



2024 Annual
Summer Science Symposium

A Gathering of Scientific and Regulatory Experts

**Speaker
Biographies**

**June 4-5
National Press Club
Washington, DC**

Simin Meydani, DVM PhD – Co-Chair of IAFNS Board of Trustees

Dr. Simin Meydani has been a senior scientist and director of the Nutritional Immunology lab at the JM USDA Human Nutrition Center on Aging, a professor in nutrition at the Friedman School of Nutrition, and in immunology at Tufts Medical School. Dr. Meydani served as the Associate Director and later as the Director of the HNRCA for a total of 11 years. Furthermore, she held the position of Vice Provost for Research at Tufts University for three years, contributing as a key member of the university's senior leadership team. Her service extended to various governmental, non-profit, professional associations, industry and company boards and committees, as well as editorial roles for key nutrition journals. She has authored over 300 scientific publications and her research funding exceeds \$40M from sources such as NIH, USDA, industry, and foundations, where she has served as principal investigator or co-investigator. Her primary research focus revolves around nutrition and health, particularly in the context of aging, the immune system, and infection. Dr. Meydani has served in leadership roles in professional societies including President of the American Society for Nutrition, where she received the Robert H. Herman Award in Clinical Nutrition in 2008 and the Lederle Award in Human Nutrition in 1998. She presided over the American Aging Association from 2005 to 2006 and received the Denham Harman Lifetime Research Achievement Award in 2003. In addition, she was bestowed the 2013-2014 Iowa State University Lifetime Achievement Distinguished Alumni Award and the International HERMES Vitamin Research Award. Dr. Meydani currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Institute for Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences.

Jess Sweley, PhD – Co-Chair of IAFNS Board of Trustees

Dr. Jess Sweley is the Senior Vice President of research and development at Conagra Brands, where he is responsible for the company's product development and culinary teams. He has worked in the food industry for almost 20 years in various positions at Frito-Lay, Kraft, and TreeHouse Foods prior to his current role at Conagra. Jess holds both his BS degree in biological systems engineering and PhD degree in food science and technology from the University of Nebraska and is also a graduate of the Master's of Engineering Management program at Northwestern University. He serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Grain Science and Industry at Kansas State University. Dr. Sweley currently serves as the Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Institute for Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences.

Steven Hermansky, PhD – IAFNS Annual Summer Science Symposium Co-Chair

Dr. Steven Hermansky joined FDA in April 2022 to work in the area of chemical food safety and to evaluate and move to New Alternative Methods in their continuing effort to reduce, refine and even replace animal use in toxicology. He is the current Deputy Director (Acting) of the Office of Food Additive Safety (OFAS). Dr. Hermansky left Conagra Brands in April 2022 where he directed and oversaw the corporation's toxicology and product safety risk assessment programs as well as headed the Food Protection, Regulatory Affairs and Analytical and Applied Sciences departments. In this role, Dr. Hermansky led teams of scientists in the Safety Sciences including microbiology, toxicology and analytical chemistry as well as the global regulatory affairs and food safety corporate audit functions. Prior to joining Conagra in 2007, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry as a toxicologist with responsibilities in drug safety clinical trials and adverse event tracking, trending and reporting. He started his career as a toxicologist conducting contract laboratory animal studies with Union Carbide. He has a Doctor of Pharmacy degree as well as Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in toxicology

from the University of Nebraska. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and has published over 40 textbook chapters, peer reviewed publications and scientific abstracts. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska College of Public Health and has served on the advisory or editorial boards of several organizations.

Jessica Campbell, PhD – IAFNS Scientific Leadership Council Co-Chair

Dr. Jessica Campbell is a Director at General Mills, Inc. She leads the Bell Institute of Health & Nutrition, a group of dedicated nutrition and food scientists, dietitians, and public health nutritionists. The Bell Institute integrates nutrition science, regulatory and policy expertise and communications to deliver strategic innovation in health and nutrition for General Mills' businesses globally. After earning her Bachelor's and PhD from University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, she began her food industry career by leading clinical research studies, advocating in global nutrition scientific, policy and regulatory matters, and developing global health and nutrition innovation strategies for General Mills. Jessica serves on the International Food Information Council (IFIC) Board of Trustees and on the External Advisory Committee for the University of Illinois Personalized Nutrition Initiative. She is a member of the American Society of Nutrition (ASN) and the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS) and serves on the IAFNS Scientific Leadership Council. Other external engagement and representation on nutrition and regulatory matters includes Consumer Good Forum – Coalition for Healthier Lives, Consumer Brands Association, FMI: Food Industry Association, and the Portion Balance Coalition. She is also chair of the IDFDA, International Dairy Foods Association, Nutrition and Health Committee.

