

2023 Annual

A Gathering of Scientific and Regulatory Experts

Summer Science Symposium

Speaker Biographies

June 13-14
National Press Club
Washington, DC



Hongda Chen

Co-Chair IAFNS Annual Meeting



Dr. Hongda Chen is the National Program Leader for Bioprocess Engineering and Nanotechnology at National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA. He provides national leadership to develop nanoscale science, engineering, and technology for agriculture and food systems, and provides national leadership in engineering approaches for research, development, education and extension in food quality, safety and nutritional value. Currently, he directs Enhancing Food Safety through Improved Processing Technologies in the Food Safety Challenge programs; and Nanotechnology for Agriculture and Food Systems in the Foundation programs of the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) – the flagship of NIFA’s competitive grants program. He has been a representative of USDA in the NSTC subcommittee on Nanoscale Science, Engineering and Technology (NSET) since 2001. He served as a Co-Chair of the 2010 NNI Strategic Planning Task Force. He has spoken frequently on nanotechnology for agriculture and foods at professional conferences, symposia, and strategic planning meetings both in the States and internationally. Dr. Chen received his Ph.D. in engineering from University of California, Davis. He was a professor of food engineering at University of Vermont from 1990 to 2000.

Kristi Reimers

Co-Chair IAFNS Annual Meeting



Kristin Reimers, PhD, RDN, is the Nutrition and Health Research Fellow at Conagra Brands, where she leads the Nutrition team to execute the enterprise's nutrition strategy that promotes sustainable nutrition, drives nutrition-focused food design, enables health attribute communication, and collaborates to improve access to healthier foods. During her time at Conagra, Dr. Reimers' has led numerous clinical nutrition research and communication initiatives, all aimed at enabling consumers to lead healthier lives with convenient, healthy foods. Prior to joining Conagra, Dr. Reimers was Director of Programs at The Center for Human Nutrition, Omaha, NE, where she conducted nutrition research and developed programs in the areas of obesity, aging, hydration, and sports nutrition. Dr. Reimers' publications include over 50 chapters, abstracts, continuing education units and journal articles. She holds professional memberships in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the American Society for Nutrition and is a member of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition (IAFNS). An Iowa native and long-time Nebraska resident, she received her B.S. degree from the University of Northern Iowa and her masters and doctoral degrees in human nutrition from the University of Nebraska.



Carmen Tekwe

Co-chair of the SLC



Dr. Tekwe received both her bachelor's and Master's degrees in statistics from the University of Florida. She worked at the Johns Hopkins Center on Aging and Health and at The George Washington University Biostatistics Consulting Center before earning her doctoral degree in biostatistics from the University at Buffalo in 2011. Her doctoral dissertation focused on developing statistical methods for reducing measurement error biases associated with assessing the association of radiation exposure on health outcomes among atomic bomb survivors. She spent two years as a postdoctoral fellow at Texas A&M University developing statistical approaches for addressing measurement error and missing data in device-based measures of energy expenditure and statistical proteomics prior to becoming an assistant professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Texas A&M School of Public Health. She joined the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Indiana University's School of Public Health as an associate professor in 2019. Her research interests include developing statistical methodology to better assess data collected by wearable devices, dietary intake surveys, and radiation risk assessments, with the overall goal of developing statistical methods and software that can help clinicians make better-educated recommendations targeted toward the specific health status of their patients.

Jing Zhou

Co-chair of the SLC



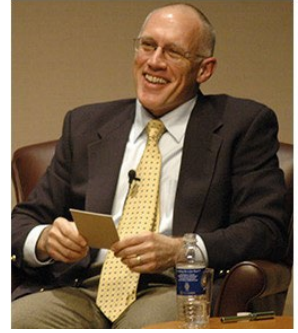
Jing Zhou is the Senior Manager of Nutrition within Ingredion's Global Scientific and Regulatory Affairs team. She joined Ingredion in 2018. In her current role, she provides nutrition science expertise to the existing Ingredion portfolio and innovation projects to support the growth of Ingredion's nutrition, health, and wellness business. Jing serves as a resource to the Go-to-Market teams, including Sales and Technical Service, to enhance the Customer Experience. She also represents Ingredion at trade and scientific organizations and builds connections with research organizations. Prior to joining Ingredion, Jing had more than seven years of project management experience in the areas of human clinical nutrition and medical device research. She has expertise in clinical research, dietary protein, metabolic health, sleep quality, and skeletal muscle quality, with 18 published research papers and abstracts focusing on these topics. She is a certified Project Management Professional and spent two years at Cook Research Incorporated as a Clinical Project Manager. Jing obtained her doctorate in nutrition science from Purdue University and her bachelor's degree in biology from Wuhan University.

