

## **Bios - Guest Presenters**

### **Segment 1 – Partnerships to Improve Food Safety Capabilities: Capacity Building**

#### **Lystra Antoine, M.B.A., J.D., Chief Executive Officer, Global Food Safety Partnership, The World Bank**

Lystra is a transformational leader with extensive experience in the public and private sectors, designing and managing results-driven strategies to improve the human condition through safe, reliable and sustainable food systems. She joined the GFSP as the CEO in August 2016, and her top three priorities are to: (1) focus the GFSP to achieve its strategic objectives; (2) expand the awareness and involvement of key stakeholders; and (3) elevate the importance of food safety to achieve the sustainable development goals. For four years prior to joining the GFSP, Lystra was the Global Director for DuPont Pioneer's sustainable agriculture development efforts and was responsible for designing and leading the implementation of agriculture development initiatives that helped smallholder farmers improve their livelihoods and increase their contribution to the value chain. A firm believer in the achievement of the sustainable development goals, Lystra spent sixteen years at the World Bank prior to joining DuPont. She understands global funds and was responsible for investor relations and resource mobilization in the Fund Office of the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research, the largest public sector entity devoted to agriculture research globally, while in her previous role at the World Bank. She worked in multiple departments across the World Bank, gaining experience in several countries spanning four continents. Lystra holds an MBA from SUNY Buffalo and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center.

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#### **Brian G. Bedard, DVM, Executive Director, Grocery Manufacturers Association Science and Education Foundation**

Dr. Brian Bedard is a veterinary epidemiologist, international agriculture and food safety specialist and senior manager with more than 30 years of experience in China, Southeast Asia, Mongolia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the United States and Canada. This has included national and international programs related to food safety, livestock health and production, adjunct professorships, research and development, extension education and training and the facilitation of a variety of agro-food value chains (dairy, pork, vegetables) in public-private partnerships. He is currently the Executive Director of the GMA Science and Education Foundation ([www.gmaonline.org/sef](http://www.gmaonline.org/sef)) which focuses on cutting-edge research, food safety education and a comprehensive portfolio of state-of-the-art training for the food industry in the US and internationally. This includes foundation programs such as the Better Process Control Schools for thermally processed foods, HACCP Training of trainers, FSMA Lead Instructors and PCQI training and the implementation of donor funded international food safety capacity building projects. Previously he was employed by the World Bank (2006-13) managing international programs including the Global Food Safety Partnership (GFSP), coordination of the Global Program for Human and Avian Influenza (GPAI) and evolving initiatives related to the prevention and control of emerging diseases at the animal-human interface in developing countries. This included close collaboration with international organizations including the OIE, FAO, UNIDO and others.

**Robert E. Brackett, Ph.D., IIT Vice President and Director, Institute for Food Safety and Health, Illinois Institute of Technology**

Robert E. Brackett, PhD, is a Professor of Food Science and Nutrition and currently serves as Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) Vice President and Director of the Institute for Food Safety and Health (IFSH). In this capacity, he serves on the IIT administrative leadership team, as well as directs the scientific and educational programs at IFSH. Dr. Brackett has over 30 years of experience in scientific research in industry, government and academia. Dr. Brackett served as Senior Vice President and Chief Science and Regulatory officer for the Washington D.C. based Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), a position he held from 2007 to 2010. Prior to his position at GMA, he held several scientific and policy positions at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (FDA CFSAN). Dr. Brackett served as CFSAN Director from 2004-2007, where he provided executive leadership to CFSAN's development and implementation of programs and policies relative to the composition, quality, safety and labeling of foods, food and color additives, dietary supplements and cosmetics. Earlier in his career, Dr. Brackett held academic positions at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, and the University of Georgia. Dr. Brackett is a fellow of the International Association for Food Protection and American Academy of Microbiology and has been honored with the FDA Award of Merit, the International Association for Food Protection's President's Appreciation Award, the University of Wisconsin William C. Frazier Food Microbiology Award, and most recently the FDA Distinguished Alumni Award. Dr. Brackett received his doctorate in food microbiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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**Kelley Cormier, Ph.D., Division Chief, Inclusive Market Development, Office of Market and Partnership Innovations, Bureau for Food Security, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

