

HP 2030 Speakers



Brashears, Mindy – Mindy Brashears is the former Under Secretary for Food Safety where she served at the USDA from 2019-2021. She is the Director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at TTU and serves as a Paul Whitfield Horn Distinguished Professor and holds the Roth and Letch family Endowed Chair of Food Safety at Texas Tech University. She holds a B.S. in Food Technology from Texas Tech University and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Food Science from Oklahoma State University. Her research focuses on mitigation strategies in pre-harvest production and post-harvest processing environments to

improve food safety and public health. She is a member of the National Academy of Inventors, the Board of Directors for the American Meat Science Association and the International Livestock Council. She also serves on the academic advisory panel for the Protein Pact. She was recently awarded the Graduate of Distinction Award by Oklahoma State University. She has also received the IAFP Laboratorian Award, The AMSA Research and Industry/Extension Award and was named as a Future Icon in the Meat Industry by the National Provisioner. She writes a monthly blog for MeatingPlace magazine and advises the industry on food safety and regulatory issues.

Burr, Mara – Mara Burr serves as vice president, regulatory and technical affairs at Consumer Brands Association, providing strategic and tactical regulatory policy leadership on issues impacting the consumer packaged goods (CPG) industry and CBA’s strategic priorities, as well as proactively identify emerging regulatory policy issues, concerns, and opportunities that enhance the intersection of advancing the CPG industry’s agenda and meeting expectations of the American consumer.



Prior to joining Consumer Brands Association, Burr served as Director, Multilateral Relations in the Office of the Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) where she led U.S. government engagement with the World Health Organization (WHO) and its six regional offices, the United Nations, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Burr was twice elected Vice Chair of the Governing Council of IARC (2022-2023).

Burr also served as Food Safety Policy Manager, at U.S. Food and Drug Administration in the Office of the Center Director at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition where she was responsible for implementing provisions of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and other regulatory, legal and policy goals of FDA. From 2004-2014, Burr served as Deputy Assistant United States Trade Representative at the Office of the United States Trade Representative in the Executive Office of the President of the United States. Before her government service Burr was in private practice in Washington, DC working on international trade, regulatory, customs and World Trade Organization legal and policy issues.

Over the course of her distinguished federal government career, Burr’s work earned recognition from her agencies and peers. In 2023, she received the HHS Secretary’s Distinguished Service Award for the work of Multilateral Relations in leading multilateral efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also received awards from the United States Trade Representative, the Department of State, the

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Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, recognizing her strong and unwavering commitment to serving the American people.

Burr graduated from Georgetown University Law Center with an LL.M in international and comparative law, receiving the Dean's Certificate for distinguished contributions to Georgetown Law, Mitchell-Hamline Law School with a Juris Doctorate, and the University of Saint Thomas (Saint Paul, Minnesota) with a BA. Burr is originally from Central Minnesota and now lives with her family in Alexandria, Virginia.



Cote, Andrea – Dr. Andrea Cote: Dr. Cote received her DVM and MPH from the University of Tennessee. She is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine. She currently serves as the FSIS Liaison to CDC within the Office of Public Health Science in FSIS. Prior to joining FSIS, she was a CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer with the Wyoming Department of Health.

Dyenson, Natalie – Ms. Dyenson is the Chief Food Safety & Regulatory Officer for the International Fresh Produce Association (IFPA). With nearly 30 years' experience in food safety and the end-to-end produce value chain, she most recently served as the Vice President, Food Safety & Quality for Dole Food Company. She has also held leadership roles in both Walmart and Disney where she was responsible for food safety and public health supporting domestic and international operations. Ms. Dyenson holds a B.S. in Microbiology from the University of Iowa and a M.P.H. in Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of South Florida.



Esteban, José Emilio – Dr. José Emilio Esteban was sworn in as under secretary for food safety on January 4, 2023. In this role, Dr. Esteban leads the Office of Food Safety at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), overseeing the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which has regulatory oversight for ensuring that meat, poultry and egg products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled.

In August 2018, he was appointed FSIS chief scientist. In this capacity, Dr. Esteban served as the primary scientific advisor on matters of public health and food safety that affect the mission of the agency, with primary responsibility for scientific initiatives within the FSIS Office of Public Health Science (OPHS).

Dr. Esteban has also been very active in the international food safety arena, serving as Chair of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene from 2008 to 2023.