Allen Bailey



Dr. Bailey is a Branch Chief in the Chemistry Review Branch in the Division of Food Contact Substances (DFCS) in CFSAN's Office of Food Additive Safety (OFAS). Allan received his B.S. degree in Chemistry from the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from The Johns Hopkins University in 1988. After a short postdoc and stint in industry, Allan joined the FDA in 1992 as a review chemist. During his career with the FDA, his efforts have focused primarily in the area of "indirect" food additives, now referred to as food contact substances (FCS). Allan was involved in the development and/or implementation of the two primary pre-market approval programs for FCSs, the Threshold of Regulation (TOR) Exemption and Food Contact Notification (FCN) programs.

Chris Borgert



Dr. Christopher J Borgert is President and Principal Scientist at Applied Pharmacology and Toxicology, Inc (APT). Founded on Dr Borgert's consulting practice in pharmacology and toxicology, APT was incorporated in 1997 and is now comprised of an integrated group of specialists whose expertise and experience includes pharmacology, toxicology, clinical pharmacy, medicine, biostatistics, epidemiology, and information management. Dr. Borgert has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Kenyon College and earned his PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Florida.

Helena Bottemiller Evich



Helena Bottemiller Evich is the founder and editor-in-chief of Food Fix. Most recently, she led coverage of food and agriculture issues at POLITICO for nearly a decade, winning a George Polk Award for a series on climate change and two James Beard Awards for features on nutrition and science. In 2022, she was a James Beard Award finalist for a deep dive on diet-related diseases and Covid-19.

Andrea Bruce



Andrea Bruce has spent her career advising the country's food & beverage manufacturers and the trade associations that represent them. Immediately prior to joining the firm, Andrea spent over 17 years in-house at Kraft Foods, PepsiCo, and The Hershey Company, handling the full suite of food regulatory issues facing food companies in the U.S. including product labeling, claims substantiation, FSMA and Proposition 65 compliance, product recalls, ingredient safety, and federal and state food facility inspections. Drawing on lessons learned in-house, Andrea brings a pragmatic orientation to her practice, always striving for actionable solutions to problems that mesh well with existing business practices.

With nearly 30 years counseling clients in the industry, Andrea has a strong interest in the policy issues at stake in how the government regulates food and, in particular, its implications for the relationship among diet, health and the environment. She has served as a seasoned member of crisis management and recall teams, with significant experience helping clients navigate the regulatory and communications challenges posed by food safety incidents and recalls. Andrea has also led food regulatory due diligence and post-close integration activities for multiple acquisitions. She gained general transactional experience as a member of an in-house M&A team that closed three acquisitions in 2021. Andrea began her legal career at Hogan & Hartson, advancing from associate to partner in the Food Law group. Andrea earned her JD degree from the Berkeley School of Law. In her spare time, nothing makes her happier than getting her hands dirty in her beloved flower beds.

Lyle Burgoon



Dr. Lyle Burgoon is the President and CEO of Raptor Pharm & Tox, Ltd. Dr. Burgoon is an award-winning and Board Certified (Fellow, Academy of Toxicological Sciences) toxicologist, risk assessor, applied ethicist, and biostatistician. Prior to starting Raptor, Dr. Burgoon spent over 10 years in public service at the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and the US Army. Most recently, Dr. Burgoon has advised Congress on the response to the East Palestine, OH train derailment, he leads Raptor's Congressional and Public Outreach programs, focused on educating the public about toxicology, and he was appointed by US EPA Administrator Regan to represent Small Business and Industry interests on the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee.