Hongda Chen, PhD – IAFNS Scientific Leadership Council Co-Chair

Dr. Hongda Chen is National Program Leader for Bioprocess Engineering and Nanotechnology at the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), USDA. He leads a national portfolio of food science, engineering and technology in research, education and extension for advancing food manufacturing technologies for safe, nutritious and value-added products. He also leads the nanoscale science and nanotechnology for agriculture and food systems. He directs several competitive grants programs in the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI). Dr. Chen received an M.S. in food science and technology, and Ph.D. in engineering from University of California, Davis. He was a tenured professor of Food Engineering at the University of Vermont before joining USDA. Dr. Chen has been active in professional societies including IFT, IUFoST, ASABE and others, and served in various leadership roles. Dr. Chen is an elected Fellow of Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), International Academy of Food Science and Technology (IAFoST) of IUFoST, and American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE). He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association for Engineering and Food (IAEF) in 2019. He is a member of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS) Scientific Leadership Council

Aron Keith Barbey, PhD

Dr. Aron Keith Barbey is the Mildred Francis Thompson University Professor and Director of the Center for Brain, Biology and Behavior, and the Decision Neuroscience Laboratory at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He began his career at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2011, where he was promoted to full professor in 2019. Dr. Barbey's research investigates the neural mechanisms of human intelligence and decision making, with particular emphasis on enhancing these functions

through cognitive neuroscience, physical fitness, and nutritional intervention. His research has been supported by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Defense, the White House BRAIN Initiative, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and private industry (Abbott Nutrition, Google Brain, and PepsiCo). Dr. Barbey has received multiple research awards, is co-editor of the *Cambridge Handbook of Intelligence and Cognitive Neuroscience*, the *Sage Handbook of Cognitive and Systems Neuroscience*, and editor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Enhancement and Brain Plasticity*. In 2023, Dr. Barbey was appointed to the United States Defense Science Study Group at the Institute for Defense Analyses. He earned his doctorate in Psychology from Emory University and completed a research fellowship in Cognitive Neuroscience at the National Institutes of Health.

Andrew Bremer, MD, PhD, MAS, FAAP

Dr. Drew Bremer was appointed Director of the NIH Office of Nutrition Research (ONR), part of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives in the NIH Office of the Director in September 2023. His role works collaboratively with the NIH Institutes and Centers to advance and coordinate nutrition research. Dr. Bremer is a board-certified internist, pediatrician and pediatric endocrinologist, and has a Ph.D. in pharmacology. Prior to his appointment as the ONR Director, Dr. Bremer was the Chief of the Pediatric Growth and Nutrition Branch at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD). He earned his B.S. at Yale University, completed his M.D./Ph.D. training at Boston University, his internal medicine and pediatric residencies at the Baylor College of Medicine, his pediatric endocrinology fellowship at the University of California - San Francisco, and subsequently received an M.A.S. degree in clinical research from the University of California - Davis.

Kellie O. Casavale, PhD, RD

Dr. Kellie Casavale is a Senior Nutrition Advisor in the Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling in CFSAN, FDA. She supports cross-center and cross-departmental collaborations, particularly those related to the Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGAs), the Closer to Zero metals reduction initiative, and maternal and child populations. She has served in the Dietary Guidelines process through roles at USDA/CNPP, HHS/ODPHP, and now FDA for four cycles of the DGAs. She supported the development of the first Dietary Patterns for children under 2 years with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. Other leadership roles include the U.S. Federal Data Consortium on Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months, the Human Milk Composition Initiative in the U.S. and Canada, and the “Birth to 24 Months” projects in CDC’s National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES). She contributes leadership for Closer to Zero and the FDA/EPA Fish Advice, supporting nutrition while reducing potential exposures to chemical contaminants through food. Dr. Casavale has a BS in Biology from Lander University, a PhD in Nutrition Science from the University of North Carolina – Greensboro and is a Registered Dietitian.

