Telling Compelling Stories
Research Techniques
Sources

✖ Primary Sources
- Non-scientists: politicians, neighbors, other journalists, etc.
- One-to-one interviews with scientists or other scientific experts
- Press conferences
- Scientific conferences

✖ Secondary Sources
- Other media
- Press releases
- Electronic bulletin/mailing lists
- Discussion forums
- Websites of scientific organization or companies
- Publications and peer-reviewed papers
Food poisoning at Imelda Marcos' party likely due to poor handling – DOH

(3rd UPDATE) ‘Suspect cases strongly point out to a toxin causing it,’ derived from staph bacteria, says Health Secretary Francisco Duque III

MANILA, Philippines (3rd UPDATE) – Unsanitary handling and poor storage of food likely caused the food poisoning of hundreds who attended the 90th birthday celebration of former first lady Imelda Marcos in Pasig City, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III said on Wednesday, July 3.

In an interview with reporters, Duque said some 261 patients were rushed to nearby hospitals as of 3:40 pm on Wednesday. Of this number, at least two were severely hydrated.

"Suspect cases strongly point out to a toxin causing it, derived from the bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus* (staph)," he said.

Staph food poisoning happens when people carrying staph bacteria don't wash their hands before handling food, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Duque said those who suffered from food poisoning received packed meals of chicken adobo, boiled egg, and rice. The patients said both egg and the rice tasted as though they were spoiled.

Some 3 hours after eating, the patients experienced bouts of vomiting.

Duque said epidemiological tests were being conducted on the food, and that the findings were expected in two to 3 days. Some 2,500 food packs were distributed to people at the celebration that morning, he added.
Ideas from everyday life

- Talking about everyday matters such as nutrition for children could lead to investigative features about the safety and value of breast milk versus that of formula feed for babies, or about giving children food containing sugar, hydrogenated fats, flavourings and other additives.

- When questions originate from people's everyday concerns, a journalist automatically has a way to relate science to the lives of his or her readers or audiences.

- News stories in other media can spark follow-up stories for your own news outlet.

- The interface between science and other cultural and social aspects of society is a fertile area for finding story ideas. Journalists can explore the new perspective that scientific research can bring to a debate over deeply held convictions.
Alerts
Monitor the web for interesting new content

Search for: food safety mekong

Enter email
Create Alert
Show options

Alert preview
There are no recent results for your search query. Below are existing results that match your search query.

NEWS

Hygienic collagen powder handling
World Pumps
Vinh Hoan Corp., based in the Mekong Delta, is one of the main global... For easy cleaning and sterilisation, as well as to improve food safety, ...

Kaiseki, dim sum, street food in Hong Kong: where a Japanese chef goes to eat
South China Morning Post
Sushi reached China, then Japan from its origins along the Mekong River in Southeast Asia, and was later exported to the US and the rest of the world ...

Can Tho, Australia look towards cooperation in multiple fields
http://en.vietnamplus.vn/ (press release)
Focus will be placed on six areas, namely ensuring food safety, coping with climate change; improving soil
Using the internet

- It is not always easy to judge the credibility of information found on the internet, and it is important to **check facts with more than one source**.

- Especially in developing countries, not all scientists and their institutions or scientific societies **have the resources to promote themselves** and their work via the internet; and so being unable to locate information about local scientists, say, in Nigeria, does not mean that they are not there doing interesting work.

- Remember that the internet is just a tool and you should not depend upon it totally. Too often, journalists stop using other methods that may be more effective locally, like getting out of the office and **going to meet people** at universities and research centres.
Critical thinking
What is critical thinking?

- Critical thinking is the ability to think clearly and rationally, understanding the logical connection between ideas.

- Someone with critical thinking skills can:
  - Understand the links between ideas.
  - Determine the importance and relevance of arguments and ideas.
  - Recognize, build and appraise arguments.
  - Identify inconsistencies and errors in reasoning.
  - Approach problems in a consistent and systematic way.
  - Reflect on the justification of their own assumptions, beliefs and values.
Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at:
Shaira Panela (Facebook)
@alingshaira (Twitter/IG)
rsfpanela@gmail.com