Kristine Butler



Kristine (Kris) Butler is the Deputy Director of the Communications and Public Engagement Staff in the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. Previously, she served as a Senior Advisor for Risk Communication in the FDA's Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine, and was the Deputy Director for Health Communication in the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. Before joining the FDA in 2005, Kris worked in the non-profit community designing communications strategies for a wide range of social and policy initiatives. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Spanish from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University.

Valentina Castagnari



Valentina Castagnari is an Associate at the O’Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center. Her work focuses on legal and policy issues at the intersection of health and human rights and she has expertise in a variety of areas, particularly human rights and environmental law. The focus of her most recent work as part of the Global Center for Legal Innovation in Food Environments is the prevention of noncommunicable diseases and the regulation of its risk factors, particularly unhealthy diets. In Argentina, she was a visiting professor at Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and a researcher at the Center for Studies of State and Society, where she focused her research on regulatory interventions to foster the right to food and prevent noncommunicable diseases. She is part of the Latin American Regional Observatory for the Right to Food and has published her work in prestigious international journals. She has also worked as a consultant on health-related issues in international organizations, including UNICEF in Argentina. Castagnari holds an abogada (J.D. equivalent) degree from Universidad de San Andrés in Argentina, where she graduated Magna Cum Laude, and an LL.M. in Global and National Health Law from Georgetown University, where she made the Dean’s list with distinction.

Conrad Choiniere



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.

Chuck Czuprynski



Chuck Czuprynski, PhD is Professor Emeritus and Former Chair of the Department of Pathobiological Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, and Former Director of the Food Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focused on the pathogenesis of bacterial pathogens, with an emphasis on zoonotic bacterial agents that cause foodborne disease (i.e. *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella enterica*), and on the innate immune response to bovine respiratory pathogens. His lab also investigated novel strategies to combat wound infections and the adverse effects of environmental toxins on the immune system. He received his BA in Biology from Knox College and his PhD in Medical Microbiology from UW-Madison in 1980. He completed a postdoctoral fellowship at National Jewish Hospital in Denver, Co before joining the faculty at UW-Madison in 1983 where he spent 40 years as a faculty member. He directed the degree programs of 19 PhD and 18 MS students and served on the thesis committees of more than 140 MS and PhD students. His research resulted in more than 200 peer-reviewed publications. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and an Honorary Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists.

Cindy Davis



Cindy Davis serves as National Program Leader for the program in Human Nutrition conducted by the USDA-Agricultural Research Service. In this role, she helps direct the scientific program for six Human Nutrition Research Centers. Prior to joining USDA, she was the Director of Grants and Extramural Activities in the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) where she actively engaged and encouraged partnerships with other NIH Institutes and Centers to develop a portfolio that advances both nutritional and botanical dietary supplement research for optimizing public health. She is also actively involved in a number of government working groups focused on the microbiome including being a co-founder and co-chair of the Joint Agency Microbiome (NIH, FDA, NIST and USDA) working group. Before coming to ODS, she was a Program Director in the Nutritional Sciences Research Group at the National Cancer Institute. Cindy received her bachelor's degree with honors in nutritional sciences from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York and her doctorate degree in nutrition with a minor in human cancer biology from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. She completed her postdoctoral training at the Laboratory of Experimental Carcinogenesis at the National Cancer Institute. She then joined the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center, USDA, as a research nutritionist. In 2000, she received a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and was named the USDA Early Career Scientist. She is a supplement editor for the Journal of Nutrition, assistant editor for Nutrition Reviews and a member of the editorial board for Advances in Nutrition.

De Ann Davis



De Ann Davis serves as Sr. Vice President, Science for Western Growers. De Ann has more than 25 years of experience in the development and execution of technical global programs, including food safety, quality assurance and regulatory compliance.

Prior to Western Growers, De Ann served in multiple leadership roles in food safety. Notably, she served as Vice President of Food Safety and Quality for Earthbound Farm and Chief Food Safety Officer for Kraft Foods Group, where she was engaged in the development of the regulatory framework for Food Safety Modernization Act. In 2018, DE Ann was appointed to the USDA National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food. De Ann earned her PhD in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University.