Ben Chapman, PhD

Dr. Ben Chapman is department head of the department of Agricultural and Human Sciences at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, North Carolina. In addition to running a laboratory, Dr. Chapman manages the ‘Safe Plates’ food safety extension and research program. Safe Plates is NC State Extension's family of evidence-based food safety programming and resources for retail, community and home-based food safety. The Safe Plates Training and Educational

Programs branch primarily serves to provide consistent, evidence-based programs targeted to specific audiences. Dr. Chapman serves as the Co-Chair of STOP Foodborne Illness board of directors. STOP is an advocacy group for individuals affected by foodborne pathogens. Dr. Chapman also co-hosts two popular podcasts, *Food Safety Talk* and *Risky or Not?*

Conrad Choiniere, PhD

Dr. Conrad Choiniere 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, 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 Ph.D. in Agricultural and Resource Economics from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

Chuck Czuprynski, PhD

Dr. Chuck Czuprynski is a Professor in Microbiology and Director of the Food Research Institute at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. With a BA from Knox College and a PhD from University of Wisconsin - Madison, his research primarily focuses on understanding mechanisms of resistance to bacterial infection. His laboratory investigates various aspects such as gastrointestinal listeriosis and salmonellosis, immunotoxicology, bovine respiratory disease, and *histophilus somni*. Alongside his research, he teaches Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology and supervises graduate students in immunology, microbiology and toxicology. He also holds several leadership roles including Director of the Walter and Martha Renk Endowed Laboratory for Food Safety, and Chair of the Academic Committee of the Comparative Biomedical Sciences graduate program. Dr. Czuprynski has mentored numerous graduate students and postdoctoral trainees, many of whom have gone on to prominent positions in academia and industry.

Stephen Davies

Mr. Stephen Davis is a long-time agricultural issues journalist now serving as deputy managing editor of *Agri-Pulse Communications*, a publication and website that has covered farming and food policy for over 20 years. Davies has been a reporter at newspapers and trade newsletters since 1985 and wrote, edited and published his own newsletter, *Endangered Species & Wetlands Report*, from 1995 to 2015, before taking a position with *Agri-Pulse Communications*. His work addresses the complex environmental and legal issues impacting agriculture and agribusinesses. He covers a wide variety of topics at both EPA and USDA including pesticides, waters of the U.S., climate change, endangered species, PFAS chemicals and more. His specialties include coverage of environmental litigation and regulation. Davies graduated from Brown University where he served as executive editor of the *Brown Daily Herald*.

Ciarán Forde, PhD

Professor Ciarán Forde is the Chair in Sensory Science and Eating Behavior at the Division of Human Nutrition and Health, at Wageningen University and Research in the Netherlands. He leads research on how the sensory properties of foods influence calorie selection, eating behaviors and energy intake and metabolism across the lifespan. Prof. Forde has published over 120 scientific articles and book chapters, and his research has been presented at over 200

national and international meetings. Prof. Forde is an Executive Editor at the journal *Appetite*, is Section Editor in 'Nutrition Behavior and Food Intake Regulation' for the *European Journal of Nutrition*, and an editorial board member for *Nutrition Bulletin*, *Journal of Future Food* and *Journal of Texture Studies*. Before joining Wageningen, Prof. Forde previously spent almost 20 years in public and private sector research roles in the UK (GSK), Australia (CSIRO), Switzerland (Nestlé Research) and Singapore (National University of Singapore/A*STAR). He received his BSc (Hons) in Food Chemistry and a PhD in Sensory Science from the Department of Nutrition in University College Cork in Ireland.

Leigh Frame, MHS, PhD

Dr. Leigh Frame brings nutrition and immunity together through clinical, translational research. Her T-shaped expertise in health, wellness, science, and medicine was developed through her wide-ranging experience in biomedical research (from wet bench to clinical research) and overseeing research and education programs. Her interests include the role of the microbiome and nutrition in health, the consequences of malnutrition in obesity, vitamin D as an immune-modulatory hormone, research ethics, and science communication. She is building a George Washington University Integrative Medicine research program while directing the graduate education programs, the Office of Integrative Medicine and Health, and the Resiliency & Well-Being Center.

Kevin Hall, PhD

Dr. Kevin Hall is the Integrative Physiology Section Chief at NIDDK-NIH. His laboratory investigates how metabolism and the brain adapt in response to a variety of interventions to diet and physical activity. His team conducts experiments in both humans and rodents to better understand the complex mechanisms regulating macronutrient metabolism, body composition and energy expenditure. Uniquely, his research also involves the development of mathematical models to quantitatively describe, explain, integrate and predict experimental results. Overall, Dr. Hall's research aims to improve our understanding of body weight regulation and develop practical tools for research and clinical use.

