



2017 Valley of the World Education Award

Trevor Suslow, Ph.D.

Dr. Suslow is the Extension Research Specialist at UC Davis, with statewide responsibilities in quality and safety of perishable horticultural commodities. He also serves as Director of the multi-campus UC Postharvest Technology Center, housed in the Department of Plant Sciences. Dr. Suslow's applied and solutions-based program spans pre-harvest to postharvest research, extension education and outreach on diverse fresh and minimally-processed horticultural foods from annual row crops to tree and vine commodities. He served on the Center for Produce Safety Board of Directors and Technical Committee since its creation in 2008 and remains in a leadership role on the Technical Committee. His research combines lab, research farm, and regional on-farm and packing operations research on E. coli, Salmonella, and Listeria. The diverse program addresses issues common and unique to conventional and organic production systems, for the purpose of identifying opportunities for optimal microbial reductions and delivery of safe food to the consumer.

Dr. Suslow received his BSc. in Agricultural Sciences with High Honors and his MSc. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of California, Berkeley. Before joining UC Davis, he was a Research Scientist and Director of Product Research for DNA Plant Technologies, Inc. for 15 years. Trevor received the United Fresh Produce Association Technical Achievement award, was named to Food Safety News list of The Best of Food Safety in Education, and received The Packer 25 Profiles in Leadership award. Trevor is a California native and was born in Berkeley, CA but grew up in San Francisco from the age of two. When selecting a university major, he decided that knowing about agriculture, crop management, and pest management would be a good career choice... no matter what, no matter where, people had to eat. Initially, Trevor focused on the discovery of biological controls to reduce dependency on synthetic pesticides. This resulted in some of the earliest studies on plant colonizing bacteria capable of promoting yield and reducing plant pathogens. Following completion of his doctorate degree in Plant Pathology, an opportunity arose to tap into the emerging biotechnologies to continue his research. Trevor took a real chance and joined a venture capital start up in the Berkeley area, Advanced Genetic Sciences (eventually becoming DNA Plant Technology), and was one of the earliest hired scientists to help build the company from a piece of paper to a technology development company. Among

Trevor's research and development activity outcomes are registering the bacterial protein ice catalyst, SnoMax, four crop protection patents, four EPA registration labels for biocontrol agents, including Frostban and BlightBan, and multiple publications in microbial and plant technologies.

Dr. Suslow has one of the most active extension education and outreach programs of the UC/UC-ANR statewide Extension Specialists. Conservatively, he has provided over 1,500 local, state, national and international technical, extension education, training, and outreach presentations on crop protection, soil and phyllosphere microbiology, biotechnology, fresh and fresh-cut produce quality systems and microbial food safety of fresh produce. He has presented in diverse forums to diverse industry, regulatory, legislative, academic, and technology workshop audiences. Although his appointment does not include academic teaching, Dr. Suslow was charged with developing and serving as Instructor for a new course—Microbiology and Safety of Fruits and Vegetables (2010-2014). Dr. Suslow serves on several trade association technology and food safety committees, boards, recall and outbreak response teams, and multinational produce safety councils.

Trevor enjoys a wonderful and fulfilling family life with his spouse of 36 years, Karen Gonot Suslow, their charming and talented daughters Lorin Suslow Rizutto, Gillian Suslow Ballute, and Robyn Suslow (soon to be Suslow-Frutiger) and my nephew David Ortiz-Suslow, who joined our family as our ward over 18 years ago. All young adults now, David and Gillian have each given us the joy of a grandson and granddaughter and Lorin will bring another grandson to the family in the next month.