Christopher Doering



Christopher is a senior reporter for *Food Dive* covering many of the largest CPG companies in the space, including PepsiCo, Nestle, Mondelez and Hershey. Before joining Industry Dive, he covered food and agriculture for *USA Today* and commodities for *Reuters*. He graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in journalism.

Johanna Dwyer



Johanna Dwyer, DSc, RD is a Professor of Medicine at Tufts University's School of Medicine, Senior Nutrition Scientist at the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging and Director of the Frances Stern Nutrition Center at Tufts Medical Center. She is also an adjunct appointment with the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts. Her work has chiefly involved large clinical trials of diet in health and disease and includes about 500 publications. She is also Senior Nutrition Scientist (contractor) at the NIH Office of Dietary Supplements. In addition to her work as a scholar and clinician, her interests in public policy and specifically nutrition policy have led to extensive involvement and assignments in Washington, DC, several involving many committees at the National Academy of Sciences and publications on scientific integrity. She has also been active in several professional associations, serving as past President and Secretary of the predecessors of the American Society for Nutrition. She has served on the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences and is a member and former Councilor of the National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences.

Alex Eapen



Alex is the Director of the R&D – Scientific & Regulatory Affairs Team – North America at Cargill. He has over 20 years of experience as a toxicologist and risk assessor for FDA-regulated products. Additionally, Alex is an adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota College of Continuing and Professional studies. He serves on the Scientific Leadership Council for IANFS and is currently the president of the American Board of Toxicology.

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Britt Erickson



Britt Erickson has been writing and editing news and feature articles for the American Chemical Society since 1997. She started out working for the journals *Analytical Chemistry* and *Environmental Science & Technology*. In 2008, Britt joined *Chemical & Engineering News* as a reporter in the government and policy group. She covers the health risks of chemicals in everyday products, food, and agriculture. Some of her most memorable stories are an award-winning feature on cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, which involved making a video on a chicken farm on the Eastern shore of Maryland. She traveled to a tea farm and vineyards in South Africa to report on novel agricultural research, and broke a story about a chemist who discovered dioxin in chicken eggs in Belgium. Britt holds a Ph.D. in environmental/analytical chemistry from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a B.S. in chemistry from Radford University in Virginia. She lives on a farm in Harpers Ferry, WV with her two children, chickens, goats, and cows.

Mario Ferruzzi



Dr. Mario Ferruzzi is a Professor and Arkansas Children's Endowed Chair in Digestive Disease and Nutrition Research. He serves as Chief for the Section of Developmental Nutrition in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He also serves as the Director of the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center, a partnership between Arkansas Children's Research Institute and USDA-ARS. He received his B.S. (1996) in Chemistry from Duke University and Ph.D. (2001) in Food Science and Nutrition from The Ohio State University. Dr. Ferruzzi joined the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center as the Director in 2021 having previously served on as a David H. Murdock Distinguished Professor at North Carolina State University's Plants for Human Health Institute (2016-2021) and as a Professor of Food Science and Nutrition Science at Purdue University (2004-2016). Dr. Ferruzzi's research interests are at the interface of agriculture, food, and nutrition sciences in the study of food matrix and processing factors that influence micronutrient and phytochemical bioavailability, metabolism, and impact to human health. He has a particular interest in strategies that can be leveraged to improve the nutritional and functional quality of food products for at risk populations

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Julie Goddard



Dr. Julie M. Goddard is a Professor in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University, who holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and a Ph.D. in Food Science. Goddard worked in industry as a research engineer before returning to academe to establish her research program on Biomaterials & Biointerfaces in Food and Agriculture. She has mentored 34 amazing M.S/Ph.D. students and 23 undergraduate researchers whose work developing new biocatalytic systems, active food packaging materials, and functional coatings is reported in >100 publications and several patents. Dr. Goddard has received several awards recognizing her research accomplishments from the American Chemical Society, Institution of Chemical Engineers, and Institute of Food Technologists.