Julie Hess, PhD

Dr. Julie Hess is a Research Nutritionist at the USDA's Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center (GFHNRC) in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Dr. Hess's research is centered on identifying and evaluating strategies to help Americans meet recommendations from the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Her work involves investigating how American diets currently align with dietary guidance and recognizing and addressing barriers to following recommendations, including dietary restrictions and dietary and cultural preferences. Before joining the GFHNRC, Dr. Hess served as Vice President of Scientific Affairs for the National Dairy Council in Chicago, IL. She is an active member and volunteer with several nutrition and scientific organizations, including the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), the National Nutrient Databank Conference, and the American Society for Nutrition (ASN), and currently serves as Chair of the Nutrition Translation Research Interest Section with ASN, a member of ASN's Publications Committee, and a member of the Annual Meeting Scientific Program Advisory Panel for IFT. She is also an adjunct assistant professor at the University of North Dakota. Dr. Hess received Bachelor of Arts degrees in French and English from the University of Texas at Austin and earned a doctoral degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Minnesota.

Jason Hlywka, PhD

Dr. Jason Hlywka is the Corporate Toxicologist and Global Lead for Regulatory and Scientific Affairs at The Kraft Heinz Company. In this capacity, Dr. Hlywka provides scientific and regulatory leadership and expertise as a member of the Global Quality organization. Broadly speaking, Dr. Hlywka has responsibility for oversight and development of positions, recommendations and strategies in areas related to chemical food safety and toxicology, and regarding topics associated with regulatory compliance and scientific affairs relevant to Kraft Heinz. Dr. Hlywka has dedicated his career to the applied field of food toxicology as it relates to human health and assessing the safety of dietary constituents. Dr. Hlywka completed his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in toxicology at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. He received his Ph.D. in food science and toxicology from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, USA and completed post-doctoral training at the Food Allergy Research and Resource Program at Nebraska under the guidance of Drs. Steve Taylor and Sue Hefle. Prior to Kraft Heinz, Dr. Hlywka has held industry positions with Kraft Foods, Cargill, and Cantox Health Sciences International. He has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and participates in various industry, academic, and scientific associations and committees. Dr. Hlywka is a Board Member of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences.

Cheryl Hogue, MS

Ms. Cheryl Hogue is an independent journalist/former reporter and editor at *Chemical & Engineering News*. Cheryl has degrees in biology and environmental science from William & Mary and Johns Hopkins University, respectively. She has decades of expertise in reporting on environmental and science policy, birding, editing, newsroom management, social media and digital photography. In addition, she has served in leadership roles in professional journalism societies.

Patrice Hubert, PhD, RDN

Dr. Patrice A. Hubert is a postdoctoral fellow at the Monell Chemical Senses Center, where she contributes to cutting-edge research in sensory nutrition science. Dr. Hubert earned her Ph.D. in Health Promotion Sciences from the University of Connecticut under the mentorship of Dr. Danielle Reed, focusing on translating sensory nutrition into tailored messages for promoting positive health behaviors. Her current research interests center on addressing health disparities in sensory science, particularly focusing on enhancing the recruitment of racial and ethnic minorities into sensory studies. Dr. Hubert is deeply committed to investigating taste perception as a potential risk factor for chronic diseases prevalent among the African diaspora, aiming to inform targeted interventions and strategies for mitigating health disparities. Through her work, she strives to contribute to creating a more inclusive and equitable landscape within the realm of nutrition and health.

Janet de Jesus, MS, RD

Ms. de Jesus is a Nutrition Advisor in the HHS Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. She is the HHS lead of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans process and participates in other crosscutting nutrition activities across the federal government. Previously, she was a Public Health Advisor at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute for 18 years. At NHLBI, she supported the development of clinical practice guidelines for the prevention and

treatment of cardiovascular risk factors in adults and pediatrics. She participated in the development of community programs to improve heart health in high-risk communities and nutrition education materials for cardiovascular health. Her community development portfolio includes materials for health care providers; consumer materials on cardiovascular risk reduction; and community health worker curriculum for multicultural communities. She completed her Master's Degree in Nutrition at Florida State University in Tallahassee.

