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Sargento Foods Announces New Role for John Rodgers, Ph.D. and Welcomes Vijay Krishna

PLYMOUTH, Wis. – May 8, 2018 – [Sargento Foods Inc.](#) announces that John Rodgers, Ph.D. has been promoted to Vice President – Research and Development and Vijay Krishna has joined the Sargento team as Vice President – Quality and Food Safety Systems.

In his new role, John will oversee the research and development of new products and packaging in support of the Consumer Products Division, Food Service and Ingredients Division and Strategic Areas of Interest. He will report to Kristi Jankowski, Executive Vice President – Innovation.

John previously served as Director – Research and Development at Sargento, where he led efforts in the Consumer Products Division and Business to Business. Prior to joining Sargento Foods, he held research and development roles at McCain Foods and H.J. Heinz Company after starting his career at Abbott. John is also a member of the Institute of Food Technologists and holds multiple patents and publications.

John earned his doctorate and master's degrees in food science as well as his bachelor's degree in environmental science and management from Michigan State University.

Within his role as Vice President – Quality and Food Safety Systems, Vijay will direct the development and administration of the Sargento risk management systems related to quality assurance, food safety, food defense and contingency planning. He will report to Mike McEvoy, Executive Vice President – Operations.

Prior to joining Sargento, Vijay most recently held the position of Quality Director at Kerry Group, where he provided strategic and tactical support for continuous improvement of multi-site manufacturing facilities. He brings more than 17 years of experience in quality systems and has previously held roles at Kahiki Foods, Gourmet Kitchens and IMI Cornelius.

Vijay earned his master's degree in food science and technology from The Ohio State University. He also has several professional quality certifications and publications.

"Please join me in congratulating John on his new role and welcoming Vijay to the Sargento family," said Louie Gentine, CEO of Sargento Foods. "Their expertise in R&D as well as quality and food safety is impressive, and I'm confident they will each make a positive impact on Sargento in their respective roles."

About Sargento Foods Inc.:

With 2,000 employees and net sales of \$1.4 billion, Sargento Foods is a family-owned company that has been a leader in cheese for more than 60 years. Founded in 1953 in Plymouth, Wisconsin, Sargento created the world's first successful pre-packaged sliced and shredded natural cheeses. Today, Sargento Foods is still based in Wisconsin, where they manufacture and market amazing shredded, sliced and snack natural cheese products, as well as ingredients and sauces. Company leadership lives to serve local communities and employees, whom they lovingly refer to as the Sargento Family.

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