Jennifer Green



Dr. Jennifer Green is a Senior Food Safety Staff Officer on the Risk Management and Innovations Staff at USDA-FSIS. At the USDA FSIS, Dr. Green is the program manager of the FSIS New Technology Program/Technical Review Process, where she reviews technologies to ensure that their use in meat and poultry establishments is consistent with Agency regulations and will not adversely affect product safety, inspection procedures, or the safety of FSIS inspectors. She received her Ph.D. from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Pharmaceutical Sciences and was named a Presidential Management Fellows Program Finalist in 2016.

Kirsten Herrick



Kirsten A. Herrick, Ph.D., M.Sc., is a Program Director with the Risk Factor Assessment Branch (RFAB) of the Epidemiology and Genomics Research Program (EGRP) in NCI's Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS). Her focus is on developing, designing, and conducting nutrition research related to dietary methods, dietary instruments, measurement error, dietary surveillance, and nutritional epidemiology. Dr. Herrick oversees the web-based Automated, Self-Administered 24-Hour Dietary Assessment Tool (ASA24), a freely available web-based tool which enables collection of auto-coded, self-administered 24-hour recalls and/or single or multi-day food records. Dr. Herrick also oversees the Diet History Questionnaire, NCI's publicly available food frequency questionnaire. She also serves as the Project Scientist for the NIH Common Fund's Nutrition for Precision Health, powered by the All of Us Research Program. Dr. Herrick's scientific interests include nutrient intakes and food consumption patterns among infants birth to 24 months, breastfeeding disparities, iodine nutrition, and ultra-processed food identification and consumption. Dr. Herrick received her B.S. in biochemistry and psychology from The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, her M.Sc. degree in maternal and child nutrition from The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine at The University College London in the UK, and her Ph.D. in nutrition health sciences from Emory University.

Karen Jarvis



Karen Jarvis is a Research Microbiologist in the Office of Regulatory Science, Division of Microbiology. She joined the FDA 2009 as a fellow in the Office of Applied Research & Safety Assessment where she used her molecular biology expertise to identify and type *Cronobacter* sp., develop detection methods for Biothreat agents, and advance *Salmonella* detection in food. The adoption of genomic sequencing to FDA's regulatory foodborne pathogen detect pipeline in 2012 was followed by the development of new metagenomic research initiatives. Our MetagenomeTrakr research team is focused on improving current culture methods and identifying foodborne pathogens and their persistence in food and the environment. Prior to joining the FDA Ms. Jarvis was a project manager and lead microbiologist at Northrup Grumman. There she used her expertise in developing molecular methods for the detection of *Bacillus anthracis* during the deployment of Biohazard Detection System, which screens letter mail for Anthrax. She earned her M.S. degree in Microbiology from the University of Maryland at Baltimore, working on the molecular characterization of the LEE pathogenicity island of enterohemorrhagic *E. coli*.

David Klurfeld



David Klurfeld is Adjunct Professor in the Indiana University School of Public Health. He retired as National Program Leader for Human Nutrition in the USDA Agricultural Research Service at the end of 2020, where he was responsible for the scientific direction of human nutrition research for 16 years. Prior to government service, he was Professor and Chairman of the Department of Nutrition & Food Science at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan for 12 year. Before that, he was on the faculty of The Wistar Institute and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine for 15 years. His research focused on the relationship of diet and prevention of chronic diseases. Among his scientific discoveries are the first demonstration that red wine consumption resulted in fewer cardiovascular lesions, that the cholesterol-filled cells in human arterial lesions are white blood cells, that reducing calories was more important than reducing fat in the diet for decreasing cancer growth, and a mediator of this last effect was likely IGF-1. Dr. Klurfeld has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters. He was Associate Editor of the American Journal for Clinical Nutrition from 2007 to 2019. He was elected a Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition (ASN) in 2018, received the Ralph Holman Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Oil Chemists Society in 2019, and the David Kritchevsky Career Achievement Award from ASN in 2020. Dr. Klurfeld received his undergraduate degree in general agriculture from Cornell University and both master's and doctorate degrees in pathology from the Medical College of Virginia.

