

**U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
New Era of Smarter Food Safety Summit on E-Commerce:  
Ensuring the Safety of Foods Ordered Online and Delivered Directly to Consumers**

**Speakers' and Panelists' Biographies**



**Mark Abdoo, FDA Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy**

Mark Abdoo is the Associate Commissioner for Global Policy and Strategy, providing executive oversight, strategic leadership and policy direction to FDA's global operations, trade and diplomacy activities, and engagement with international stakeholders. He leads the Office of Global Policy and Strategy, which is dedicated to expanding the reach of FDA's global agenda in sustainable and measurable ways. Prior to joining FDA, Mr. Abdoo served in other senior positions in the Federal government including: Senior Advisor for Food Security and Agricultural Economics at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and Director for Global Health and Food Security at the National Security Council staff at the White House. Mr. Abdoo received a Bachelor of Arts degree from College of the Holy Cross and conducted graduate studies at Brown University. Before joining the Federal civil service, Mark lived in East Asia for more than nine years, where he owned two consulting companies. He is fluent in Mandarin.



**Natalie Adan, Food Safety Division Director, Georgia Department of Agriculture**

Natalie Adan works for the Georgia Department of Agriculture as the Food Safety Division Director. As the Division Director she oversees retail food, manufactured food, dairy, and produce safety programs. Natalie is currently the President of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). She is also a graduate of the International Food Protection Training Institute (IFPTI) Fellowship in Food Protection (Cohort I).



**Robert Bane, Assistant Administrator, Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit, Food Safety and Inspection Service U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

Robert Bane was appointed the Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service’s (FSIS) Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit (OIEA) in September 2020. In this capacity, Bane leads the Agency’s surveillance and investigation activities for incidents of foodborne illness outbreaks, recalls, natural disasters and intentional contamination, and oversees state and foreign audit programs and enforcement and litigation functions. He started his 24-year career with FSIS as a Food Inspector and has spent most of his career with FSIS in the field, holding a number of leadership positions. He came to Headquarters in May 2020 as an Executive Associate for Regulatory Operations, overseeing inspection activities in nine states. In these roles, he led the implementation of significant Agency policies and programs, including the New Poultry Inspection System, the New Swine Inspection System, and the Export Module of the Public Health Information System. He attended Arkansas Tech University where he studied business administration and Spanish and completed additional coursework at Mississippi State University.



**Kari Barrett, Public Engagement Team Lead, Communications and Public Engagement Staff, FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)**

Kari Barrett provides leadership and consultation on communications tied to the FDA’s foods-related initiatives. She plans, develops, conducts and directs Agency-level stakeholder outreach on food safety, nutrition, and other food-related issues to advance the FDA’s public health and consumer protection goals. Ms. Barrett is a former FDA Deputy Chief of Staff and a former Deputy in the Agency’s Office of Legislation. She has served as a Senior Advisor at Leavitt Partners in the consulting group’s Food Safety and Import Practice and spent 15 years in trade association management and leadership positions.



**Galen Baxter, REHS, District Environmental Health Director, Fulton County (GA) Board of Health**

Galen has worked in the field of public health for over 17 years. His work experiences have provided him with many opportunities to interact with different aspects of the community from socioeconomically challenged neighborhoods all the way to legislative representatives, and from rural counties to densely populated metropolitan areas. In the last 15 years, he has been directly involved in the Food Service Program by means of regulatory oversight, outreach, training, consulting, interpretation and application of the rules and regulations, outbreak investigation activities, and short and long-term planning of program goals and outcomes for the State of Georgia's Foodservice Program. He has served at all levels of Environmental Health from local inspector to State Foodservice Program Director. He currently serves as the District Environmental Health Director for the Fulton County Public Health District.



