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Food, Inc.

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Food, Inc. Documentary Screening to be Held at UC College of Medicine

CINCINNATI►How much do Americans really know about the food they buy at local supermarkets and serve to their families?

In *Food, Inc.*, producer-director Robert Kenner and investigative authors Eric Schlosser (*Fast Food Nation*) and Michael Pollan (*The Omnivore►s Dilemma*) lift the veil on the U.S. food industry►an industry that the filmmakers argue has often put profit ahead of consumer health, the livelihood of American farmers, the safety of workers and the environment.

The University of Cincinnati►s (UC) Center for Environmental Genetics will host a screening of the documentary film Thursday, May 21, 2009. The movie will begin at 4:30 p.m. in the College of Medicine►s Kresge Auditorium, 231 Albert Sabin Way. The event is free and admission will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are also invited to participate in a panel discussion on the issues raised in the film after the screening event.

Barb Kowalcyk, an epidemiology and biostatistics doctoral student in UC►s environmental health department, is featured in the film. Kowalcyk lost her son in 2001 to an *E. coli O157:H7* infection when he was just 2► years old. Since then, she has been on a mission to educate others about the genesis and dangers of foodborne illnesses.

►We put faith in our government to protect us, and we►re not being protected at the most basic level,► says Kowalcyk, who advocates for food safety through her nonprofit organization, the Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention. ►Continuing down the current path that produced the huge assortment of recalls over the past two years defies good science and common sense.

►Ultimately, if our nation is to make meaningful progress in reducing death and disease from foodborne illness in the 21st century, we must recognize foodborne illness as a serious public health issue and work to build an environment that promotes food safety and consumer health throughout the farm to fork continuum,► she adds.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, an estimated 76 million Americans are sickened, 325,000 are hospitalized and 5,000 die each year from preventable foodborne disease.*E. coli* alone causes illness for an estimated 73,000 Americans annually.

For more information on the screening event, visit healthnews.uc.edu. For more information on the film, visit foodincmovie.com.

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