Ernest Kwegyir-Afful



Ernest received his Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Maryland, Baltimore and a Certificate in Data Science from Georgetown University. His graduate work and subsequent post-doctoral work at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine focused on signal transformation in neuronal networks involved in somatosensory perception and memory consolidation. In 2010, he joined the U.S Food and Drug Administration as Commissioner's Fellow where he worked in the Office of Food Additive Safety serving as the technical lead on quantitative risk assessment projects. Ernest has previously led CFSAN's efforts in designing an AI engine, "Emerging Chemical Hazard Intelligence Platform", to assist the pilot Chemical Signals Program in detecting and predicting the emergence of potential chemical hazards of concern in the food supply. This work was featured in a KM World publication and the Harvard Business Review. Ernest has had the privilege to advise and interact with various government organizations, including the Dutch and Swedish governments, on the use of effective and appropriate tools to successfully implement AI powered applications that address specific challenges. Ernest is currently leading an effort to build an intelligent analytic and knowledge discovery engine that will help streamline some of the Office's and Center's horizon scanning activities related to premarket submissions and post market surveillance.

Kristin Lewis



Kristin Lewis is a project director within the Center for Public Engagement with Science and Technology at the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Kristin leads the AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellowship, co-leads the AAAS IF/THEN Ambassadors and facilitates Communicating Science workshops. Prior to joining AAAS in 2019, Kristin supported the development of the Fourth National Climate Assessment at the U.S. Global Change Research Program, and was a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow at NASA. She holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Michigan, and can often be seen on her bike in the streets or trails around D.C.

Giulia Menichetti



Dr. Menichetti is a Principal Investigator and Junior Faculty at Harvard Medical School (Brigham and Women's Hospital) and an affiliated faculty member at the Network Science Institute (Northeastern University). She is a statistical/computational physicist by training, and during her Ph.D. she specialized in Network Science. She currently leads the Foodome project, which aims to track the full chemical complexity of the food we consume and develop quantitative tools to unveil, at the mechanistic level, the impact of these chemicals on our health. More recently, for her work on reproducible food quality metrics and informed decision-making, she was selected by the Rockefeller Foundation and Acumen Academy for the inaugural cohort of the Food Systems Fellowship, a 1-year program supporting 20 world leaders acting on the complexity of food systems.

Steven Musser



Dr. Musser is the Deputy Center Director for Scientific Operations at CFSAN. In addition to managing the Center's scientific operations, he oversees the Center's activities in cosmetics safety, color certification, pre-market review of food additives, food contact notifications and foods derived from bioengineered plants. He has directed the Center's research in precedent setting areas of food and cosmetic safety research, which include food allergen detection, methods for detecting chemical contaminants, dietary supplement analysis, and the use of whole genome sequencing during foodborne illness outbreak investigations. He has authored or co-authored more than 100 articles in the peer reviewed scientific literature and regularly speaks on CFSAN's research at national and international scientific meetings.

Dr. Musser received his B.S. degree in Biology from Millersville University and his Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Maryland-Baltimore. He then completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute. He started his career at FDA in 1991 as a research chemist and became the Branch Chief of the Instrumentation and Biophysics Branch six years later. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Musser was the Director of the Office of Regulatory Science at CFSAN.

Andrew Neilson



Dr. Neilson received his BS in Food Science from Brigham Young University in 2005 and his PhD in Food Science from Purdue University in 2009. He completed a postdoc in diet and colon cancer prevention at the University of Michigan Medical School from 2009-11. Following his postdoc, Dr. Neilson was a faculty member in the Department of Food Science & Technology at Virginia Tech from 2011-18. He was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor there in 2017. Dr. Neilson joined NC State and PHHI at the start of 2019. Dr. Neilson's research focuses on interactions between dietary bioactives and the gut microbiome and how such interactions affect human health. He is an associate editor for the journal *Food & Function*. In his free time, Dr. Neilson enjoys backpacking, hunting, fishing and making knives.

Nitin Nitin



Prof. N. Nitin is a professor in the departments of Food Science and Technology and Biological and Agricultural Engineering at the University of California, Davis. His research program focuses on developing innovative food biomaterials, biosensors, and data and mechanistic modeling approaches to enhance food safety and improve food quality and its associated health impacts. Prof. Nitin has published over 170 peer-reviewed publications and is a co-inventor on 17 patent and patent applications. Research from his laboratory has also supported the founding of early-stage companies. Prof. Nitin also serves as a vice-chair and Barrett's Faculty Fellow.