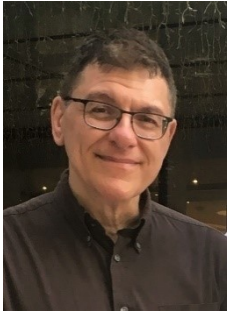
**Susan Berndt, Deputy Director, International Affairs Staff, FDA CFSAN**

Susan has more than 20 years of public and private leadership experience facilitating high visibility policy and planning initiatives and advancing mission priorities through strategic and targeted resource allocation, organizational restructuring, technology innovation, and business process improvement. As Deputy Director for the International Affairs Staff, Ms. Berndt supports the Center's mission to protect and promote public health, by providing leadership and guidance on international activities and initiatives across CFSAN. She began her career at CFSAN as Director, Executive Operations Staff, Office of the Center Director in 2011. She has also served as Associate Director for Operations, Office of Food Safety, CFSAN and was the principal advisor to senior leadership on complex and precedent-setting policy and tactical issues for the Accredited Third-Party Certification Program. Ms. Berndt has a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Georgia and a Master of Business Administration from Thunderbird, the American Graduate School of International Management, Glendale, AZ.



**Heather Buonomo, Director of Environmental Health, Department of Environmental Health and Quality, County of San Diego**

Heather Buonomo is the Director of Environmental Health for the County of San Diego. She manages over 25 regulatory programs including Retail Food, Public Swimming Pools, Housing, Beach Water Quality, Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and Solid Waste. Heather is currently the Chair of the California Retail Food Safety Coalition, which brings the food industry and regulators together to address food safety issues and propose changes to the California Retail Food Code, she represents San Diego County on the state Food Safety Policy Committee and has led state advisory committees for the implementation of various laws, including AB 2178 on Limited Service Charitable Feedings Organizations and AB 2524 on Catering.



**Domenic Caravetta, Head of Microbiology, Food & Refreshments, Research & Development, Unilever North America**

Domenic Caravetta has been working for 37 years in Food and Product Safety. Graduate of the University of Guelph in Microbiology, with Specializations in Industrial and Food Microbiology. Joined Unilever 26 years ago, and presently based in the United States. He has worked in several countries, including a 5-year assignment in China, delivering Microbiology Leadership in R&D, Quality Assurance, and Product Safety by Design in all categories of foods and personal care products. Prior to Unilever, he was with Pillsbury / Green Giant Company in Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs and served as Corporate Thermal Processing Authority in both the USA and Canada. Domenic, a devout Buddhist, enjoys working with people all around the world and with a global company focused on benefiting planet and society.



**Mary Cartagena, Retail Food Policy Team Lead, Office of Food Safety, FDA CFSAN**

Mary has been with the Retail Food Policy Team in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) since 2008. She leads the Retail Food Policy Team responsible for the development of science-informed regulation, policy and guidance for retail food safety. Mary represents FDA on numerous national retail food safety committees and enjoys learning new things within the world of food safety every day.



**Ashley A. De Smeth, Director of Federal Affairs, Grubhub**

Ashley De Smeth oversees Federal Affairs for Grubhub, leading Congressional, regulatory, Administration and partner engagements. A veteran of two White House administrations, she has led the way in legislative and regulatory environments to create cutting-edge technology policy ranging in areas of AI, drones, and space exploration to open data and app-based platforms. Both in the private sector and from inside the government, she strives to find the best balance by creating empowering guardrails that allow for growth and innovation while building industry understanding and collaboration.



**Jennifer Erickson, Acting Director of the Division of Compliance FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM)**

Jennifer Erickson is currently serving as the Acting Director of the Division of Compliance in FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine, Office of Surveillance and Compliance. The Division of Compliance develops regulatory policy, supports field operations, and protects public health using regulatory actions for animal food, drug, and device products. Jennifer’s permanent position is as Policy Lead for the FSMA preventive Control for Animal Food Regulation. Prior to this role, Jennifer was a Regulatory Counsel in the Office of Surveillance and Compliance and worked on a broad range of regulatory and enforcement activities for animal food and medicated feed. Prior to joining FDA, Jennifer served as the Compliance Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture’s Dairy and Food Inspection Division. In this role, she worked on agency policy, guidance, and enforcement actions related to the state regulation of human food and animal food.



