

## Opening Remarks

*Leigh Verbois, Ph.D., Director, Asia-Pacific Office*

(Leigh Verbois): So, I want to call everyone to attention. We are about to start our educational forum for today. And we're very, very excited to have you all involved. We recognize that there's potentially going to be people trickling in because of the traffic that was happening on 495 and on New Hampshire. So expect additional visitors as we are going through the meeting and we're very excited.

So, let me first say, thank you for joining us. We expect to have very informative sessions with our speakers today and if you have any questions, if you can hold them to the end. We are going to have everyone come to the microphone to ask questions because we're taking transcripts of the meeting today and we'd like to make it available to as many people as possible.

So, please come to the microphone to ask your questions. I really want to say that it's forums like this where the FDA can really share information on what we do, how we do it and new changes across the agency. And in this era of globalization it's ever important that we share this information as broadly as possible. So pulling together meetings such as these where we're have colleagues across the embassies is one of the ways in which we as an agency can really share information as broadly as possible and engage with our counterparts in other organizations.

So thank you for joining us. If you have any questions outside of this meeting, don't hesitate to contact one of us. We will have our international

policy analysts here today to help answer any questions you may have or just make contacts that you'd like to make.

And I'm going to have a couple of people stand up. (Sousan), if you could please stand up. This is (Sousan Altaie), she has been responsible for planning this meeting today so many of you have been in contact with either her or other members of our staff.

Sema, if you could stand. Sema is the Deputy Director of the Asia Pacific Office. And she and I work very closely in organizing the office as the Asia Pacific and the Middle East and Northern Africa office join together in FDA's Headquarters.

As you will note, this educational forum is not limited to the Asia Pacific region, we're just the office that planned this meeting and felt that engaging with our counterparts in other areas of the world would actually be the best use of our resources.

There will be other international policy analysts joining us today and they'll be able to introduce themselves at lunch and during the break so please don't hesitate to, kind of, mingle and meet your colleagues, because that's one of the purposes of this meeting.

In terms of logistics, I just want to point out that the bathrooms are around the corner. If you walk right out of these doors, it's all that way towards the double doors and to the right. And you go all the way down the hall. There's also some vending machines over there that have soda. We're bringing in some water and we're having some logistical hiccups in terms of coffee so we'll have to plan that accordingly.

We are hoping that the little café in this building will open for lunch but if it doesn't we actually have a van that will help carry 15 or so if you to public places around the area for lunch. And we'll provide some information on that as the day progresses. So we'll know in about an hour and a half whether or not we can get the café open, you can feel free to go off campus for lunch, we have an hour and a half.

And then, (Sousan), who stood up earlier and is in the red will be driving about 15 individuals, if necessary, to another location to have lunch. Okay? So I really want to get us started today because we are recording, Marie will let people know when it is okay to start speaking for the presentations because we really do want to make sure we have a full transcript. And again, if you have any questions please come to the microphone so we capture your question appropriately and are able to get the answer on record too. Thank you so much.

I also - I want to introduce Domenic Veneziano, he is the Director of Import Operations. And he's going to lead us through our presentations this morning.