In 2002, Dr. Esteban joined OPHS as the director of the Western Laboratory. In this role, he directed the implementation of the sampling program and was responsible for the facility, equipment and personnel infrastructure. In 2008, he was appointed as the FSIS science advisor for laboratory services and then as executive associate for laboratory services, where he harmonized the operation of all three FSIS

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laboratories, maintained operations to meet with the ISO17025 standard and coordinated emergency response.

From 1994 to 2002, Dr. Esteban worked in several positions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

He received his doctorate in veterinary medicine from Mexico's Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, a Master of Business Administration from the Panamerican Institute, and a Master of Preventive Veterinary Medicine, as well as a doctorate in epidemiology from the University of California at Davis.

Farmer, Laurie – Laurie Farmer is the Director of the Office of State Cooperative Programs at the Food and Drug Administration responsible for the strategic planning, management and oversight of the national field programs in Retail Food Protection, Milk Safety and Shellfish Sanitation. She is the co-lead for the New Era for Smarter Food Safety's New Business Models and Retail Modernization element.



Laurie Farmer began her career with the Food and Drug Administration in 1990 as a field Investigator. She has served in a variety of roles in the Agency including FDA Southeast Region Director of State Cooperative Programs, 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, District Director, Compliance Branch Director, Branch Chief for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition's Shellfish and Aquaculture Policy Branch.

She has received awards that include the FDA Award of Merit, FDA's Excellence in Diversity, Inclusion and Equity Award and AFDO's Presidents Award.

Laurie began her public health career in a county Women's Infants and Children's Program (WIC). 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.



Goldman, David – David Goldman has been a leader in regulatory public health over the past 20 years, having served at the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) from 2002 until 2019, and at FDA's Office of Food Policy and Response from 2019 until 2022. During those assignments, Dr. Goldman was in the U.S. Public Health Service (PHS), and recently retired as Assistant Surgeon General, at the rank of Rear Admiral.

As Chief Medical Officer at the FDA Office of Food Policy and Response, Dr. Goldman provided medical and scientific leadership to the foods program. He was a key leader in helping the agency respond to foodborne outbreaks and food recalls.

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Prior to joining FDA, Dr. Goldman served in several leadership roles at USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), including as Chief Medical Officer, responsible for occupational health issues related to chemical and biological exposures. From 2004-2018, he also served as Assistant Administrator for FSIS's Office of Public Health Science, which led outbreak investigations, provided the scientific foundation for FSIS policies, and executed a national sampling program of meat and poultry products. He also served as the FSIS Acting Administrator from January 2007 to July 2007.

Dr. Goldman spent 10 years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, practicing both family medicine and preventive medicine. He then spent 3 ½ years at the Virginia Department of Health, as a District Health Director, then briefly as the Deputy State Epidemiologist, before joining the PHS. He received his BA from the University of Virginia, his MD from the University of Virginia, and his MPH in Epidemiology from the University of Washington. He is a board-certified preventive medicine/public health physician.

Gorny, Jim – Dr. Jim Gorny currently serves as the Senior Science Advisor for Produce Safety where he is the chief advisor to CFSAN interim director Dr. Don Prater on policies and programs that affect the safety of produce. At FDA CFSAN, Dr. Gorny works alongside a dedicated team of produce safety experts on the development and implementation of new science and risk-based requirements created to help prevent illnesses caused by fresh produce. He also has responsibilities related to agency responses to produce associated foodborne illness outbreaks, recalls, investigations as well as education outreach and research.



Prior to joining FDA, Jim Gorny was Vice President of Food Safety & Technology at the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) where he worked directly with the entire produce industry supply chain to advance produce safety procedures, policies, practices and technology. Dr. Gorny holds a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of California Davis and a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in food science from Louisiana State University.



Guzzle, Patrick – Patrick Guzzle has been involved in retail food safety for almost 20 years after his wife, Dianne, contracted E. coli O157:H7. At that time, he was pursuing a completely different career path. His career in food safety began as an Environmental Health Specialist in Southeastern Idaho Public Health District (Pocatello, Idaho). He later became the Environmental Health Supervisor and was involved in all aspects of environmental health.

In 2004, Patrick was hired as the Idaho Food Protection Program Manager with the State's Division of Public Health. During that time, he served as President of the Idaho Environmental Health Association. In 2018, Patrick started Mountain West Food Safety, LLC and was the Principal Consultant. In addition to helping several clients strengthen their own food safety efforts, Patrick regularly taught ServSafe courses throughout Idaho and Eastern Oregon.

Patrick has been an active participant in the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) and has served on several Committees, as well as Chairing Council II within the CFP. He served as Chair of the CFP from 2016 – 2018. He has received several commendations for his collaborative efforts with other organizations over the years.