Alexandra Johnston, PhD

Dr. Alexandra Johnston is a professor, sociolinguist, communications coach, and author with deep expertise in analyzing language and communication in everyday life. Dr. Johnston is an Associate Professor of the Practice in the Department of Linguistics at Georgetown University in Washington, DC., where she directs Master's programs in Sociolinguistics, Applied Linguistics and Computational Linguistics. As a professor and career coach, she has trained hundreds of social scientists in how to successfully secure and retain jobs in business, government, nonprofit and tech organizations. Additionally, Dr. Johnston has over 15 years of experience delivering global talent development training in intercultural communication, leadership, and change management to Fortune 500, nonprofit and government clients in the US and overseas. Dr. Johnston holds a PhD from Georgetown University in Linguistics, a Master's in East Asian Studies from Stanford University, and a BA in East Asian Studies from Washington University in St. Louis. She delivers invited talks nationally and internationally and her research has been supported by a Fulbright Fellowship and the National Science Foundation. In 2022 she received a Linguistic Service Award from the Linguistic Society of America.

Jim Jones, MS

Mr. Jim Jones joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in September 2023 as the agency's first Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods. In this new executive position, which reports directly to the FDA Commissioner, Jones leads the charge in setting and advancing priorities for a proposed, unified Human Foods Program (HFP), which includes food safety, chemical safety and nutrition activities. He currently oversees the leadership of the agency's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and Office of Food Policy and Response until the proposed HFP reorganization is implemented. Mr. Jones came to the FDA with intimate knowledge of the foods program, having served on the Reagan-Udall Foundation's Independent Expert Panel. Mr. Jones spent most of his career as a federal regulator of pesticides, toxic substances, chemical safety and pollution prevention at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and spent much of his more than 30-year tenure involved in leadership and decision-making related to food safety. He was a principal architect of the 2016 overhaul of the Toxic Substances Control Act, where Jones led discussions with members of Congress, industry and environmental groups that resulted in a law reshaping how chemical safety is managed in the U.S.

David Kitts, PhD

Dr. David Kitts is a Professor in the Food Science program within Food Nutrition and Health, in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems; and currently the Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia, Canada. Dr. Kitts started his career at UBC in 1983 and has maintained a NSERC funded research program that has focused on establishing structure-function relationships between many minor bioactive constituents of food constituents with nutritional and toxicological significance at both the cellular and molecular level. Some long-term projects include characterizing the antioxidant-

bioactivity of many pigments found in foods. In the last few years, his research focus has been on finding relationships between phytochemical composition mixtures of tea and coffee components with specific bioactive characteristics that involve underlying antioxidant and anti-inflammatory mechanisms of action.

Vassilis Kontogiorgos, PhD

Dr. Vassilis Kontogiorgos has received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Food Science from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece). A full scholarship was then awarded from the Greek State Scholarships Foundation for PhD studies in Food Science at the University of Guelph (Canada), where he studied the physical chemistry of foods at sub-zero temperatures. After his PhD, he worked as an NSERC research fellow at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Canada), studying the behavior of soluble dietary fiber in mixed systems with proteins. Following that post, he worked as a teaching and research academic at the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Huddersfield (UK) before joining the School of Agriculture and Food Science at the University of Queensland (Australia). Dr Kontogiorgos joined the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia, where he currently focuses on the interfacial properties of polysaccharides and the physical properties of biodegradable materials for food packaging.

Ernest K. Kwegyir-Afful, PhD, RAC

Dr. Ernest Kwegyir-Afful 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 a Commissioner’s Fellow where he worked in the Office of Food Additive Safety serving as the technical lead on quantitative risk assessment projects. Dr. Kwegyir-Afful 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*. Dr. Kwegyir-Afful 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. Dr. Kwegyir-Afful 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.

Benoit Lamarche, PhD

Dr. Benoît Lamarche is Full Professor at the School of Nutrition and Scientific Director and founder of the FRQS-funded Research Center on Nutrition, santé et société (NUTRISS) at Université Laval. He has published over 430 scientific articles in specialized journals in the fields of nutrition and cardiometabolic and public health and has supervised over 70 Master’s and Doctoral students. He has received numerous awards, including awards from the Société Québécoise de lipidologie, nutrition et métabolisme (Prix des Fondateurs, 2013) and the Canadian Nutrition Society (Centrum New Investigator Award, 2011 and the Khursheed Jeejeebhoy Award, 2020, Fellow, 2024). He is the author, with Jean Soulard, of two books for

the general public on nutrition, health and sport. In the more distant past, he took part in the Winter Olympics in long-track speed skating (1984 and 1988).