**Sandra Eskin, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA**

Sandra Eskin was appointed Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety on March 16, 2021. In this role, Mrs. Eskin leads the Office of Food Safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, overseeing the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which has regulatory oversight for ensuring that meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled. Prior to joining USDA, Mrs. Eskin was the Project Director for Food Safety at The Pew Charitable Trusts in Washington, D.C. She also served as the Deputy Director of the Produce Safety Project (PSP), a Pew-funded initiative at Georgetown University. While at PSP, she was a senior scholar with the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University. Mrs. Eskin spent nearly 20 years as a public-policy consultant to numerous consumer advocacy and public-interest organizations, providing strategic and policy advice on a broad range of consumer-protection issues, in particular food and drug safety, labeling, and advertising. She has served as a member of multiple federal advisory committees related to consumer information on prescription drugs, meat and poultry safety, and foodborne illness surveillance. During her career, she has written numerous reports and articles on food-safety topics. Mrs. Eskin received her J.D. from UC Hastings College of the Law, and her B.A. from Brown University.





**Laurie Farmer, Director, Office of State Cooperative Programs, FDA Office of Regulatory Affairs**

Laurie Farmer, Director of the Office of State Cooperative Programs at the FDA, is responsible for the strategic planning, management and oversight of the national field programs in Retail Food Protection, Milk Safety and Shellfish Sanitation and has served in this role since 2017. She is the co-lead for the New Era for Smarter Food Safety's New Business Models and Retail Modernization element. Laurie Farmer has been with the FDA since 1990 where she began her career as a field Investigator. She has served as the FDA Southeast Region Director of State Cooperative Programs and served as the Special Assistant to the Southeast Regional Director, the Director for the Southeast Region Resource Management Staff, and District Quality Assurance Management Analyst. She has conducted a variety of FDA detail assignments in leadership positions including, Office of Partnerships Director, Deputy Southeast Regional Director, Compliance Branch Director, Branch Chief for CFSAN's Shellfish and Aquaculture Policy Branch. Laurie began her public health career in a county Women's Infants and Children's Program. She has been involved in Federal/State/Territory/Tribal and local integration her entire career. Laurie holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.



**Catherine Feeny, Chief of the Center for Food Protection, Rhode Island Department of Health**

Cathy Feeny is the Chief of the Center for Food Protection at the Rhode Island Department of Health. She has over 16 years of experience starting as an Environmental Health Food Inspector in 2005. Her previous positions included the training and standardization of inspectors, grant management, and leading both the retail and manufactured food programs. RI has a centralized food safety program with responsibility for all food sold or service to the public which includes over 7500 licensed facilities including retail, manufactured food, dairy, shellfish, and beaches. Cathy is the Northeast State Regulatory Representative for the Conference for Food Protection and was a member of the Direct-to-Consumer Food Delivery Committee.



**Charlean Gmunder, Chief Operating Officer, Blue Apron**

Charlean Gmunder is Blue Apron's Chief Operating Office. She has more than 30 years of food operations experience, including deep knowledge in food manufacturing and fulfillment. In her current role, she is responsible for overseeing Blue Apron's fulfillment, supply chain, Food Safety and Quality Assurance, physical operations, including logistics, procurement and customer experience. Before joining Blue Apron in November 2020, Charlean was the vice president of catering operations with United Airlines, where she was responsible for six company-owned direct food-related manufacturing sites and all third-party manufacturing worldwide. Prior to United Airlines, Charlean was Vice President, Operations, Prepared Meat for Maple Leaf Foods, the largest meat processor in Canada. She received a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering and a Master of Business Administration from Rutgers University in New Jersey.



