



**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Public Meeting:  
Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods: Proposed Rule  
December 2, 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.

**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 FDA. 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.



### **Sandra Eskin, Project Director for Food Safety, PEW Charitable Trusts**

Sandra Eskin directs Pew's work on food and dietary supplement safety. These initiatives engage the federal government, industry leaders, and other stakeholders in efforts to reduce health risks from contaminated foods and unsafe supplement products, including those that illegally contain pharmaceutical ingredients. Before joining Pew, she was a public policy consultant to consumer and public interest organizations, providing strategic and policy advice on a range of consumer protection issues, including food safety, dietary supplement safety, and food and drug labeling and advertising. Eskin also was a federal government staff attorney, legislative representative for the Consumer Federation of America, deputy director of the Produce Safety Project—a Pew initiative at Georgetown University—and has served on numerous federal advisory committees. Eskin received her bachelor's degree in classics and semiotics from Brown University and a Juris Doctor from the University of California Hastings College of the Law.

### **Greg Ferrara, President and CEO, National Grocers Association (NGA)**

Greg Ferrara is the President and CEO of the National Grocers Association (NGA). In this role, Mr. Ferrara is responsible for working closely with NGA's Board of Directors to develop and implement a strategic vision which advances the Association's efforts and public policy positions in support of the supermarket industry. Prior to being appointed President and CEO, Mr. Ferrara served as NGA's Executive Vice President and chief lobbyist, responsible for representing the Association and its members before Members of Congress, federal agencies, and the executive branch on a wide-variety of issues while also overseeing the NGA's political and grassroots affairs, including the NGA Grocers PAC. In addition, he had responsibility for NGA's communications, marketing and membership departments. Mr. Ferrara was also responsible for working closely with and maintaining an excellent relationship between NGA and its national and state trade association partners. Having first joined NGA in November 2005, Mr. Ferrara brings a wealth of experience in the grocery industry having managed his family's century-old supermarket in New Orleans before the store was ultimately destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. Greg holds a BA in Political Science from Loyola University New Orleans and is a fellow of the prestigious Institute of Politics at Loyola University. He is a graduate of the US Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management (IOM) and is a graduate of the NGA Executive Leadership Program at Cornell University.

### **De Ann Davis, Senior VP Science, Western Growers**

De Ann Davis serves as the Senior VP Science for Western Growers. She most recently served as Food Safety Director for Commercial Food Sanitation, a provider of strategic consulting services, expertise and training that addresses food safety and sanitation challenges for food processing plants. Previously, Davis was Vice President of Food Safety and Quality for both Church Brothers Farms and Earthbound Farm, and earlier as Chief Food Safety Officer for Kraft Foods Group, where she was engaged in the development of the regulatory framework for Food Safety Modernization Act. Davis earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Chemistry from Point Loma Nazarene University and her PhD in Biochemistry from Texas A&M University. She is also a certified Diplomat of the American Board of Toxicology, where she has served since 1996. Davis holds several committee appointments within the produce industry, including having recently served as the Chair of the Board of Advisors for the Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia. In 2018, Davis was appointed to the USDA National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Food.

### **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.

**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. 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 from United Fresh, 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.

**Natalie Krout-Greenberg, Director for the Division of Inspection Services, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)**

Natalie Krout-Greenberg currently serves as the Director for the Division of Inspection Services at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Prior to her appointment in 2016, she served as the Division's Special Assistant for 6 years. In her role she leads three branches that provide professional services, which support and contribute to a safe, abundant, quality food supply; environmentally sound agricultural practices; and an equitable marketplace for California agriculture. During her time with the Division, she has worked closely with California's agriculture industry leading several specialized working groups in the areas of: Food Safety; Direct Marketing; Organic; Livestock Feed and Drugs; and, Food Access. Natalie started working for CDFA in 2005 analyzing laboratory data and went on to become a field inspector for the Safe Animal Feed Education Program. During her time with the Department, Natalie has completed the CDFA Executive Program in Leadership and was instrumental in bringing the first HACCP courses to CDFA field staff. Natalie currently facilitates classes on leadership and coaching skills to staff at CDFA. She attended the University of California, Davis where she focused her studies in animal science and nutritional toxicology. Her research work surveyed mycotoxin contamination to the California feed supply. Prior to working for CDFA, Natalie spent time working with dairy farms throughout the mid-western states and in California. Raised in Sonoma County, California, Natalie's passion for agriculture surrounded her growing up on a ranch in Petaluma where she raised dairy cattle. She was actively involved in the Future Farmers of America (FFA) where she obtained her American Farmer degree.



**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.

**Erik Mettler, Assistant Commissioner for Partnerships and Policy, Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), FDA**

Erik P. Mettler is Assistant Commissioner for Partnerships and Policy within the Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA) at FDA. In this role, he serves as advisor to the Associate Commissioner for Regulatory Affairs on the full range of ORA's activities including partnerships, implementation of new laws and regulations, and overall strategic planning and prioritization. He is responsible for providing long range strategic direction for ORA policies and programs including the implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act. Mr. Mettler previously served as the Associate Commissioner for Foods and Veterinary Medicine in the Office of Foods and Veterinary Medicine (OFVM). His years of experience at the FDA give him a broad perspective on public health, policy, and administrative management along with an awareness of critical issues at all levels of the agency. Mr. Mettler holds a Master of Public Health from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of New Mexico.

**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 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.

**Randy Treadwell, Rapid Response and Emergency Management Program Manager, Washington State Department of Agriculture**

Randy Treadwell currently serves as the Rapid Response and Emergency Management Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Agriculture where he leads the Washington Food/Feed Rapid Response Team (RRT) on outbreak responses. In addition to food/feed response, Randy leads general emergency management activities for the agency, including radiological, homeland security, and pandemic response planning. Randy serves on the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) Board of Directors



as Secretary/Treasurer and prior to that, Regional Director for the western states. Randy is currently President of the Western Association of Food and Drug Officials (WAFDO). Prior to his current role at WSDA, Randy served as Rapid Response Coordinator and as a food and dairy field inspector with WSDA in Eastern Washington. Before joining WSDA in 2009, Randy earned his Master of Public Health degree from the University of Washington while working as a clinical laboratory technician at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center HIV Vaccine Trials Network.

**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 FDA. 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.

**Lisa Weddig, Vice President, Regulatory and Technical Affairs, National Fisheries Institute (NFI)**

Lisa Weddig is the Vice President of Regulatory and Technical Affairs for the National Fisheries Institute in McLean, Virginia. NFI is the leading industry association in the United States advocating for the seafood community, representing the seafood commerce chain from "water to table." Joining NFI in 2007, she serves as the primary liaison for regulatory issues, food safety developments and seafood fraud concerns for the association members. Prior to joining NFI, Ms. Weddig spent 18 years with the Food Products Association (now Consumer Brands Association) where she held various positions in thermal processing, HACCP, food safety and educational support for association members. She earned a B.S. in Food Science from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia and a M.S. in Nutrition Education from Hood College in Frederick, Maryland. Ms. Weddig actively participates as an industry representative to the Seafood HACCP Alliance.

**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.