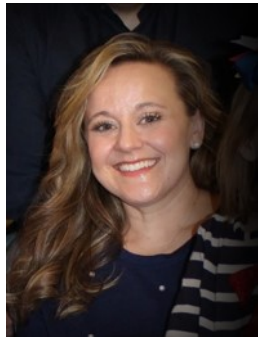


**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Public Meeting
Closer to Zero Action Plan:**

Impacts of Toxic Element Exposure and Nutrition at Different Crucial Developmental Stages for Babies and Young Children

Speakers' and Panelists' Biographies



Kellie O. Casavale, PhD, RD, Senior Nutrition Advisor, Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling, FDA Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN)

Kellie Casavale is a Senior Nutrition Advisor in the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling in CFSAN, FDA. In addition to support to her office, she supports cross-Center and cross-Departmental collaborations, particularly those related to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and/or maternal and child populations. She has led the Dietary Guidelines process through roles at USDA/CNPP, HHS/ODPHP, and now FDA for three editions of the DGAs. She supported the development of the first Dietary Patterns for children under 2 years with 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. Other leadership roles include the Federal Data Consortium on Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months, the Human Milk Composition Initiative in the US and Canada, and the B24 projects in NHANES. She also contributes leadership for the FDA/EPA Fish Advice and Closer to Zero. Dr. Casavale has a BS in Biology from Lander University, a PhD in Nutrition Science from UNC-Greensboro, and is a Registered Dietitian.



Conrad Choiniere, PhD, Director, Office of Analytics and Outreach, FDA CFSAN

Conrad Choiniere, PhD, is the Director of the Office of Analytics and Outreach at the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Dr. Choiniere provides executive leadership for a broad portfolio of scientific and regulatory functions including risk and decision analysis, social and behavioral sciences, epidemiology, biostatistics and informatics, education and outreach, and food defense. Dr. Choiniere chairs FDA's Toxic Elements Working Group which prioritizes the agency's efforts to reduce exposures to lead, arsenic and other heavy metals from foods to the greatest extent feasible. Dr. Choiniere has a PhD in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.



Sherri Dennis, PhD, Director, Division of Risk and Decision Analysis, Office of Analytics and Outreach, FDA CFSAN

Sherri Dennis is Director for the Division of Risk and Decision Analysis in the Office of Analytics and Outreach at the U.S Food and Drug Administration. In this capacity, she leads a multi-disciplinary group that assesses and evaluates the public health impact of microbial and chemical hazards in food. She co-chairs the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium and serves on a variety of workgroups. Dr. Dennis has a BS from Pennsylvania State University and a MS and PhD from Virginia Tech University.



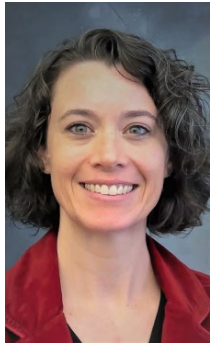
Sean Deoni, PhD, Director of MRI Research, Department of Pediatrics, Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island

An MRI physicist by training, Dr. Deoni's formative work focused on the development of novel MR imaging sequences to highlight and characterize brain tissue at increasing levels of detail. His PhD in Medical Biophysics was earned at the Robart's Research Institute, University of Western Ontario, Canada, with post-doctoral fellowships at the Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences at King's College, London UK, and the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain, Oxford University, UK. Dr. Deoni is the Principal Investigator at the Advanced Baby Imaging (ABI) Lab. The ABI lab started at Brown University in 2009 and has since migrated to Hasbro Children's and Rhode Island Hospital. The work of the lab bridges basic MRI physics and longitudinal studies of neurodevelopment, with the aim of understanding the factors that promote healthy child development so that every child can achieve their potential.



Laura Dishaw, PhD, Toxicologist, Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment, Office of Research and Development, US Environmental Protection Agency

Laura Dishaw is an EPA toxicologist in the Center for Public Health and Environmental Assessment (CPHEA). Her work focuses developing human health assessment products, including Integrated Risk and Information Systems (IRIS), Integrated Science Assessments. She also is involved in development and implementation of systematic review tools and processes within CPHEA. She started her career with EPA in 2015 as a post-doctoral fellow for the IRIS program and transitioned to a permanent role in 2017. Laura received a BS in Biology from Le Moyne College and a PhD in Environmental Toxicology from Duke University where she studied the toxicity of organophosphate flame retardants.