Kelley Cormier is Division Chief of the Inclusive Market Development Division in the Office of Market and Partnership Innovations in USAID's Bureau for Food Security, where she leads a team that addresses access to finance, agricultural inputs systems strengthening, risk management, agribusiness enabling environment, and commercialization of technologies in support of the U.S. Government's Feed the Future Initiative. She is a champion of food safety capacity building and SPS systems strengthening within this broad portfolio. Dr. Cormier has also worked with USDA's Foreign Agriculture Service on the design, implementation, and evaluation of sanitary and phyto-sanitary capacity building programs. Before joining USAID, she led an active research agenda that explored how the evolution of policies and institutions affect agricultural markets and the coping strategies of men and women and agribusinesses. Her technical experience and research have focused on private contracting in agriculture, international grades and standards for food, and the effects of land reform on poverty. She has served as a Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Fulbright Association. She holds a PhD in Development Studies with specializations in agricultural economics and law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a MS in Agricultural Economics from Michigan State University.

**Melvin Spreij, Counsellor and Secretary, Standards and Trade Development Facility, World Trade Organization (WTO)**

Melvin is Counsellor in the Agriculture and Commodities Division of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which administers the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement). He also manages the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), a global partnership that helps developing countries in building SPS capacity and gaining and maintaining market access. As such, he works closely with STDF's core partner agencies (FAO, OIE, World Bank, WHO and WTO), donors, beneficiaries and a wide range of other public and private sector organizations and initiatives.

As a leading coordination and knowledge platform, the STDF contributes to increasing the effectiveness of SPS technical cooperation, improving coherence and reducing gaps and duplication of efforts. Within the STDF, providers and beneficiaries of technical cooperation identify and disseminate good practice, promote partnerships and mobilize additional resources. The STDF also provides funding for the development and implementation of collaborative and innovative SPS projects to assist developing countries in implementing international food safety, animal and plant health standards and facilitating safe trade. Information about the STDF, its activities and projects is available here: <http://www.standardsfacility.org/>.

Melvin holds a degree in civil and business law from the State University in Leiden, The Netherlands. Before joining the WTO and the STDF team in 2006, he worked for many years in various legal positions, including as an associate lawyer for a too law firm in The Hague and as international legal consultant for the FAO in Rome. Melvin has wide experience in project development, management and evaluation. He is also an expert in drafting food safety, animal and plant health legislation in developing countries. He has published several papers on issues related to trade, development and natural resources law.

*(Melvin is a guest presenter in Segment 1 and Segment 2.)*

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**Segment 2 – Partnerships to Leverage Information from Private Entities**

**Mark Burgham, Senior Director, Program Policy Integration, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)**

Mark Burgham is the Senior Director of the Program Policy Integration Division of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. In addition to his responsibilities for livestock traceability and emergency management, he is responsible for the development of policies that provide direction to program and operational staff, and is responsible for the development of the Agency's approach to private certification schemes. Prior to his current position, Mark was the Director of the Imported and Manufactured Food Division of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

**Herman Diricks, Chief Executive Officer, Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain, Belgium**

Herman Diricks is currently Chief Executive Officer of the Belgian Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC).

*The FASFC is an executive body, which has jurisdiction over the entire territory and is responsible for laying down, implementing and enforcing measures related to food safety, animal health and plant protection.*

Trained as a bioscience engineer, Herman Diricks has been working in the areas of Public Health, Food and Feed safety and technology since 1984.

After a brief stint as a scientific associate at the VUB, he joined the Ministry of Agriculture in 1986 where he spent 4 years working in the areas of pesticides, fertilisers and genetically modified organisms. Herman Diricks then went on to start a new IT service introducing modern IT technologies in the Department of Agriculture, after which he became head of the IT department of the Ministry of Agriculture. From 1999 to 2000, he worked as an advisor, first to the Secretary-general, then to the Minister of Agriculture, where he advised on general policy matters and on food safety. Between 2000 and 2002, Mr. Diricks was an independent consultant in the fields of food safety, quality and administrative reorganisation.

In 2002, he joined the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain as Director-general of the Corporate Services where he was in charge of human resources, ICT services, budgeting, logistics and the legal department. In this capacity, he was responsible for the administrative foundations and financing policy of the newly founded agency.

Between 2006 and May 1<sup>st</sup> of 2014, Herman Diricks occupied the post of Director-general Control Policy and was responsible for the policy on control measures and programmes aimed at protecting the health of humans, animals and plants. Furthermore, DG Control Policy maintains international relations regarding the aforementioned areas and drafts Belgian regulations on process hygiene criteria and animal and plant health. It also deals with sector organisations and cooperates with DG Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE, working groups and Standing Committee) and other Member States.

