The 14th Annual Patrick Lecture Series

The LSU Patrick Lecture Series with Dr. Mary K. Schmidl, an Adjunct Professor of Food Science and Nutrition at the University Of Minnesota, is the 14th Annual Patrick Lecturer. Dr. Schmidl will present two lectures while at LSU:

Tuesday: April 19, 2016
A reception from 5:30 to 6:30 to honor Drs. Schmidl and Patrick will take place in the Dalton J. Woods Auditorium pf the Energy, Coast, & Environment Building. This will be followed immediately with Dr. Schmidl’s lecture, which is open to the public: “Healthy Food, Healthy Planet.”

Providing access to adequate amounts of nutritious, safe, and culturally appropriate food for 9.3 billion people by the year 2050 is a daunting challenge since the “next generation” of the food supply system must be done in an environmentally sustainable, reliable, and socially just manner. Even today the worldwide burden of malnutrition is overwhelming. To meet the world’s increasing demand for sustainable food systems global food production needs to be doubled by 2050. Most of this growth will need to come from increased yields and productivity rather than from the use of additional land. Food security is a complex sustainable development issue, linked to nutrition and health but also to sustainable economic development, environment, and trade; however, collaboration is the key for success and everyone can have an impact.

Wednesday: April 20, 2016 -
There will be light refreshments from 10:30 to 11 a.m. at the Reilly Auditorium (located in Building B) which will be followed immediately by Dr. Schmidl’s scientific lecture: “Sugars: Science and Politics”

Sugar. Well known to all of us since childhood, “sugar” has become one of the most contentious issues in nutrition and food science. Sugar, and related foods, such as high fructose corn syrup, and their manufacturers have been single handedly blamed for the epidemics of obesity and chronic disease in the world today. But, study results are inconsistent; definitions of added sugars vary; there is variation in the analytical procedures used to determine the amounts of sugar in products; and dietary recommendations, especially for added sugars, vary by agency and country and are not based on systematic evidence analysis. Questions abound; for example, how did the recommendation for added sugars go from 25% of energy intake to 10% in just 5 years? Can sugar be included in a healthy diet?
This year’s Patrick Lecture Series speaker, Dr. Mary K. Schmidl has had a distinguished career as a scientist, research director, educator, and leader to public and private agencies in the US and abroad for more than 40 years. She received her BS from the University of California—Davis and an MS and PhD degree from Cornell. She is the former Vice President of Science and Technology for the Humanetics Corporation where she was responsible for new drug discovery, innovative ingredient development, and regulatory affairs. She was Director of Research, Clinical Division of Novartis. Prior to her work with Novartis, Dr. Schmidl directed the Nutrition Research Department for AG Bayer and was involved with intravenous feeding systems and medical foods. She has commercialized more than 75 new products, authored or co-authored more than 100 refereed research papers, magazine articles, patents, book chapters, and books.

The Patrick Lecture Series was established in 1998 by Drs. Bill and Ruth Patrick through an endowment to the LSU Foundation. The endowment fund sponsors a lecture each year that alternates between the fields of Human Nutrition/Food Science and Wetland Sciences/Coastal Studies.

The selected lecturer is an individual who has achieved outstanding and international distinction in the designated field. Each year the lecture committee receives nominations from the faculty for notable scholars to be the invited lecturer and makes the final decision.

The invited lecturer spends several days on the Louisiana State University campus and presents a formal evening lecture and a second lecture on the following day. The invited lecturer also interacts with faculty staff and students in group and individual meetings during their visit to campus.