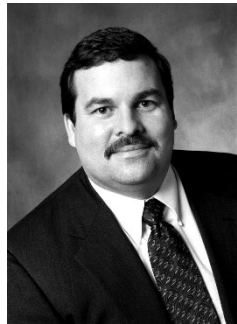


**Thomas Gremillion, Director of Food Policy, Consumer Federation of America**



Thomas Gremillion is the Director of Food Policy at the Consumer Federation of America. He oversees the research, analysis, advocacy and media outreach for the group's food policy activities, and monitors food safety activities at USDA, FDA and in Congress, where he advocates for strong food safety protections for consumers. He also coordinates the Safe Food Coalition, a group of consumer, trade union, and foodborne illness victim organizations dedicated to reducing foodborne illness by improving government food inspection programs. Prior to joining CFA in 2015, Gremillion practiced environmental law at Georgetown University Law Center's Institute for Public Representation, and also served as an associate attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center in Chapel Hill, NC. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Gremillion is a member of the D.C. and North Carolina bars. He graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Carolina with a B.S. in mathematics, and served as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in Quito, Ecuador, where he received an M.A. in International Relations from La Universidad Andina Simón Bolívar.

**William K. Hallman, Ph.D., Professor/Chair, Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University**



Bill Hallman is a Professor and the Chair of the Department of Human Ecology at Rutgers University and is a Distinguished Research Fellow at the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. An experimental psychologist with expertise in science and risk communication, he is the author of more than 200 publications concerning consumer perceptions, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors related to health, food, technology, and the environment. Dr. Hallman has served as the Director of the Rutgers Food Policy Institute and as Chair of the FDA's Risk Communication Advisory Committee. He currently serves as a member of several committees of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, including the Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication.



**Jorge A. Hernandez, Vice President of Quality Assurance, The Wendy’s Company**

Jorge Hernandez is the Vice President of Quality Assurance for the Wendy’s Company. As such, he is responsible for the design, implementation and leadership of the Food Safety and Quality Assurance Programs for suppliers, distribution centers and restaurants globally. Previously, Jorge held the position of Chief Food Safety Officer at Wholesome International; Senior Vice President for Food Safety and Quality Assurance at US FOODS; Vice President of Food Safety and Risk Management at the National Restaurant Association; Food Program Manager at the Illinois Department of Public Health; and Sanitarian at the Winnebago County Health Department in Illinois. Jorge has Degrees in Biology from Rockford University, Microbiology from the Centro de Estudios Medico-Biologicos in Mexico City Mexico, Languages and Literature from la Universite de la Sorbonne, Paris, France and Executive Leadership from the Said School of Business at Oxford University in Oxford, England.



**Claudine Kavanaugh, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.D., Director of the Office of Food and Nutrition Labeling, FDA CFSAN**

Dr. Kavanaugh the Director of the Office of Food and Nutrition Labeling at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. She has been with the FDA for 18 years and her recent activities include leading the commissioner’s nutrition innovation strategy, restaurant menu and vending machine labeling, updating the nutrition facts label, and sodium reduction. Prior to joining the FDA, Dr. Kavanaugh was a cancer prevention fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Kavanaugh received her Ph.D. in nutrition from Purdue University and a Master’s in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University. She is also registered dietitian.



**Michael Kawczynski, PMP, Communications and Public Engagement Staff, FDA CFSAN**

Michael Kawczynski is a Project Manager (PMP) who has been with HHS and FDA for the past 10 years. He provides guidance and support on a variety of FDA’s key initiatives. He plans, organizes, and coordinates with agency leadership on the communication and distribution of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee Meetings and Food Safety activities. He serves as a key member on COVID Vaccines advisory committee meetings as well as the New Era of Food Safety and FSMA programs.



**Andreas Keller, Ph.D., Director, Multi-Commodity Foods, Office of Food Safety, FDA CFSAN**

Dr. Keller is the Director of Multi-Commodity Foods in the Office of Food Safety at CFSAN/FDA. He returned to FDA after serving as Director of the International Equivalence Staff, Office of International Affairs, USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service. Prior to transferring to USDA, he served as Consumer Safety Officer in the Division of Plant Product Safety in the Office of Plant and Dairy Foods at CFSAN. Before joining FDA in August 2000, he worked for Unilever as the Microbiology Manager for Margarine, Spreads and Toppings.