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**Steve Wearne, Director of Policy, Food Standards Agency, London, United Kingdom**

Steve Wearne was appointed Director of Food Safety in July 2013, the role becoming Director of Policy two months later. Previous to this he was Director of FSA Wales. Steve is a scientist by training, with a degree in biochemistry and a spell of postgraduate research in molecular biology at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular biology in Cambridge. Steve joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in 1990 and held a range of posts in food science and food policy development, before transferring to the Agency when it was launched in 2000. His first post in the Agency was head of the Private Office and Private Secretary to the first Chair of the FSA, Sir John Krebs (now Lord Krebs).

### Segment 3 – Partnerships that Recognize Commodity-specific Exports and Programs

#### **Janet McGinn, DVM, Director, Food Safety Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Janet McGinn, DVM, has been with the U.S. Department of Agriculture since 2002. Dr. McGinn became Director of the International Equivalence Staff within the Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) in the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at USDA in December of 2015. In this position, she directs staff that evaluate whether foreign countries' meat, poultry, and egg products inspection systems achieve an equivalent level of public health protection as applied domestically in the United States by FSIS. Prior to her current position, she served as a Senior Staff Officer in the Risk, Innovations, and Management Staff within OPPD. In that position, Dr. McGinn was responsible for development of Agency policy and instructions to the field concerning risk management of pathogens in raw beef products. Dr. McGinn also previously served as a Public Health Veterinarian within the Office of Field Operations. Dr. McGinn earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine and a bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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#### **Miles McEvoy, Deputy Administrator, National Organic Program, U.S. Department of Agriculture**

Miles McEvoy has led the NOP since 2009, when the program was first established. The NOP is responsible for the full range of activities associated with establishing, overseeing, and enforcing the USDA organic regulations and standards. During his tenure, Miles has increased oversight and consistency in the organic certification process, utilized civil penalties to enforce organic standards, implemented unannounced inspection and residue testing requirements, while bringing together diverse community stakeholders. In addition Miles has implemented 'Sound and Sensible' principles to ensure organic integrity and support organic farmers and handlers. Prior to joining the USDA, Miles led the Washington State Department of Agriculture's (WSDA) Organic Food Program.

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#### **David Plunkett, J.D., J.M., Senior Staff Attorney, Food Safety Program Center for Science in the Public Interest**

David Plunkett is Senior Staff Attorney for the food safety program at the Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI). He joined CSPI in August 2007 to work on reforming federal food safety laws. Prior to joining CSPI, he served as legislative director and counsel to several Members of Congress, specializing in federal budget policy, during an 18-year career in the House of Representatives. At CSPI he co-authored the white paper "Building a Modern Food Safety System for FDA Regulated Foods" that outlined many provisions eventually adopted into the *FDA Food Safety Modernization Act*. Other publications include articles on regulatory and legal issues affecting food safety published in the *Food and Drug Law Institute Update*, *Food and Drug Law Journal*, *Food Protection Trends*, and *Food Traceability Report*. He is a frequent panelist and moderator at professional workshops on issues

## **Public Hearing: Strategic Partners to Enhance the Safety of Imported Foods**

ranging from traceability of food to trade to the role of inspections in Federal food safety efforts. He also represents consumer interests on the executive boards of the Conference for Food Protection, the Equitable Food Initiative, and the Alliance for a Stronger FDA. Mr. Plunkett earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia, and holds a Juris Master's in public policy with an emphasis on law and economics and a Juris Doctor with a specialty in regulatory law from George Mason University School of Law. He is a member of the Virginia State Bar and the American Bar Association.

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### **S.K. Saxena, Ph.D., Director, The Export Inspection Council of India (*Via Video*)**

Dr. Saxena is presently the Director at Export Inspection Council. Dr. Saxena holds a Ph.D. degree in Analytical Chemistry from Aligarh Muslim University. He has more than 25 years of experience in Quality Assurance, including Food Analysis, Food Safety Management Certification System and Conformity Assessment. He held the administrative and technical positions in institutes/ organization of international repute like Director at National Analytical laboratory at NDDDB, Director at Food Research and Analysis Centre. As an expert in food analysis, food safety, conformity assessment, Dr. Saxena has been actively involved with FAO, WHO, UNIDO for laboratory accreditation and conformity assessment project in more than 25 least developing countries. Dr. Saxena is also Chairman of the Scientific Panel on Methods of Analysis and Sampling at FSSAI, Chairman of Accreditation and Proficiency Committee of National Accreditation Board for Laboratories and Member of Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA). Dr. Saxena is on the editorial Board of a number of Scientific Journals, has published more than 20 research papers, and has contributed in three books on food analysis. He has received the All India Food Processors Association Presidents' Special Award-1999 and Dr. J. S. Pruthi Memorial Award for 2009 for his life time achievements in the field of food safety, food standards & analysis, food laws and food laboratory expertise.

