



**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Public Meeting:  
Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods: Proposed Rule  
November 18, 2020**

**Speakers' and Panelists' Biographies**

**Kari Barrett, Advisor for Strategic Communications and Public Engagement, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), FDA**

Kari Barrett provides leadership and consultation on communications tied to the FDA's foods-related initiatives. She plans, develops, conducts and directs Agency-level stakeholder outreach on food safety, nutrition, and other food-related issues to advance the FDA's public health and consumer protection goals. Ms. Barrett is a former FDA Deputy Chief of Staff and a former Deputy in the Agency's Office of Legislation. She has served as a Senior Advisor at Leavitt Partners in the consulting group's Food Safety and Import Practice and spent 15 years in trade association management and leadership positions.

**Mitzi Baum, Chief Executive Officer, Stop Foodborne Illness**

Mitzi Baum joined the team at Stop Foodborne Illness as the Chief Executive Officer in May 2019. Prior to beginning her tenure at Stop, Mitzi cultivated a 23-year career at Feeding America beginning as a network services representative rising to the senior level position of managing director of food safety. As managing director of food safety, Mitzi guided the continued development of food safety initiatives including development and execution of the food safety strategic plan; oversight of third-party food safety audit program; food safety educational summits; development of food safety resources; and coordination with donors and regulatory agencies to support food donations. Prior to her career with Feeding America, Mitzi managed restaurants for the Peasant Restaurant Co. in Atlanta, Funky's Restaurants in Cincinnati, and Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises in Chicago. Mitzi holds a Master of Science in Food Safety and a certificate in Food Law from Michigan State University. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree from Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH. She has earned certificates in Non-Profit Management from the University of Chicago, Quality Management from DePaul University and Food Safety Management from Cornell University. She is a certified seafood HACCP instructor and is a certified PCQI. Mitzi is a member of the International Association of Food Protection, the Conference for Food Protection and the Association of Food and Drug Officials.

**Karen Blickenstaff, Response Staff Director, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE), CFSAN, FDA**

Karen Blickenstaff is the Response Staff Director for the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE). In this role, she oversees three multidisciplinary response teams as they coordinate the agency's response to foodborne outbreaks. The teams are responsible for coordinating information flow across organizations during an outbreak response, evaluating incoming data to help inform response strategies, and conducting traceback investigations. Ms. Blickenstaff has been with the agency for 13 years. Prior to her role with CORE, she held positions in FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, Office of Research and FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs, Office of Regulatory Science. Karen received both her B.S. and M.S. from University of Maryland, College Park.

**Rebecca Buckner, Senior Science Advisor to the CFSAN Center Director, CFSAN, FDA**

Dr. Rebecca Buckner works for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, where she is a Senior Science Policy Advisor to the Center Director. Dr. Buckner currently focuses on international policy issues such as FDA's Food Safety Systems Recognition Arrangements. In recent years, she managed the development of the seven foundational rules mandated by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) and the implementation of those rulemakings and other FSMA mandates for the FDA Foods Program.



**Yuhuan Chen, Interdisciplinary Scientist, Division of Risk and Decision Analysis (DRDA), CFSAN, FDA**

Dr. Yuhuan Chen is an Interdisciplinary Scientist in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the Food and Drug Administration. With expertise in food microbiology, preventive controls, and risk modeling, Dr. Chen provides leadership and coordination for multidisciplinary risk assessments to inform policy decisions. Prior to joining FDA, she was Director of Science Policy at a trade association, where she worked for what was then the National Food Processors Association and held several positions over ten years. She graduated from Peking University with a B.S. in Biology, earned her M.S. in Nutrition from Eastern Illinois University, and Ph.D. in Food Microbiology from Rutgers University. Dr. Chen currently serves on the editorial board for the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. She is a past chair of the IAFP Microbial Modeling and Risk Analysis professional development group, and a past chair of the Technical Committee of the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium.

**Jason Culotta, President, Midwest Food Products Association**

Jason Culotta is the President of the Midwest Food Products Association. He served as Director of Industrial Development for Progressive Rail, Incorporated, from 2017 to May 2019, Senior Director of Government Relations with Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce from 2011-2017, and as a policy advisor to Governor Scott Walker in 2011. A native of Racine, he holds a bachelor's degree from UW-Oshkosh and lives in Watertown with his wife and three children.

**Angela Fields, Senior Consumer Safety Officer, Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE), CFSAN, FDA**

Angela Fields is the Senior Consumer Safety Officer for the Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE). As a member of CORE Response, she provides epidemiologic and traceback expertise and evaluation of data related to outbreaks in support of FDA's response activities. Additionally, she serves as one of CORE's traceability subject matter experts participating in Agency initiatives and providing internal and external trainings on traceability and outbreak response.