Lynne McLandsborough, PhD

Dr. Lynne A. McLandsborough serves as the Interim Director of the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is also the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement for the College of Natural Sciences and a Professor of Food Microbiology. With a Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Minnesota, McLandsborough has extensive experience in leadership, research and teaching. Her current research focuses on food safety, particularly studying bacterial ecology in foods and processing surfaces, cross-contamination, and cleaning and sanitation methods. She has secured over \$8 million in research funding, holds two US patents, and has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. McLandsborough is also actively involved in professional activities, outreach, and service, both within her scientific specialty and at the university, college, and departmental levels. She is recognized for her mentorship and teaching, having mentored numerous students at various levels and receiving honors for her outstanding contributions to teaching and advising.

Kathleen Melanson, PhD, RD, LDN

Dr. Kathleen Melanson has focused her research on aspects of human energy balance since the start of her doctoral studies in the Energy Metabolism Laboratory at Tufts University School of Nutrition. There, she conducted work examining factors that may influence pre- and post-prandial energy expenditure and substrate oxidation. During her post-doctoral fellowship in the Human Biology Department at Maastricht University, she turned her attention to the intake side of the energy balance equation, investigating appetite physiology. Now at the University of Rhode Island (URI), Dr. Melanson directs the Energy Balance Laboratory, with research focused on healthy body weight management, chronic disease risk reduction, energy and macronutrient balances, appetite, dietary quality, and the interface between nutrition and physical activity. Her laboratory team consists of an organized system of doctoral, masters, and undergraduate students under her direction. She has collaborated within URI, nationally, and internationally, and has led the nutritional aspects of many weight-management studies.

Vince Sewalt, PhD

Dr. Vincent Sewalt served as Head of Scientific and Public Affairs at International Flavors & Fragrances. Prior to this role, he led the Regulatory Science and Advocacy function of DuPont Nutrition & Biosciences. Dr. Sewalt has an engineering degree from Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands, a PhD in Nutrition from Virginia Tech, and has conducted post-doctoral research in agricultural biotechnology with Agriculture Canada and with the Noble Foundation. With over 20 years' experience managing innovation and market access of biotechnology products in four US companies, Dr. Sewalt is passionate about capacity building in biotechnology oversight for new applications and in emerging markets. In recent years, he has shared his insights in biotechnology risk assessment and communication in several food and biotechnology conferences, with multiple trade associations, with NGOs such as Woodrow Wilson, the National Academy of Sciences, and Codex Alimentarius, and in meetings with regulatory agencies such as the US FDA, US EPA, USDA and their counterparts in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Dr. Sewalt is also Associate Editor of the journal *Industrial Biotechnology*. In addition to regulatory submissions

and presentations, Dr. Sewalt has published over 25 peer-reviewed publications and patents in the areas of agriculture and nutrition, biotechnology and safety assessment. He is a member of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS) Scientific Leadership Council

John Sievenpiper, MD, PhD

Dr. John Sievenpiper is a Clinician Scientist who holds appointments as a Professor at the University of Toronto and Staff Physician and Scientist at St. Michael's Hospital. He has established an internationally recognized research program focused on using randomized controlled trials and epidemiological approaches to address questions of clinical and public health importance in relation to diet and cardiometabolic disease prevention. He is the recipient of numerous awards. He is directly involved in clinical practice guidelines development for obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease with appointments to expert committees in Canada and Europe. He has authored more than 270 papers and serves on the Board of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences.

Abby Snyder, PhD

Dr. Abigail Snyder serves as Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University. Her research focuses on microbial food safety and quality. She studies how the physical and spatial attributes of food processing environments influence the formation of microbial communities on those environmental surfaces and make it easier or more difficult to manage that environmental microbiota. Dr. Snyder's laboratory aims to answer many fundamental questions that are important to the control of cross-contamination through elimination of harborage sites and prevention of their formation. They are also interested in how microbial genomics influences spoilage potential, and environmental persistence. The goal of Dr. Snyder's research is to develop practical solutions to ongoing challenges in microbial food safety and spoilage. This work requires an enhanced understanding of incidence, harborage, transfer, resistance to removal, and tolerance to inactivation among pathogens and spoilage microbes in order to develop risk-based interventions. Ultimately, this leads to the development of better tools for application, monitoring and verification of critical food safety programs.