Lauren O'Connor



Dr. O'Connor is a Nutrition Scientist in the Food Components and Health Lab at the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center, USDA. Her research covers a range of topics under the umbrella of dietary patterns and chronic disease, with emphasis on how certain foods (e.g., red meat and processed foods) behave both metabolically and methodologically within the context of various dietary patterns for US populations. She currently serves as the chair-elect for the American Society for Nutrition (ASN)'s Climate/Environment, Health, Agriculture, and Improved Nutrition (CHAIN) Research Interest Group; the Awards Chair for ASN's Early Career Membership Group; a member of the FASEB Early Career Representative Engagement Task Force; and is on the Editorial Board for *Frontiers in Nutrition's* Nutrition Methodology Section. Before coming to BHNRC, Dr. O'Connor was a Cancer Prevention Research Fellow at the NIH's National Cancer Institute. She served on the Data Analysis Team for the 2020-25 Dietary Guidelines for Americans; played an integral role in advancements for NCI's Automated Self-Administered 24-Hour Dietary Assessment Tool, including development of the Respondent Nutrition Report, the Sleep Assessment Module, and the Novel Foods Tool. During her fellowship at NCI, Dr. O'Connor completed an MPH at Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology and biostatistical methods. Dr. O'Connor obtained her PhD in Nutrition Science from Purdue University, where her research focused on cardiometabolic health effects of red meat intake via randomized controlled feeding trials, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses.

Maggie Pandis



Maggie focuses on the safety of both food and packaging in her current role as Conagra Brand's Senior Regulatory Affairs Specialist / Toxicologist. She has over 10 years of industry experience with broad academic experiences including finance, chemistry, biology, and food science and technology. She currently serves as the chair of IAFNS Food Packaging Safety and Sustainability committee.

Barbara Schneeman



Barbara Schneeman is Emeritus Professor of Nutrition at the University of California, Davis. From 2004 to 2013 she was the Director of the Office of Nutrition, Labeling, and Dietary Supplements at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She chaired the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee and served on the 1990 and 1995 Committees. She is a member of 2 nutrition advisory committees for WHO and a member of the NASEM Food and Nutrition Board. Over her career she has received several awards and has been recognized for her work on dietary fiber, gastrointestinal function, development and use of food-based dietary guidelines, and policy development in food and nutrition.

Steven Thomson



Dr. Steven J. Thomson is National Program Leader (NPL) with the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). He engages Universities, other federal agencies, and industry to provide national leadership in Capacity and Competitive Grant programs. Grant programs he manages include Engineering for Agricultural Production and Processing, Engineering for Precision Crop and Water Management, and NSF-collaborative programs such as Foundational Research in Robotics, Cyber-Physical Systems, and AI Institutes. Dr. Thomson has background in sensing systems and electronics, precision agriculture, aerial application of crop protection materials, applied statistics, water balance and crop modeling, and agricultural safety. Dr. Thomson received the Alpha Epsilon Award for his Research/Extension program and Outstanding Faculty Award in the Biological Systems Engineering (BSE) dept. while on faculty at Virginia Tech. He was a Lead Scientist with the USDA ARS before joining USDA-NIFA in early 2016. He has authored or co-authored over 100 journal articles, two book chapters, and several Extension publications and software.

Luxin Wang



Luxin Wang is an associate professor with the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of California Davis. Her research program focuses on the microbial safety of fresh produce, animal and aquacultural products. Her program uses conventional microbiological technologies and newer precision approaches, such as comparative genomics and metagenomics, to study the behavior of foodborne pathogens and their interactions with the background microbiota. Projects underway aim to advance the understanding of the genetic and environmental factors impacting the dissemination and persistence of antibiotic-resistant zoonotic pathogens and identify novel intervention strategies to better control foodborne pathogens.

