



Howdy and welcome to RMC 2017, "Where History, Tradition, and Science Meet"!

2017 sees us returning to Aggieland, where the host committee has done a superb job of rolling out the welcome mat. We've combined an outstanding program with first class facilities including the Bush Presidential Library, Blue Bell Park, the Rosenthal Meat Center, topped off with the banquet held in the home of the 12th man, Kyle Field.

A hallmark of RMC is the focus on continuous improvement based on the previous year's feedback; this year is no exception. In addition to top notch keynote speakers, Donnie Smith, recently retired CEO from Tyson Foods and, Charlie Arnot, CEO from the Center for Food Integrity, you'll want to be sure to engage in the Concurrent Sessions. These sessions will cover Food Security, Antibiotic Resistance, Meat Industry Trends, Meat Flavor Chemistry, Consumer Driven R&D, "Omic" Approaches to Solve Meat Quality Issues and a Chefs' panel on How the Culinary Art of Meat Science Has Changed. And if all of that isn't enough, the concurrent sessions will be capped off by a lively debate of top industry issues such as:

- Should animals only be treated when sick to be ethically responsible to the One Health initiatives?
- Should mandatory labeling be required for processing aids used in food?
- Should *Salmonella* be declared an adulterant in meat and poultry products?
- Should there only be a single food safety agency?

Rounding out the program are the ePoster sessions and a slate of reciprocation sessions that include the "back by popular demand" Spanish speaking and pet food sessions, coupled with a great variety of topical and timely reciprocation subjects.

Make sure you make the most of your RMC experience and attend one of the Wednesday Workshops: Food Defense, Consumer Messaging and, Pork Value-Added Variety Meat. There truly is something for everyone.

It's been an honor and a privilege to serve as your RMC Chair this year and none of it would have been possible without the many committees that pulled together to bring this program to life under the able guidance and direction of Deidrea Mabry and the rest of the AMSA staff. I thank each and every one for their efforts in bringing this program to center stage in College Station.

See you soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon K. K. Beals". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sharon K. K. Beals