

Ronald A. Benner, Jr., Ph.D.

(University of Florida, 2001) Science Advisor, FDA. Our research is focused on the dynamics of seafood decomposition and the microbiological, chemical, and sensory changes that occur during the decomposition process. We are developing methods to detect and define decomposition, and to investigate the microbial ecology of various decomposition processes. Biomarkers of seafood decomposition are being assessed as tools to measure seafood decomposition and to assist the FDA in establishing appropriate guidance for the seafood industry.

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Kristin Butler, Ph.D.

(North Carolina State University, 2009) Research Microbiologist, FDA. My research has been focused on identifying and developing molecular methods for bacterial decomposition of scombrototoxin-forming fish and validation of modified chemical methods. My research interests include utilizing molecular methods to identify bacteria and changes in bacterial communities of decomposition in pelagic scombrototoxin-forming fish (e.g. tuna, mahi-mahi, Spanish mackerel) and non-scombrototoxin fish species. Additional interests include relating the effect of environmental condition on histidine levels, histamine formation, and ecology of decomposition in seafood products.

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Kevin R. Calci, M.S.

(University of Rhode Island, 1996) Environmental Health Officer, U.S. Public Health Service, GCSL. My research has been focused on the mitigation of pollution impacts on shellfish growing waters from human enteric pathogens. Research areas include waste water microbiology, shellfish bioaccumulation and post harvest treatment using high hydrostatic pressure. Currently we are using novel viral indicators and molecular detection techniques in concert with state of the art hydrography to model the viral pollution impacts of municipal waste water treatment plants.

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Jessica L. Jones, Ph.D.

(University of South Alabama, 2009) Supervisory Microbiologist, GCSL. My research experience has primarily focused on development and application of isolation, detection, and enumeration methods for pathogenic *Vibrio* species in environmental and food samples. Current interest centers on utilizing microbiological and molecular tools to better understand the virulence of vibrios, environmental conditions that affect

their prevalence, and the evolutionary connection between human pathogenicity and the ability to persist in the marine and estuarine environments.

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Keri A. Lydon, Ph.D.

(University of Georgia, 2017) Biologist, GCSL. My research focuses on virulence and pathogenicity in *Vibrio* species using bioinformatic and molecular approaches. Current research interests include using comparative genomics in *Vibrio* species to identify virulence-associated genes and evaluate their prevalence, examine genomes of spatially and temporally diverse vibrios to find environmental drivers of pathogenic species, and environmental/anthropogenic drivers of bacterial pathogens in seafood microbial communities.

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