Carter Williams



Carter Williams has spent his entire career working on innovation. First as a young engineer at McDonnell Douglas, next in his leadership roles at Boeing managing R&D and starting Boeing Ventures. Later as a successful entrepreneur and venture investor. Throughout his career, he has directly managed investments of over \$600 million in early-stage ventures and corporate research, resulting in several billion dollars of new product revenues. As part of Boeing Phantom Works, Carter led Boeing's technology planning process, involving all aspects of internal and external technology development and manufacturing research. This eventually led to his role in founding and managing Boeing Ventures. After Boeing, he was President of GridLogix, initially a small 4-person startup that grew over 3 years, exiting successfully to Johnson Controls in October 2008. Gridlogix became Johnson Controls Panopics system. Before leading iSelect, Carter was Senior Managing Director at Progress Partners, an energy and technology investment banking firm. He was a Managing Partner at Open Innovation Ventures and a Director at Clayton Capital Partners. Carter is the past President and Founder of the MIT Corporate Venturing Consortium and Co-founder of the MIT Entrepreneurship Society. He has an M.B.A. from the MIT Sloan School and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He also writes about innovation at the substack Creative Destruction.

Nelly Wilson



Nelly Wilson is an emerging leader at Google. Leading engineering delivery teams, she designs and implements data and AI solutions at Google Cloud. Bringing her voice to conversations that not only shape the present but also create the future, Nelly is consistently sought out for her thought leadership. Her work across multiple industries has been recognized with various awards, including Google Cloud Club, of which she is the youngest-ever recipient.

Felicia Wu



Felicia Wu is the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Food Safety, Toxicology, and Risk Assessment at Michigan State University, and President-Elect of the Society for Risk Analysis. She works at the nexus of agriculture, food and nutrition, and public health to improve global human health outcomes. Currently Dr. Wu leads and co-leads nine extramural grants and one World Health Organization contract, with topics ranging from assessing the impact of climate change on aflatoxin risk in corn, improving resilience of food systems against shocks, reducing presence of mycotoxins, heavy metals, and pathogens in food crops, and assessing effects of dairy consumption and aflatoxin M1 on Ethiopian children's health. Dr. Wu is an expert advisor to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and an elected Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis. Recently she was appointed by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to become a Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development for the state of Michigan. Dr. Wu earned her PhD in Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and AB and SM in Applied Mathematics/Medical Sciences at Harvard University.

Rickey Yada



In 2014, Professor Rickey Yada was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. Prior to UBC, Dr. Yada was at the University of Guelph where he held numerous leadership roles, including Chair, Department of Food Science, Assistant Vice President Research, Canada Research Chair in Food Protein Structure, Scientific Director of the Advanced Foods and Materials Network (Networks of Centres of Excellence), and Founding Member of the Food Institute. Dr. Yada serves in a leadership capacity to several research and industry organizations, some of which include Board of Bioenterprise Inc.; Advisory Committee Member – Arrell Food Institute; Member of the Scientific Advisory Panels – Riddet Institute (New Zealand); and AgResearch (New Zealand). He is also a Past President and Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology and the International Academy of the International Union of Food Science and Technology, and is also a fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists. Dr. Yada has an honorary DSc from the University of Guelph and was the 2019 Harraways 1867 Visiting Professor, University of Otago, New Zealand.

Allison A. Yates



Allison A. Yates holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from UCLA in public health and dietetics, a PhD from the University of California at Berkeley in nutrition, and is a registered dietitian. In 1994 she was named Director of the Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Institute of Medicine, now the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, where, over a 10-year period through 2004, she led the expanded approach to establishing human requirements and recommendations for nutrients (RDAs), termed Dietary Reference Intakes (DRIs), for the United States and Canada. While at the FNB, she directed the 2002-2004 study for the U.S. FDA to design a framework for evaluating the safety of dietary supplements. In 2006, she joined the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), as Director of the Beltsville Human Nutrition Research Center; where she subsequently was appointed Associate Director for the Beltsville Area region of ARS, retiring in October 2014. While at USDA, she served as the alternate delegate for the United States to the WHO/FAO Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses. She was selected a Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition in 2014 and served as an editor for the 11th edition of *Present Knowledge in Nutrition* as well as the chair of the ILSI-North America/IAFNS Standing Committee to Guide Development of Recommendations for Bioactive Dietary Substances.