

Announcement from the 2014 FDA Food Safety Challenge

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Congratulations to the Challenge Winners: Purdue University and Pronucleotein, Inc.

We are thrilled to announce the Purdue University and Pronucleotein, Inc. teams as the [winners](#) of the 2014 FDA Food Safety Challenge! As the grand prize winner, Purdue University will receive \$300,000 in prize money. Pronucleotein, Inc., the runner-up winner, will receive \$100,000 in prize money.



Members of the Purdue University team at Demo Day (left to right): Kirk Foster, Thomas Kreke, Michael Ladisch, and Amanda Deering



The Pronucleotein, Inc. team (left to right): John Bruno and Jim Byron

The Purdue University team's winning submission is a physical method for concentrating *Salmonella* to detectable levels using automated microfiltration, which could decrease sample preparation time from 24-48 hours to a range of two to three hours.

The Pronucleotein, Inc. team's runner-up winning submission features a portable device for rapid pathogen screening using DNA aptamer-magnetic bead sandwich assays. It promises a total assay processing and analysis time of about 30 minutes.

The Challenge represents a new approach of engaging different expertise and

perspectives to bring cutting edge science into the FDA. A warm thank you to the other Finalist teams for their dedication and hard work: Auburn University, Dr. Bart Weimer/U.C. Davis/Mars, Inc., and University of Illinois/Purdue University.

- The 2014 FDA Food Safety Challenge Team

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