Heather C. Hamner, PhD, MS, MPH, Health Scientist, Nutrition Branch, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC

Heather Hamner is Health Scientist in the Maternal, Infant, and Toddler Nutrition Team where she leads efforts on early child nutrition, focusing on ensuring children have optimal nutrition and feeding practices in the first two years of life. This work has included research on food consumption patterns and nutritional status of young children, working with partners to advance education and training of health care providers, and working with federal partners to advance efforts related to early child nutrition. Prior to joining her current team, Dr. Hamner worked for 11 years as a health scientist in CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities in which she focused on ensuring that women have safe and healthy pregnancies. Dr. Hamner received her PhD in Foods and Nutrition from The University of Georgia, and her MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and MS in Nutrition from Tufts University.



Margaret R. Karagas, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Epidemiology, Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Margaret Karagas is the James W. Squires Professor and founding chair of the Department of Epidemiology at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth College. She currently leads an ongoing prospective cohort study of over 2,500 maternal-child dyads whose households are served by a private, unregulated water system in New Hampshire, a rural state with elevated drinking water arsenic levels. Through this study, she and colleagues have identified the importance of diet as primary exposure route for arsenic, in particular rice and rice products commonly fed to infants and young children, as well as the impacts of trace elements, including toxic metals and metalloids and nutrient elements alone or as mixtures on child growth, neurodevelopment, and immune function. She received her PhD from the University of Washington.



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.



Katarzyna (Kasia) Kordas, PhD, Director, MPH Concentration in Epidemiology; Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health; Co-Director, Community for Global Health Equity, School of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Buffalo

Kasia Kordas is an environmental epidemiologist with interdisciplinary training, research, and leadership experience combining global health, nutritional sciences, environmental health, and human development. Kordas is an associate professor in the department of Epidemiology of Environmental Health at the University at Buffalo (UB). She also co-directs the UB Community for Global Health Equity and is a faculty affiliate of the WHO Collaborating Center on Housing and Health at UB. Her research program investigates the effects of complex chemical exposures and toxicant-diet interactions on the health and development of urban children. Dr. Kordas received a PhD in international health with a concentration in nutrition from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.



Jennifer Lowry Sample, MD, Peditox, LLC

Dr. Jennifer Lowry Sample is a pediatrician and medical toxicologist who is currently in private practice. She obtained her medical degree at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. Her pediatrics, medical toxicology and clinical pharmacology training was completed at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri where she practiced for over 20 years. During that time, she was Chair to the Council on Environmental Health for the American Academy of Pediatrics and served on multiple committees including the EPAs Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee and the CDCs Lead Poisoning Subcommittee. She currently consults on pediatric environmental health issues including as a current consultant for Gerber.



Susan T. Mayne, PhD, Director, FDA CFSAN

Susan T. Mayne, PhD, 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 BA in chemistry from the University of Colorado. She earned a PhD 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.



Karlyn Middleton, MS, Branch Chief/Supervisory Toxicologist, Contaminant Assessment Branch, Division of Risk & Decision Analysis, Office of Analytics and Outreach, FDA CFSAN

Karlyn Middleton is Chief of the Contaminant Assessment Branch, in the Division of Risk and Decision Analysis, Office of Analytics and Outreach, at FDA/CFSAN. Karlyn provides oversight and direction for the toxicology work, and hazard/safety assessments for chemical contaminants and natural toxicants found in food. She is a member of CFSAN's Cancer Assessment Committee and the current technical committee chair of the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium, a group established to enhance communication among federal agencies involved in food safety. Prior to FDA, Karlyn spent 12 years as a toxicologist and risk assessor in EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs where she conducted human health risk assessments for pesticide chemicals and served as Co-chair of EPA's Cancer Assessment Review Committee and Chair of the Toxicology Science Advisory Council. She received her B.S. and M.S from Tuskegee University where she focused on research related to prostate cancer.