**Phil Lempert, Television & Radio News Reporter; Newspaper Columnist; Author; Consumerologist; Food Marketing Expert**

For more than 25 years, Phil Lempert, an expert analyst on consumer behavior, marketing trends, new products and the changing retail landscape, has identified and explained impending trends to consumers and some of the most prestigious companies and trade associations worldwide. Known as The Supermarket Guru<sup>®</sup> Lempert is a distinguished author and speaker who alerts customers and business leaders to impending corporate and consumer trends and empowers them to make educated purchasing and marketing decisions. He served as the Food Trends Editor for the TODAY Show for almost twenty years and is a columnist for Forbes and editor of SupermarketGuru.com and The Lempert Report.



**Glenda Lewis, M.S.P.H., Director, Retail Food Protection Staff, Office of Food Safety, FDA CFSAN**

Ms. Lewis is currently the Director of the Retail Food Protection Staff in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), Office of Food Safety, and has been at FDA since December 1996, working the first 5 years as a team member of the Retail Food Policy Team, then starting in 2001, to lead the Retail Food Protection Team for 14 years as Team Leader, immediately prior to her serving in her current role. As Director since 2015, she has oversight of the Retail Food Policy Team and the Interstate Travel Program policy work guiding the respective leads for each program. In this capacity, she leads the division in the development of national retail food policy such as the FDA Food Code and policy for the Interstate Travel Program. Ms. Lewis has a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia and a Master of Science in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



**Girvin Liggans, Ph.D., REHS, DAAS, Technical Lead, Retail Food Policy, Retail Food Protection Staff, FDA CFSAN**

Dr. Girvin Liggans is Technical Lead for Retail Food Policy within the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In this capacity, he leads policy analysis and research initiatives for the development and evaluation of retail food safety policy. His research is multidisciplinary with publications on food safety, risk assessment, regulatory compliance, diversity and inclusion, burnout, and employee engagement. Dr. Liggans has a B.S. in Environmental Science and Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership from the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore, and a M.S. in Environmental Health Sciences from the University of Michigan.



**Steven Mandernach, Executive Director, Association of Food & Drug Officials**

Steven Mandernach is the executive director of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). Prior to becoming executive director in 2018, Mandernach was the bureau chief for food and consumer safety at the Iowa Department of Inspections. Mandernach is a past president of AFDO and current co-chair of the Association's Laws and Regulations committee. Mandernach has a J.D. from Drake University Law School. He has completed graduate work in Food Safety at Michigan State University.



**Sharon Lindan Mayl, J.D., Senior Advisor for Policy to the Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, FDA**

Sharon Lindan Mayl, J.D. has been with FDA for more than 25 years and currently serves as Senior Advisor for Policy in the Office of Food Policy and Response. In this position, she oversees and manages significant policy initiatives in the foods area. Among other issues, Ms. Mayl is the implementation lead for FDA's New Era of Smarter Food Safety initiative, which seeks to develop a new approach to food safety that leverages technology and other modern tools to create a safer and more digital, traceable food system. Previously, she co-led the team that developed and implemented the import provisions of FSMA, including those related to the Foreign Supplier Verification Program, Voluntary Qualified Import Program, and Accredited Third-Party Certification Program. Ms. Mayl also serves as a lead for FDA's Cannabis Products Committee. She is a graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Law School.



**Susan T. Mayne, Ph.D., F.A.C.E., Director, FDA CFSAN**

Susan T. Mayne, Ph.D., is the Director of the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In this position, Dr. Mayne leads the Center's development and implementation of programs and policies related to the composition, quality, safety, and labeling of foods, food and color additives, and cosmetics. CFSAN also oversees diet and health initiatives, which include fostering the development of healthier foods and ensuring that consumers have access to accurate and useful information to make healthy food choices. The FDA foods program is responsible for approximately 80% of the U.S. food supply, which includes approximately \$400 billion in domestic food and \$50 billion in imported food. An internationally recognized public health leader and scientist, Dr. Mayne received a B.A. in chemistry from the University of Colorado. She earned a Ph.D. in nutritional sciences, with minors in biochemistry and toxicology, from Cornell University. She came to the FDA from Yale University, where she was the C.-E.A. Winslow Professor of Epidemiology and the Associate Director of the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center.



