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**DAVID ACHESON APPOINTED TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL FOOD PROTECTION TRAINING INSTITUTE**

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Feb. 17 - [The International Food Protection Training Institute](#), a non-profit organization delivering career-spanning, standards-based food protection training to state and local food safety officials, announced today the appointment to its Board of Directors of [Dr. David William Kennedy Acheson](#), Managing Director, Food and Import Safety, Leavitt Partners, a firm founded by former U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary and EPA Administrator Michael O. Leavitt to provide strategic input and counsel to clients in matters involving health, the environment and trade. Prior to joining Leavitt Partners, Dr. Acheson served as Associate Commissioner of Foods of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), a role in which he provided agency-wide leadership on all food and feed issues, including health promotion and nutrition.

"IFPTI is dedicated to improving public health through the creation of a fully integrated national food safety system," said Stephen Benoit, president and chief operating officer of the National Center for Food Protection and a founding Board member of IFPTI. "As such, we are extremely pleased to have Dr. Acheson as a member of the Institute's Board of Directors given his long standing recognition of the essential role state and local agencies play in assuring the safety of the nation's food supply, and the critical importance of training to assuring capacity, competency, and equivalency within state and local agencies as part of an integrated food safety system."

To date, working in partnership with the Association of Food & Drug Officials, and in collaboration with the FDA, IFPTI has trained more than 300 food protection professionals from more than 30 states. Utilizing a FY2010 federal appropriation of \$1 million, IFPTI expects to train an additional 1,000 state and local food protection professionals in 2010 and the Institute is preparing to train up to 2,000 to 3,000 food safety officials in 2011.

"Building an integrated system between federal, state and local agencies responsible for the safety of the nation's food supply relies heavily on training, and the International Food Protection Training Institute is meeting that need," said Dr. Acheson. "I look forward to continuing the mission of integration I was so passionate about during my tenure as Associate Commissioner of the FDA and to contributing to the advancement of food protection on a global basis."

Dr. Acheson graduated from the University of London Medical School, and after practicing internal medicine and infectious diseases in the United Kingdom, moved to the New England Medical Center and Tufts University in Boston in 1987. As an Associate Professor at Tufts University and later in his laboratory at the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore, he undertook basic molecular pathogenesis research on foodborne pathogens, especially Shiga toxin-producing E. coli.

In 2002, Dr. Acheson became the Chief Medical Officer at the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) and subsequently served as Director of CFSAN's Office of Food Defense, Communication and Emergency Response. In 2007, Dr. Acheson was appointed as the Assistant Commissioner for Food Protection to provide advice and counsel to the FDA Commissioner on strategic and substantive food safety and food defense matters.

Dr. Acheson has published extensively and is internationally recognized both for his public health expertise in food safety and his research in infectious diseases. Additionally, Dr. Acheson is a fellow of both the Royal College of Physicians (London) and the Infectious Disease Society of America.

About IFPTI

The International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization delivering career-spanning food protection training for state and local food protection professionals to assure competency and equivalency in meeting established U.S. federal food safety standards. Working in partnership with the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO), the Institute seeks to protect the public's health by working with federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial food protection officials in the creation of an integrated national food protection system that ensures the safety of the U.S. food supply. IFPTI training programs are delivered at the Kendall Center through a partnership with Western Michigan University. Initial funding for IFPTI has been provided by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

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