Karen E. Peterson, DSc, Stanley M. Garn Collegiate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences, Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Professor of Global Public Health, the University of Michigan School of Public Health

Dr. Peterson is the Stanley M. Garn Collegiate Professor and Chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and holds joint appointments as Professor of Environmental Health Sciences and Professor of Global Public Health. She directed the NIEHS/EPA-funded Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention from 2011-2019 and currently, she serves as Associate Director of the NIDDK-funded Michigan Nutrition and Obesity Research Center (MNORC). Dr. Peterson's research focuses on the role early life diet and toxicant exposures play in the development of obesity and metabolic risk across sensitive life course periods. She also has evaluated numerous population-based interventions to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors and reduce obesity and chronic disease risk in low income and Latinx women and children. She earned a DSc in Nutrition at the Harvard W.T. Chan School of Public Health.



Jessica N. Rowden, MA, CHES, Health Communication Specialist, Communications and Public Engagement Staff, FDA CFSAN

Jessica N. Rowden, MA, CHES, is a communication and marketing professional with over fifteen years of experience planning, implementing, managing, and evaluating a broad range of public health education and communication campaigns and programs. This includes strategic communications, formative and evaluation research, message and materials development, marketing and media campaign development, and stakeholder outreach and partnership building. In her current position on the Public Engagement Team with the Communications and Public Engagement Staff at CFSAN, Jessica develops and implements public engagement strategies and supports stakeholder outreach initiatives. Jessica holds an MA in Health Communication from Emerson College and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES).



Paul South, PhD, Director, Division of Plant Products and Beverages, Office of Food Safety, CFSAN

Paul South is Director for the Division of Plant Products and Beverages at FDA’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in the Office of Food Safety. He is responsible for developing policy, regulations, regulatory guidance, and compliance strategies on issues related to the safety of plant products and beverages. He is currently the U.S. delegate to the Codex Committee on Fats and Oils and serves on the delegation to the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Foods.



Pamela Starke-Reed, PhD, Deputy Administrator for Nutrition, Food Safety and Quality Utilization of Agricultural Products at the Agricultural Research Service, US Department of Agriculture

Dr. Starke-Reed is the Deputy Administrator for Nutrition, Food Safety and Quality Utilization of Agricultural Products at the Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA. She came to ARS, leaving the National Institutes of Health (NIH) where most recently she served 12 years as Deputy Director of the Division of Nutrition Research Coordination, coordinating the ongoing nutritional sciences, obesity and physical activity research at NIH. Her previous positions include 10 years with the NIH National Institute on Aging as Director of the Office of Nutrition and Program Director for the Nutrition and Metabolism and Protein Structure and Function research programs. She has also served as Biologist with the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and Assistant Professor with the Department of Medicine of George Washington University in Washington DC. Since 1991, Dr. Starke-Reed has served as Adjunct Professor with the GWU Medical Center in Washington D.C. She earned her BS in Biology at St Lawrence University in Canton, NY and her PhD in Pathology at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia, PA.



Xiaobin Wang, MD, MPH, ScD, Zanyvl Krieger Professor and Director, Center on the Early Life Origins of Disease, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health and School of Medicine

Xiaobin Wang is a physician scientist who established the Boston Birth Cohort (BBC) when she was a Pediatrician at Boston Medical Center. The BBC consists of ~8,600 mother-child dyads, a predominantly urban, low income, Black and Hispanic population in Boston, MA. As the Principal Investigator of many large-scale NIH funded studies in the BBC, Dr. Wang has led multi-institution, transdisciplinary teams to investigate psychosocial, environmental, nutritional, genomic, epigenomic, and metabolomic factors and gene-environmental interactions during critical developmental windows (preconception, pregnancy, infancy, childhood, adolescence), aiming to elucidate the root causes and biological pathways underlying high-impact pediatric and adult diseases, and advance early risk assessment, early prediction and early prevention of disease. Dr. Wang received her MD from Peking University; MPH from Tulane University; ScD in maternal and child health from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; a postdoctoral fellowship in Environmental Epidemiology at Harvard School of Public Health; and a three-year Pediatric Residency at the Boston Medical Center.



Janet Woodcock, MD, 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, 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.