**Judy McMeekin, Pharm.D., FDA Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs**

Dr. Judy McMeekin is the Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs (ACRA) in the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA). She oversees approximately 5,000 ORA staff stationed in the United States and around the world. As the FDA's lead office for regulatory field activities, ORA is at the forefront of protecting public health for today's complex, global regulatory environment. ORA partners with FDA product centers through inspections, criminal investigations, compliance, enforcement, import operations, and field laboratory operations, among other areas. Prior to becoming ACRA, Dr. McMeekin served as Deputy Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs, acting director of the ORA Office of Strategic Planning and Operational Policy, and director of the ORA Division of Operational Policy. She began her FDA career in the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research in the Office of Compliance, eventually serving as director of the Division of Prescription Drugs. Before joining the FDA, Dr. McMeekin worked for the United States Pharmacopeia and served as a clinical pharmacist in several health systems. Dr. McMeekin received a Bachelor of Science degree in pharmacy and earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Northeastern University in Boston.





**Akira Miki, Director, Food Inspection and Safety Division, Pharmaceutical Safety and Environmental Health Bureau, Japan Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare**

Akira Miki is the Director for the Food Inspection and Safety Division of the Ministry of Health, Labour & Welfare in Japan since 2019. In this position, he is in charge of enforcement of Food Sanitation Act, Abattoir Act and Poultry Meat Inspection Act. He was Director of Center for testing of imported food and quarantine of Yokohama Quarantine Station from 2016, Director for Office of Imported Food Safety at MHLW from 2013, Director for Food Safety Promoting at Saitama City from 2009 and Assistant director for Secretariat of Food Safety Commission from 2001. Dr. Miki has a Bachelor's in Veterinary Public Health from Osaka Prefecture University.



**Julie Moss, Ph.D., R.D., Director, International Affairs Staff, FDA CFSAN**

Dr. Julie Moss began her FDA career in 2001 in CFSAN's Office of Plant, Dairy Foods and Beverages developing policy for the microbiological safety of fresh fruits and vegetables, coordinating and instructing international training courses for produce safety related issues (e.g., good agricultural practices), and assisting in the development of FDA's bioterrorism regulations. Dr. Moss then moved to the Office of Nutrition, Labeling and Dietary Supplements working on nutrition policy involving trans fat, health claims, and other nutrition labeling issues. Starting in 2009, she moved to the International Affairs Staff as the Deputy Director and became the Director in 2020. In this role she oversees the international engagements for food safety, nutrition, and cosmetic safety. Dr. Moss holds a bachelor's degree in nutrition from The Ohio State University, a master's degree in nutrition from the University of Cincinnati, and a doctorate in food science from the Florida State University. Prior to joining FDA, Dr. Moss was a practicing dietitian and taught collegiate nutrition and food science courses.



**Carletta Oton, Vice President for Product Assurance, Risk and Security, Amazon**

Carletta Oton is Amazon's Vice President for Product Assurance, Risk & Security. She oversees the company's Product Assurance, Food Safety, Trade Services, Product Safety & Recalls, Transportation Risk & Compliance, Dangerous Goods, Global Security Operations and Environmental Assurance & Protection teams worldwide. Her responsibilities include establishing global standards and policies, managing emerging issues, developing and deploying global programs and ensuring effective risk identification and mitigation worldwide. Carletta has been actively involved with industry and government collaboration across many of her areas of responsibility. Before joining Amazon, Carletta worked at The Coca-Cola Company where she served as the company's Chief Quality, Safety & Sustainable Operations Officer and the VP of Technical Operations & Capability Development. Carletta received dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Biological Sciences and Chemistry, and a Master of Science degree in Microbiology from Southern Illinois University.



**Julie Pierce, Director of Science, Information and Wales, Food Standards Agency**

Julie champions the use of modern digital and data enable approaches, within government but also across the food system. She leads scientific research on horizon scanning and innovative business delivery models for government. She spent much of her earlier career in the private sector implementing technology enabled change programs as a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers in financial services, pharmaceuticals, defense as well as central government, both in the UK and mainland Europe.



