



**Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute
Planning Grants for Faculty Research Teams
Awarded Fall 2013**

“Impact of Local and Organic Foods on Food Safety: Assessment of Supply Chain Controls and Value Outcomes for Quantitative-based Food Policies”

Amount Awarded: \$10,000

Timeframe: January 1, 2014 – July 31, 2014

Principal Investigators:

Matteo Convertino (School of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Sciences)

Marc F. Bellemare (Department of Applied Economics)

Robert P. King (Department of Applied Economics)

Francisco Diez-Gonzalez (Department of Food Science and Nutrition)

Fernando Sanpedro (Veterinary Population Medicine and Center for Animal Health and Food Safety)

Focus of the Project:

Fresh produce contaminated with highly virulent Salmonella and E. coli strains has been identified as one of the leading cause of foodborne outbreaks in the US. In order to prevent these outbreaks, we need a better understanding of how local supply chains lead to or prevent contamination with respect global supply chains for the same food commodities. This project involves applied economist, microbiologists/food safety, and public health/engineering experts working together to identify and quantitatively assess microbiological and supply chain topology risk factors that are likely to impact on the food safety of fresh produce (with particular focus on pathogenic E. coli and Salmonella strains). A particular focus will be on the evaluation of local and organic food commodities with respect to the same commodities traded in the global food supply chain worldwide. Specifically, via a time series analysis we aim to disentangle local- and global-caused foodborne illness and what food-related and supply chain factors determined those illnesses. The project’s findings will help us develop effective control measures to reduce the number of foodborne illnesses and guide stakeholders toward a sustainable food system that consider also economical and health outcomes.

“Exploring the Impact of Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Policy on Individuals and Populations”

Amount Awarded: \$9,860

Timeframe: July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013

Principal Investigators:

Sarah Gollust, PhD, Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Management, School of Public Health

Alexander Rothman, PhD, Professor of Psychology, Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts

Simone French, PhD, Professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health, Director of the Obesity Prevention Center

Carlisle Ford Runge, PhD, Professor of Applied Economics and Law

Focus of the Project:

One of the most pressing challenges in obesity prevention is reducing population consumption of sugarsweetened beverages (SSBs), a well-known contributor to obesity and chronic illnesses. Policies that would reduce consumption have been met with political controversy, social resistance, and scientific scrutiny – posing barriers to their implementation and potential impact. Understanding and evaluating the impact of sugar-sweetened beverage policies requires an interdisciplinary approach, including experts in public health nutrition, health policy, politics, psychology, and economics. In particular, the goal of our working group is to develop an interdisciplinary understanding of the many direct and indirect mechanisms through which policies targeting SSB consumption will influence individuals' and populations' attitudes, norms, and behaviors.