**Laura Gieraltowski CDR, US Public Health Service, Lead, Foodborne Outbreak Response Team, Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases, CDC**

Dr. Laura Gieraltowski is the Lead of the Foodborne Outbreak Response Team in the Outbreak Response and Prevention Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. She leads the team that helps coordinate the national network of epidemiologists and other public health officials who investigate outbreaks of foodborne and other enteric illnesses. Dr. Gieraltowski is a graduate of CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service Program. She received a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and has a Masters of Public Health degree in behavioral health sciences from Emory University Rollins School of Public Health. She has worked at the CDC since 2009 and has been involved in numerous multistate outbreak investigations leading to the identification and recall of food products.

**Randy Graham, Chairman, Illinois Specialty Growers Association**

Randy Graham has worked in the fruit and vegetable industry for over forty years. He currently owns and operates Curtis Orchard and Pumpkin Patch in Champaign, Illinois. Curtis Orchard is an Illinois agritourism destination and was voted best in the Illinois in 2014. Randy has been involved in food safety issues for many years. He represented Illinois cider producers at the FDA hearings in Washington DC in 1996 following the Odwalla outbreak that year. He returned to Illinois and wrote about the hearings for the Illinois State Horticultural Society and worked with the University of Illinois and the Illinois Department of Public Health to develop and administer the nation's first HACCP-based apple cider certification program. Illinois followed up by certifying over 128 cider operators over the next two years. Randy served at one time as president of the Illinois State Horticultural Society and currently serves as president of the Illinois Specialty Growers Association which represents fruit, vegetable, herb and irrigated growers in the state.



**Lisa Hainstock , Food Safety Specialist, Food and Dairy Division, Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development**

Lisa Hainstock has been in the field of environmental health for over 30 years and has worked for the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)'s Food and Dairy Division for nearly the past two decades. She is the acting manager of the Emergency Response and Enforcement Unit, which specializes in coordinating the division's response in foodborne outbreak investigations, tracebacks and recalls. Lisa works closely with the food industry, local, state and federal investigators, and currently represents the Association of Food and Drug Officials on the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR), co-chairing the CIFOR Industry workgroup.

**Vinetta Howard-King, Director, Office of Human and Animal Food Operations – East, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), FDA**

Vinetta Howard-King is responsible for overseeing operational functions (such as inspections/investigations, sample collections, compliance and enforcement activities) in six Human and Animal Food (HAF) field divisions and the HAF foreign inspection program. She works directly with senior management in headquarters and in the field, using strategic risk-based approaches towards compliance and enforcement that focus on impact and results. Her previous positions include senior advisor to the assistant commissioner for operations in ORA, deputy director and staff manager in FDA's Office of Emergency Operations, compliance officer in FDA's Baltimore District, and chemist in FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. She has served as acting manager in numerous leadership positions in FDA, including lab supervisor, district director, deputy office director, office director, and regional food and drug director. Ms. Howard-King holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry.

**Andrew Kennedy, New Era Technology Team Leader, Office of Food Policy & Response (OFPR), FDA**

Andy Kennedy is the New Era Technology Team (the NETT) Leader in the FDA Office of Food Policy and Response (OFPR). Mr. Kennedy started working with OFPR in October 2019 as a Subject Matter Expert in Food Traceability. As the NETT Leader, his primary focus is the New Era of Smarter Food Safety, Core Element 1, Tech Enabled Traceability. Prior to his work at the FDA, Mr. Kennedy led IFT's Global Food Traceability Center and co-founded FoodLogiQ, a leading Food Traceability platform for restaurant operators, food companies and retailers. He co-convened traceability standards development working groups for GS1, the Produce Traceability Initiative and the Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability. With Jennifer McEntire, United Fresh Produce Association, Mr. Kennedy edited "Food Traceability from Binders to Blockchain," published by Springer in 2019. Mr. Kennedy holds an MBA from Duke's Fuqua School of Business and an A.B. in Economics from Lafayette College.

**Laurie Kidwell, Supervisor, Rapid Response Team, Indiana State Department of Health**

Laurie Kidwell began her public health career while enlisted for 10 years in the United States Airforce as a Public Health Technician. Laurie then began working at Indiana State Department of Health, Food Protection Program in 2012 as the VNFRRS Coordinator and a year later transitioned into her current position as the RRT Supervisor where she maintains the Indiana Food Safety and Defense Task Force and the Indiana Rapid Response Team.

**Susan T. Mayne, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), FDA**

Susan T. Mayne leads the Center's development and implementation of programs and policies related to the composition, quality, safety, and labeling of foods, food and color additives, and cosmetics. Dr. Mayne is an internationally recognized public health leader and scientist who also oversees diet and health initiatives, which include the policy development and management of food and nutrition labeling, as well as the regulation of dietary supplements, medical foods and infant formulas. She came to the FDA from Yale University, where she was the C-E.A. Winslow Professor of Epidemiology.