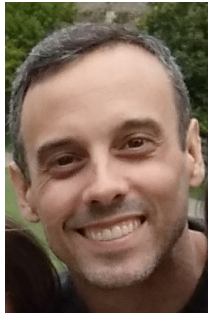
**Howard Popoola, Vice President of Corporate Food Technology and Regulatory Compliance, Kroger Company**

Howard has the overall strategic responsibility and direction for food safety, quality assurance and product development for the Kroger company, this includes approximately 2800 retail stores and Kroger's 36 own manufacturing facilities – Dairy, Bakery, Pet Food and Grocery plants. Howard is the co-chair of the global food safety initiative (GFSI) and has over 25 years of experience in the food industry he started his career with the United Nations, and he has had the opportunity to work at several food companies and in progressive food safety and quality roles including US Foods, Nestle, Kraft and Darigold. Howard is a food microbiologist by training and has advanced degrees in Integrated supply chain management from Michigan State University.



**Palak Raval-Nelson, Director of Environmental Health Services, Philadelphia Department of Health; National Environmental Health Association**

Palak Raval-Nelson is the Director of Environmental Health Services for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. In her role as Director, Palak is responsible for the Environmental Engineering, Vector Control, Lead & Healthy Homes and Food Protection programs. She has been working for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health since 1996 and began her career as a Sanitarian. Palak also serves as adjunct faculty at Drexel University's School of Public Health and teaches Environmental and Occupational Health. She is a published author and has presented many papers at NEHA, PPHA and APHA and has had several publications in the National Journal of Environmental Health.



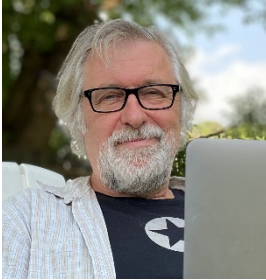
**Fabio Rocha, Ph.D. (in progress), Public Health Officer, Food Inspection Department, Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency - ANVISA**

Fabio Rocha is a senior Public Health Officer in the Food Inspection Department of the Brazilian Health Regulatory Agency - ANVISA. In this capacity, he polices and inspects all kinds of food products under ANVISA's competency. Prior to working at ANVISA, he was an epidemiologist and environmental health officer in the Brazilian Ministry of Environment and integrated the Points of Entry Working Group of the World Health Organization under the scope of International Health Regulation.



**Brittany Saunier, Executive Director, Partnership for Food Safety Education**

As executive director, Brittany focuses on leveraging the Partnership for Food Safety Education's historical leadership in cross-sector collaboration to realize its mission to develop and promote effective education programs to reduce foodborne illness risk for consumers. Her passion for preventing foodborne illness brought her to the Partnership as an intern in 2011. Brittany served previously as the Partnership's director of development, successfully increasing program service revenue and bringing diversification to the Partner network. She facilitated program engagement with consumer and academic food safety experts, and supported PFSE programs, including the National Consumer Food Safety Education Conference. Brittany earned a master's degree in public administration from the School of Public Affairs at the American University in Washington, D.C.



**Donald W. Schaffner, Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University; Chair of the Conference for Food Protection Direct to Consumer Delivery Committee**

Dr. Donald W. Schaffner is Extension Specialist in Food Science and Distinguished Professor at Rutgers University. His research interests include handwashing, cross-contamination and quantitative microbial risk assessment. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists, the American Academy of Microbiology and International Association for Food Protection (IAFP), and he was the president of IAFP in 2013-2014. In his spare time, he co-hosts the Food Safety Talk and Risky or Not podcasts.



**Georg Schreiber, Ph.D., Head of Directorate Food Safety, German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety**

Georg Schreiber is head of the directorate “Food Safety” of the German Federal Office of Consumer Protection and Food Safety. The directorate has 150 employees and deals with regulatory and safety aspects of food, feed, cosmetics, consumer products and tobacco, as well as crisis coordination and data management. He works since 2010 on eCommerce control and has built up G@ZIELT, the German central unit for eCommerce control of food, feed, cosmetics, consumer products and tobacco. At the European level he worked from 1997 to 2003 for the European Commission on food law projects and from 2015 to 2018 on the coordination of the eCommerce control of the EU Member States. Georg Schreiber studied biochemistry and obtained a Ph.D. in biological dosimetry.