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## **Segment 4 – Partnerships that Recognize the Robustness of the Entire Food Safety System: Systems Recognition**

### **Andrew Dicello, Technical Director, Management Systems International**

Mr. Dicello is a Technical Director with Management Systems International (MSI) specializing in monitoring and evaluation and performance management. He has worked extensively with different offices within the U.S. Food and Drug administration to support use of Results Oriented Management (ROM), including development of results frameworks and performance measures to support FDA's implementation of new FSMA rules. He has provided similar M&E and performance management support for the U.S. Department of State, USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Labor, the World Bank and NGOs. Mr. Dicello has his undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and his MBA from the Thunderbird School of Global Management.

**William Jolly, DVM, Chief Assurance Strategy Officer, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand**

Dr. Bill Jolly is the Ministry for Primary Industries' Chief Assurance Strategy Officer. In this role he works with New Zealand export sectors to agree MPI's over-arching Market Access Strategy, including the sector, country and assurance strategies. The strategies strongly emphasise the role of science, credibility, cooperation and long term relationships. He is also responsible for the broad regulatory relationship oversight and higher level negotiations with the whole of the Americas, ASEAN, the Indian sub-continent and southern African countries. He has worked for over 20 years on food safety, animal and plant health issues and export assurances internationally and has negotiated and implemented multiple bilateral agreements. Dr Jolly has previously been responsible for New Zealand's residue monitoring programmes, organic programmes, pet food and wine regulation and the development and operation of New Zealand's food safety related export and import assurance systems. He continues to be active in the international standard setting arena having participated or headed New Zealand's delegation to 8 of the different Codex commodity or horizontal Committees, the WTO SPS Committee, and a range of regional and central OIE, APEC and OECD meetings.

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**Paul Mayers, Vice President, Policy and Programs, Canadian Food Inspection Agency**

Paul Mayers is the Vice-President of Policy and Programs at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). He leads the development of strategic advice and the design of Agency programs related to its mandate to protect Canadians' health in relation to the food supply and to protect Canada's plant and animal resources. Mr. Mayers joined the CFIA in April 2006.

Prior to joining the Agency, Mr. Mayers provided leadership to Health Canada policy development in the areas of food safety and nutritional quality. He has been Canada's representative and Head of the Canadian Delegation to numerous international fora, including Codex Alimentarius, where he also previously served in two consecutive terms as Vice-Chairman.

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**Sandra Eskin, J.D., Director of Food Safety, The Pew Charitable Trusts**

Sandra Eskin has been director of the Safe Food Project at Pew since November 2009. Before joining Pew, she served as the deputy director of the Produce Safety Project (PSP), an initiative of The Pew Charitable Trusts at Georgetown University, where she was a senior scholar with the O'Neil Institute for National and Global Health Law. Eskin spent nearly 20 years before that as a public-policy consultant to numerous consumer and public-interest organizations during which time she provided strategic and policy advice on a broad range of consumer protection issues, in particular, food and drug safety, labeling, and advertising. She previously worked as a federal government staff attorney and a legislative representative for the Consumer Federation of America. Eskin has authored numerous reports and articles on food safety topics. She

## **Public Hearing: Strategic Partners to Enhance the Safety of Imported Foods**

received her bachelor's degree from Brown University and her J.D. from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

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### **Sandra Hoffmann, Ph.D., J.D., Senior Economist, Economic Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture**

Sandra Hoffmann is a senior food safety economist with the USDA Economic Research Service. Her research focuses health valuation and on methods to attribute foodborne illnesses to their food sources. She is lead author on new estimates of the cost of foodborne illnesses in the U.S. She is co-leading a study on food attribution for the WHO, Global Burden of Foodborne Disease initiative. Her current projects include work on the capacity of the third party auditing industry to certify U.S. imports for food safety. Prior to joining ERS she was a Research Fellow at Resources for the Future and on faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She has advised the U.S. EPA and the OECD on the valuation of environmental risks to children's health and has served on a National Academy of Sciences committee on the Effectiveness of National Biosurveillance Systems. She has a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley Dept. of Agricultural and a J.D. from the University of Michigan.