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Olga Padilla-Zakour Promoted to Associate Professor at Cornell's Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva

By Joe Ogradnick

GENEVA, NY: Food scientist, Olga Padilla-Zakour, was promoted to associate professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station (NYSAES) in Geneva, NY.

Padilla-Zakour is currently the director of the New York State Food Venture Center (NYSFVC) and the Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship (NECFE). Both are vehicles for her applied research, which focuses on adding value and safety to agricultural commodities with an emphasis on small-scale processing.

"I am proud of the national recognition that the Food Venture Center has attained in the last few years. We have assembled a highly effective team of professionals dedicated to serving the food industry and the consumers," Padilla-Zakour said. "I am also very pleased about the many accomplishments that my students and staff have achieved in such a short time."

Padilla-Zakour, who earned her Ph.D. in Food Science from Cornell University in 1991 continued as a postdoctoral associate in Geneva throughout the early '90s. Afterwards, she worked as a research scientist for Canandaigua Wine Company in Madera, California, and as a faculty member at the Technological Institute of Costa Rica in Cartago. She returned to Cornell in 1997.

"On behalf of the entire Department of Food Science and Technology and many of our associates, I extend my hearty congratulations to Olga on her promotion to associate professor," said Chang Y. Lee, chair of the department. "I'm especially pleased that she is the first female tenured faculty member in the department."

Padilla-Zakour's research compliments her extension program, which helps entrepreneurs through the NYSFVC. Under her guidance, the NYSFVC has grown into a regional center by partnering with the University of Vermont to form the Northeast Center for Food Entrepreneurship. The NYSFVC provides comprehensive assistance to start-up and established food ventures. During her tenure, the center has helped over 600 businesses introduce more than 2,200 specialty foods into the marketplace. The NECFE has conducted 76 workshops and conferences in the Northeast covering topics relevant to specialty foods production.

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[Olga Padilla-Zakour's faculty page](#)

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Olga Padilla-Zakour

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