

Omar A. Oyarzabal
Vice President for Technical Services
IEH Laboratories and Consulting Group

Dr. Oyarzabal is a microbiologist with a specialty in food safety. He joined IEH Laboratories and Consulting Group in March 2012, and coordinates part of the food safety training and oversees customer-driven research projects dealing with detection and control of food spoilage and food-borne pathogens in a variety of food products. Oyarzabal is accredited to teach introductory and advanced classes on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP). He has taught introductory HACCP classes for more than 10 years and has been involved in more than 30 international presentations and short training courses on food safety in Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, India, Mexico and Thailand. At IEH, Oyarzabal has trained more than 50 participants in HACCP and food safety in general. Dr. Oyarzabal is currently an Adjunct Associate Professor at the Department of Microbiology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama.

Oyarzabal's research expertise is in the area of identification, typing and control of foodborne pathogens, with an emphasis on *Campylobacter* spp. Oyarzabal has co-edited the book *Microbial Food Safety: An Introduction*, published by Springer-Verlag, New York, NY, and has co-authored more than 55 refereed journal articles and book chapters. Since 2007, Oyarzabal has organized six workshops on *Campylobacter* isolation and identification from foods (<http://www.campylobacterworkshop.org>) that has attracted more than 50 domestic and international participants from the food industry, regulatory agencies, public health departments and academia.

Before joining IEH, Oyarzabal worked for Novus International, GMA (formerly National Food Processors Association) and Neogen Corporation. He was also Associate Professor at Auburn University (Department of Poultry Science) and Alabama State University (Biological Sciences), where he taught food safety, bioinformatics, biostatistics, microbial risk assessment and management, and special problems in microbiology. In his academic career, Oyarzabal directed 10 MS and PhD students and participated in the committee of 19 graduate students. Dr. Oyarzabal received grants from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense and private industry.

Oyarzabal has been the recipient of the Ivan L. Roth Award given by the Southeastern Branch of the American Society for Microbiology (2011), a Fulbright Scholarship at the Institute of Clinical Microbiology, Universidad Austral, Valdivia, Chile (2009), and the Director's Research Award given by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, School of Agriculture, Auburn University (2007).

Educational Background:

Ph.D., Microbiology/Food Safety, Auburn University, 1997

M.S., Microbiology/Food Safety, Auburn University, 1997

D.V.M., Veterinary Medicine, University of Rio Cuarto, Cordoba, Argentina, 1987



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