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Patrick is an active member of the Association of Food and Drug Officials, the National Environmental Health Association, and the Western Association of Food and Drug Officials. He is an adjunct professor of Public Health at Boise State University. Patrick holds a Master of Public Health and a Master of Arts in Anthropology – both from Idaho State University as well as a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish – also from Idaho State University.

Patrick and his wife, Dianne both grew up in Colorado – she in Littleton and he in Steamboat Springs. They have 4 children and reside in Boise, Idaho.

Hedberg, Craig – Craig Hedberg is an Epidemiologist and Professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health (SPH). He serves as the Co-Director for the MN Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence. Dr. Hedberg promotes public health surveillance as a prerequisite for effective food control.



Larkin, Kayla – Kayla Larkin is a Public Health Analyst and a contractor for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Office of Public Health Law Services. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar, and she received her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law. Prior to law school, Kayla worked as a research librarian at Boston University.

Mandernach, Steve – Steven Mandernach (MAWN-dur-knock) is the executive director of the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). Prior to becoming executive director in 2018, he was the bureau chief for food and consumer safety at the Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals. Mandernach is a past president of AFDO. He has also served as the chair and co-chair for the Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Alliance. Mandernach has co-authored many articles related to retail food safety, foodborne illness detection, and the integrated food safety system, and he’s a frequent contributor to many food trade publications including Food Safety Magazine, New Food Magazine, and Quality Assurance and Food Safety Magazine.



Mandernach has a J.D. from Drake University Law School. He has completed graduate work in Food Safety at Michigan State University.

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Neafsey, Mike – Michael Neafsey, MPH, DVM, DACVPM, is the One Health Coordinator for the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Services. As the agency’s lead, he champions a comprehensive One Health approach, integrating animal, plant, and environmental health with public health. Dr. Neafsey’s expertise lies in fostering collaboration among agriculture, wildlife, environmental, and human health officials across various levels, locally, statewide, federally, and globally, to address various One Health issues. Throughout his extensive career at USDA, Dr. Neafsey has undertaken diverse roles, ranging from conducting food safety and animal welfare inspections to leading field investigations for foreign animal diseases. Additionally, he represents the US Government in the One Health working group of the Animal Health Quads Alliance and contributes to multiple other One Health efforts. He also is the USDA representative for the U.S. One health Coordination Unit Interagency Core Leadership Team. In his leadership capacity, he finds fulfillment in supporting personnel development to uphold the APHIS mission as well as crafting action-oriented strategies and policies. Notably, he is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (DACVPM).



Nsonwu, Adora – Adora Nsonwu is an Evaluation Fellow within CDC’s National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID): Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, & Environmental Diseases (DFWED) Prevention Office. She received her MPH from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she specialized in global public health. She is recognized for her qualitative analysis expertise and is dedicated to public health evaluation, especially through implementation science and mixed methods research methodologies.

Peterson, Ashley – As senior vice president of scientific and regulatory affairs, Dr. Peterson’s responsibilities at the National Chicken Council include providing scientific and technical expertise on a variety of topics including food safety, poultry inspection, and broiler health and welfare. She oversees regulatory policy development and scientific initiatives within the regulatory agencies in Washington, D.C. and represents industry views on policies impacting the broiler industry. A native of Kentucky, Peterson came to Washington, D.C., as a Congressional Science Fellow in the U.S. House of Representatives, working on agricultural policy. She earned her Ph.D. in Animal Science from the University of Maryland, her Master of Science in Animal Science from Michigan State University and her Bachelor of Science from the University of Kentucky.



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Prater, Don – Dr. Donald Prater has been at the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for nearly 25 years where he has served in a variety of roles. Currently, Don is the Acting Director of the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Prior to that, he served as the Director of the FDA's Europe Office in Brussels, Belgium; the Department of Health and Human Services Country Representative to the European Union; Associate Commissioner for Imported Food Safety in the FDA's



Office of Food Policy and Response; and the Assistant Commissioner for Food Safety Integration in the FDA's Foods and Veterinary Medicine Program. He holds a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine.



Scallan Walter, Elaine – Dr. Elaine Scallan Walter, MA, PhD, is a Professor of Epidemiology at the Colorado School of Public Health, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, where her research focuses on the burden foodborne diseases and improving foodborne disease surveillance and outbreak response. Dr. Scallan Walter is Co-Director of the Colorado Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence and Co-Principal Investigator for the Colorado Foodborne Disease Active Surveillance Network. Dr. Scallan Walter is also Director the Rocky Mountain Public Health Training Center.