**Steve Solomon, D.V.M., M.P.H., Director, FDA CVM**

Dr. Steven Solomon was appointed as the Director of FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) in January 2017. He is a former private practice veterinarian and career public health regulatory official who has worked to protect human and animal health at the FDA for more than 30 years. He brings a versatile background to his leadership role at CVM with experience in policy, public health, regulatory affairs, enforcement, and of course, veterinary medicine. He joined the FDA in 1990 as a Veterinary Medical Officer in CVM and has served in various policy and leadership positions in the Office of Regulatory Affairs' Office of Enforcement, Office of Regional Operations, and as Deputy Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs. He also served in the Office of Global Regulatory Operations and Policy. Dr. Solomon is a champion of the One Health approach to addressing public health problems and is co-lead of FDA's One Health Initiative and advocates for use of this approach to contribute to a better understanding of zoonotic diseases, translational medicine, foodborne illness in both people in animals, antimicrobial resistance, and other public and animal health challenges. Dr. Solomon has a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Ohio State University and a Master's in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University.





**Dilshika Wijesekera, Senior Director, Food Safety & Regulatory Compliance, Instacart**

Dilshika Wijesekera is the Senior Director of Food Safety and Regulatory at Instacart. In this capacity, he leads a team that's responsible for providing pragmatic and scalable food safety solutions to ensure customers, retail partners, and shoppers are protected from incremental food safety risks. Prior to joining Instacart, Dilshika managed all Food Safety teams responsible for Amazon's North American Operations including Amazon Fresh, Prime Now, Prime Pantry, Amazon Go, and North American Customer Fulfillment. Dilshika received his BS in Poultry Science and MS in Cellular & Molecular Biology from the University of Arkansas.



**Janet Woodcock, FDA Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs**

Dr. Janet Woodcock began her long and distinguished FDA career in 1986 with the agency's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER) as Director of the Division of Biological Investigational New Drugs. She also served as CBER's Acting Deputy Director, and later as Director of the Office of Therapeutics Research and Review. In 1994, Dr. Woodcock was named Director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER), overseeing the center's work that is the world's gold standard for drug approval and safety. In that position, she has led many of the FDA's groundbreaking drug initiatives. She has also served in other leadership roles at the FDA, including as Deputy Commissioner and Chief Medical Officer. Dr. Woodcock was named Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs on January 20, 2021. Dr. Woodcock has received numerous honors during her distinguished public health career, including: a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices; the Ellen V. Sigal Advocacy Leadership Award in 2016 from Friends of Cancer Research; the Florence Kelley Consumer Leadership Award in 2017 from the National Consumers League; the 2019 Biotechnology Heritage Award from the Biotechnology Innovation Organization and Science History Institute; and the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award from NORD. She is also an avid and accomplished gardener.



**Frank Yiannas, FDA Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response**

Frank Yiannas is the Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, a position he assumed in December of 2018. He is the principal advisor to the FDA Commissioner in the development and execution of policies related to food safety, including implementation of the landmark FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. His leadership role within the Agency covers a broad spectrum of food safety priorities, such as outbreak response, traceback investigations, product recall activities, and supply chain innovation across the full spectrum of FDA-regulated products. A renowned food safety expert and author, Mr. Yiannas came to FDA from leadership roles with two industry giants: Walmart and the Walt Disney Company. Through his career, he's been recognized for his role in elevating food safety standards and building effective food safety management systems based on modern science and risk-based prevention principles. Mr. Yiannas is a past president of the International Association for Food Protection and a past vice-chairman of the Global Food Safety Initiative. He is also an adjunct Professor in the Food Safety Program at Michigan State University, and in 2017 was awarded the MSU Outstanding Faculty Award. A microbiologist, Mr. Yiannas received a B.S. in microbiology from the University of Central Florida and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of South Florida.