data will support enhancements in frozen fruit safety.

Food Loss and Waste: The Foundation integrated additional research priorities in 2022 to better quantify and assess the frozen food industry's role in reducing food waste.

- The Foundation supported a Cornell University literature review and meta-analysis of the measurements of how much frozen food minimizes food waste and loss. A final white paper will be released in 2023.
- The Foundation supported an online survey of frozen food consumers and their practices relevant to the purchase of frozen foods, frozen at home and frozen food waste practices.
- The Foundation is participating in an ongoing U.S. household food waste tracking survey conducted by Ohio State University.

2022 Freezing Research Award



[The Freezing Research Award](#) was created to honor an individual, group or organization for outstanding contributions in frozen food research. The research focuses on, but is not limited to, food safety as it relates to frozen food and innovative freezing techniques.

The 2022 Frozen Food Foundation Freezing Research Award recipient was presented to Dr. Jeffery Farber at the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Annual Meeting. Dr. Farber has played a critical role in advancing a science-based understanding of *Lm* risk assessment and management for frozen foods. He led the international expert panel on *Lm*, which published a peer-reviewed [white paper](#) to help inform alternate approaches to the risk management of *Lm* in low-risk foods, including frozen foods.

Looking to 2023

The Foundation is currently seeking support as it pursues research into the following areas in 2023:

- **Finished Product Sampling and Microbiological Testing Plans:** This is proposed work with Dr. Donald Schaffner (Rutgers University) and invited AFFI member representatives to review and outline microbiological testing plans for frozen foods. The study will result in a report with sampling and testing recommendations that will be shared with the International Commission for Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF). The ICMSF provides science-based sampling guidance to industry and governments, particularly to assess and control the microbiological safety of foods. The Foundation will work with ICMSF to find consensus and a potential industry standard in product sampling and microbiological testing for the frozen food supply chain (growers, processors, distributors and retailers).
- **Attitudinal Research to Identify Opportunities and Barriers of Frozen Foods in SNAP:** This work assesses the role frozen foods play in supporting year-round access to nutrition for SNAP consumers, as well as study the attitudes and shopping habits unique to low-income, SNAP-eligible consumers.

For more information about additional areas of work, please contact the Foundation Executive Director [Dr. Sanjay Gummalla](#).

2022 Board of Directors

- Debbie Radie (Chair), Boardman Foods Inc.
- Chris Rhynalds, Lamb Weston
- Mark FeDuke, Ardo VLM Foods
- William Smittcamp, Wawona Frozen Foods



Make a Donation

Individuals or organizations interested in making a donation to the Frozen Food Foundation can visit www.affi.org/FFFoundation or contact Dr. Sanjay Gummalla at sgummalla@affi.com.

2022 Contributors

The Frozen Food Foundation would like to thank the following organizations and individuals for their support in 2022.

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American Frozen Food Institute
Boardman Foods, Inc.
Titan Frozen Fruit

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Alison Bodor
Adrienne Seiling
Ajinomoto Foods North America
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