Simon, Katherine – Katherine is the Director of the Food and Feed Safety Division of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, overseeing manufactured food, retail food, animal feed and produce safety inspection programs. She brings 18 years of regulatory experience including roles in field inspection, supervisory, compliance and management.



She is currently serving as the President of the Association of Food & Drug Officials (AFDO) Board of Directors and participates as a state program representative on a variety of national food safety collaboratives.

Katherine also serves as a member of the FSPCA Executive Advisory Board and is co-chairing the Preventive Controls for Human Foods curriculum review workgroup.



Sorscher, Sarah – Sarah Sorscher is an experienced advocate with a passion for public health who fights for a safer, healthier, more transparent food system by promoting consumer safeguards with Congress, federal agencies, and state and local governments. As Director of Regulatory Affairs, she manages CSPI's policy work related to food safety and labeling, allergens, food additives, dietary supplements, and other consumer products. Her work includes serving on federal advisory committees, testifying before Congress and federal agencies, offering technical advice to policymakers, and providing commentary to the media on consumer and food safety issues.

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Stryker, Kim – Kim is the program manager for the Alaska Food Safety & Sanitation program. She has chaired the MFRPA twice and is currently Vice-President of AFDO. Alaska's program has contracted with FDA to perform inspections for at least 40 years, primarily to do seafood HACCP inspections in remote locations. Alaska conforms and implements all 10 Manufactured Food Standards.



Tauxe, Robert – Dr. Robert Tauxe is Director of the CDC Division charged with prevention and control of foodborne, waterborne and fungal infections. Division staff track these infections, investigate outbreaks, develop science and promote policies to help prevent them. He graduated from Yale in 1975, received an MD from Vanderbilt in 1980, and after an internal medicine residency, he trained at CDC in the Epidemic Intelligence Service and joined CDC staff in 1985.

His interests include bacterial enteric diseases, epidemiology and pathogenesis of infectious diseases, improving surveillance and investigation methods, and teaching epidemiologic methods

Dr. Tauxe has written/co-authored 304 journal articles and book chapters.

Viveiros, Brendalee – Dr. Brendalee Viveiros is a Chief Health Program Evaluator in the Center for Food Protection at the Rhode Island Department of Health. Dr. Viveiros has been with RIDOH for ten years. In her current role, she is the program manager for MFRPS, RRT, Foodborne Outbreak Surveillance and Response, and the CDC EHS-Net Program. Additionally, Dr. Viveiros teaches for a Masters of Public Health program at Rasmussen University.



Wise, Matt – Matthew Wise is a Captain in the United State Public Health Service and currently serves as the Chief of the Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch in CDC's Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases. His branch is responsible for coordinating epidemiologic investigations into complex, multistate foodborne and zoonotic outbreaks caused by Salmonella, Shiga-toxin producing E. coli, Listeria monocytogenes, and Campylobacter and for leveraging outbreak findings to drive overall prevention of foodborne and zoonotic disease. He joined CDC in 2008 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer assigned to the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion where he

investigated outbreaks of viral hepatitis and other pathogens in healthcare settings. He earned his PhD in epidemiology from the University of California at Los Angeles while working as an epidemiologist at the Los Angeles County Department of Public

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Wittry, Beth – CDR Beth Wittry is an Environmental Health Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps committed to promoting, protecting, and advancing the health and safety of the Nation. She received her BS in Molecular Environmental Biology from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2008 and her MPH in Environmental Health from San Diego State University in 2010.



With over 14 years in the public health field, she is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Certified Food Safety Professional. She has served in four duty stations, supporting missions spanning from providing direct public health services to underserved indigenous populations to traveling around the globe in a mission-critical assignment to protect our borders. Her expertise includes outbreak surveillance and investigations, food safety, water safety, vector control, emergency response and recovery, and infection prevention and control.

CDR Wittry has been recognized for her environmental health subject matter expertise and exceptional leadership to undertake highly visible special assignments. She has received awards such as the VADM C. Everett Koop Junior Officer Award and Edward Moran Environmental Health Officer Award and was appointed to advise on several national public health executive boards. She currently is stationed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and works as an Environmental Health Scientist to advance public health policy nationwide. In this role, she routinely leverages research through partnerships, education, and policy designed to strengthen infrastructure, equip leaders to respond to emergent hazards, and govern public health threats.

She has authored multiple high-impact publications and national public health guidance as well as presented as a keynote speaker at global conferences. Her research interests include root cause analysis, implementation science, health security, and environmental justice.