Eve E. Stoody, PhD

Dr. Eve Stoody is the Director of the Nutrition Guidance and Analysis Division of USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. Two of her primary responsibilities are to support the development of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the re-evaluation of the Thrifty Food Plan. Dr. Stoody has supported the development of the Dietary Guidelines since the 2010 edition, including serving lead roles in the most recent editions. She also oversaw the development of the Thrifty Food Plan, 2021. Prior to her current role, Dr. Stoody was a Lead Nutritionist within CNPP and was an analyst for USDA's Nutrition Evidence Systematic Review team. She served as a project manager for the Pregnancy and Birth to 24 Months Systematic Review Project and the Dietary Patterns Systematic Review Project. She was also a Fellow at HHS's Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Eve received her Bachelor of Science in biology with a minor in nutrition from Texas Christian University and her Doctorate in nutrition from Texas Woman's University.

Martin Wiedmann, PhD

Dr. Martin Wiedmann is the Gellert Family Professor in Food Safety in the Department of Food Science at Cornell University. He also serves as co-director of the New York State Integrated Food Safety Center of Excellence. Wiedmann earned a DVM and Dr. med. vet. in veterinary medicine from the University of Munich and Ph.D. in food science from Cornell University. Trained both as a veterinarian and food scientist, Dr. Wiedmann's research focuses on a comprehensive and interdisciplinary farm-to-table approach to food safety and quality, with the overall goal to develop and communicate the scientific knowledge needed to prevent and control foodborne and zoonotic diseases caused by bacteria as well as microbial food spoilage. Dr. Wiedmann is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Academy of Microbiology, the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and the International Academy of Food Science and Technology. Dr. Wiedmann has been awarded the International Dairy Food Association (IDFA) Food Safety Leadership Award (2017) and the International Life Science Institute (ILSI) North America Future Leaders Award (2004).

Felicia Wu, PhD

Dr. Felicia Wu is the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Food Safety, Toxicology and Risk Assessment at Michigan State University and President of the Society for Risk Analysis. She works at the nexus of agriculture, food safety 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 a Member of 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 as a Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development for the state of Michigan and named as one of ten University Distinguished Professors at MSU. 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. She is a member of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS) Scientific Leadership Council

William Yan, PhD

Dr. William Yan obtained his Bachelor and Masters's degrees in Microbiology and Ph.D. in Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases from the University of Alberta. He completed his post-doctoral training at Tufts University Medical School in Boston, MA before beginning his career in Health Canada's Food Directorate as a Research Scientist in 1995. Between 1999 and 2009, he was Head of the Office of Biotechnology, Chief of the Evaluation Division in the Bureau of Microbial Hazards, and Director of the Health Effects Division at the Pest Management Regulatory Agency. In 2010, Dr. Yan was appointed Director of the Bureau of Nutritional Sciences in the Food Directorate where he led several high-profile ministerial priorities under the Healthy Eating Strategy including: the amendment of the nutrition labelling regulations; the prohibition of partially hydrogenated oils; sodium reduction, and the development of the front-of-package nutrition labelling regulations. He also led the work in developing a regulatory framework for products in the Food/Natural Health Products interface resulting in the publication of the new Supplemented Foods Regulation in July 2022. Dr. Yan has also been adjunct and part-time professor at the University of Ottawa for over 25 years. After retiring from

Health Canada in 2022, Dr. Yan has continued his teaching of undergraduate and post-graduate programs at the University of Ottawa. In 2023, Dr. Yan's career achievement was recognized by his appointment as Health Products and Food Branch Scientist Emeritus at Health Canada. Dr. Yan serves as a board member of the Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences.

Hayley Young, PhD

Dr. Hayley Young is an Associate Professor of Psychology at Swansea University, specializing in the influence of nutrition on cognition, mood and eating behavior. Her research delves into various aspects such as the role of dietary carbohydrates in school performance, aging, and sleep, as well as the effects of hydration on cognitive, affective and cardiovascular functions. She is particularly interested in understanding the interoceptive, autonomic, and neural processes underlying emotion regulation and how diet impacts these mechanisms. With expertise spanning nutrition, glycemic control, hydration and emotion regulation, Dr. Young employs interdisciplinary methods in her research. In addition, she is actively involved in teaching third-year modules on Psychology of Sports and Exercise and Nutrition and Behavior, as well as supervising PhD students.