**Brian Pendleton, Senior Policy Advisor, Policy Engagement and Coordination Staff, Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs, FDA**

Brian Pendleton is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs in FDA's Office of the Commissioner, where he works primarily on multi-Center rulemakings and guidances concerning the regulation of food, drugs, and biologics. In recent years he has played a significant role in implementing several components of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, including the regulation on foreign supplier verification programs for food importers, the Voluntary Qualified Importer Program, and the adoption of additional traceability recordkeeping requirements for certain foods. Mr. Pendleton received a B.A. and M.A. in political science from Kent State University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan.

**Aliya Sassi, PhD, Senior Economist, Office of Economics and Analysis, Office of Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs, Office of the Commissioner, FDA**

Dr. Aliya Sassi is a Senior Economist in the Office of the Commissioner at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In this role, she serves as a subject matter expert, lead, and economic consultant to FDA top level management and performs economic analyses of FDA regulations, policies, and programs. Her areas of expertise include regulatory impact analysis, benefit-cost analysis, food safety, international trade, and economic modeling. Previously, Dr. Sassi taught economics at the University of New Hampshire where she completed her graduate training. She has detailed as a Senior Economist at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she reviewed documents for policy clearance and conducted analyses of current and prospective Federal activities that affect science and public health. While temporarily acting as Assistant Director of Economics at FDA in 2019, she directed the design and implementation of FDA benefit-cost and other economic analyses in support of Agency policy development and was responsible for review and clearance of the economic analyses of FDA regulations and other activities.

**Joseph Scimeca, PhD, Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Scientific Affairs, International Dairy Food Association (IDFA)**

Joseph Scimeca leads IDFA's Regulatory and Scientific Affairs' team and has extensive technical regulatory and scientific expertise that includes over 33 years of industry experience. In his position with IDFA, he provides strategic regulatory and scientific leadership for the dairy food and beverage industry covering a broad range of areas including product safety, quality, and labeling; nutrition and health policy; product identity standards; food defense; sustainability initiatives; Codex and other international standards; technical trade barriers; and emerging science and technologies affecting the dairy sector. He comes to IDFA from Cargill Inc. where he worked for 16 years, serving most recently as Vice President of Global Regulatory & Scientific Affairs. For Cargill, Scimeca provided leadership for ensuring food, feed, and other consumer products were safe, protected against intentional acts of economic adulteration and bioterrorism, and in conformance with relevant food/feed regulations, standards, and internal policies. He managed a team of 30 regulatory professionals based in locations around the world that collaborated with their business partners in facilitating compliance against existing and emerging regulations. Previously, he held similar regulatory affairs roles with General Mills, Pillsbury, and Kraft. Scimeca has a proven track record working with the FDA and USDA to lead the broad food industry in regulatory reform, with notable efforts in shaping and influencing FDA FSMA regulations, and with several foreign governments in their efforts to modernize food regulations, including China, Canada, India, EU, and Indonesia.

**Katherine Vierk, Division Director, Division of Public Health Informatics & Analytics, Office of Analytics and Outreach (OAO), CFSAN, FDA**

Katherine Vierk is the Director for the Division of Public Health Informatics and Analytics in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. As Division Director, Ms. Vierk oversees three branches dedicated to internal and external partnerships in epidemiologic research, data analytics, social science research, and signal detection for potential hazards associated with foods,



cosmetics, and dietary supplements. She brings more than 20 years of experience working at FDA in the areas of foodborne outbreaks, traceability, epidemiology, consumer science, and data analytics. Ms. Vierk has served in multiple leadership positions at CFSAN, served as acting FDA liaison to CDC, and was part of the team that developed FDA's Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation Network (CORE). She currently leads FDA's traceability rule writing efforts.

**Christopher Waldrop, Senior Health Scientist, Division of Public Health Informatics & Analytics, OAO, CFSAN, FDA**

Chris Waldrop is a Senior Health Scientist in the Office of Analytics and Outreach in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. In this role, Mr. Waldrop provides leadership and guidance on priority policy issues related to the Agency's foods program. He collaborates across the Agency to develop strategic approaches to address current and emerging issues related to food safety and nutrition. Previously, Mr. Waldrop directed the Food Policy Institute at the Consumer Federation of America, where he oversaw the Institute's research, analysis, advocacy and media outreach on a range of food policy issues.

**Frank Yiannas, Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, FDA**

Frank Yiannas is the principal advisor to the FDA Commissioner on food safety policies, including implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. His leadership role in the agency's Office of Food Policy and Response covers a broad spectrum, such as outbreak response, traceback investigations, product recall activities, and supply chain innovation. Mr. Yiannas came to the FDA from leadership roles with Walmart and the Walt Disney Company. He has long been recognized for his role in elevating food safety standards and building food safety management systems based on science and risk.