



**U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Virtual Public Meeting
Food Allergen Thresholds and Their Potential Applications**

February 18, 2026
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET

AGENDA

- 10:45AM** ***Event Link Live for Participant Login***
- 11:00AM** **Welcome and Meeting Overview**
Dianne Benjamin, MS, RD, LDN, Policy Analyst, Office of Nutrition and Food Labeling (ONFL), Nutrition Center of Excellence (NCE), Human Foods Program (HFP), FDA
- 11:05AM** **Opening Remarks**
Kyle Diamantas, JD, Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods, FDA
- 11:10AM** **Overview of FDA's Major Food Allergen Requirements**
Lynn Szybist, MS, Director, Division of Food Labeling and Standards, ONFL, NCE, HFP, FDA
Ben Warren, PhD, Senior Science Advisor for Food Safety, Office of Microbiological Food Safety, HFP, FDA
Yinqing Ma, PhD, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Compliance Operations and Implementation (OCOI), Office of Compliance and Enforcement (OCE), HFP, FDA
- 11:30AM** **Food Allergen Risk and Threshold Considerations**
Stefano Luccioli, MD, Senior Physician/Allergen Coordinator, Division of Chemical Contaminants, Office of Post-Market Assessment, Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements, and Innovation, HFP, FDA
- 11:45AM** **Codex Alimentarius Commission's Approach to Global Food Allergen Management**
Douglas Balentine, PhD, Senior Science Advisor for Global Affairs, NCE, HFP, FDA
- 11:50AM** **Historical Perspective on Establishment of Risk-Based Food Allergen Thresholds**
Steve Taylor, PhD, Professor Emeritus and Founding Director; Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP), University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 12:10PM** **BREAK**

12:20PM

The Concept of Risk-Based Food Allergen Thresholds

Moderator:

Stefano Luccioli, MD, *Senior Physician/Allergen Coordinator, Division of Chemical Contaminants, Office of Post-Market Assessment, Office of Food Chemical Safety, Dietary Supplements, and Innovation, HFP, FDA*

Panelists:

Steven M. Gendel, PhD, *Consultant, Gendel Food Safety, LLC*

Joseph L. Baumert, PhD, *Professor of Food Science and Director of the Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP), University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Neil Buck, PhD, *Food Operators: Challenges & Opportunities, General Mills, Inc.*

Wayne G. Shreffler, MD, PhD, *Associate Professor at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital Food Allergy Center*

Brian Vickery, MD, *Professor of Pediatrics, Marcus Professor of Pediatric Immunology and Chief of the Division of Allergy/Immunology at Emory University and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta*

Caroline Moassessi, *Vice President of Community Relations, Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Connection Team (FAACT)*

1:25PM

BREAK

1:35PM

Risk Communication and Labeling

Moderator:

Yinqing Ma, PhD, *Acting Deputy Director, Office of Compliance Operations and Implementation, Office of Compliance and Enforcement, HFP, FDA*

Panelists:

Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH, *Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine; Clinical Attending, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago Director, Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research (CFAAR)*

Robert Earl, MPH, RDN, FAND, *Vice President of Regulatory Affairs, Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE)*

Linda Verrill, PhD, *Branch Chief, Behavioral and Social Sciences Branch, Division of Evaluation & Population Health Sciences, Office of Surveillance Strategy and Risk Prioritization, HFP, FDA*

Kevin Boyd, PhD, DABT, *Senior Manager, Regulatory, The Hershey Company*

Sarah Sorscher, JD, MPH, *Director of Regulatory Affairs, Center for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI)*

Mike Abbott, *Section Head of the Food Biomolecules Section, Food and Nutrition Directorate, Health Canada*

Scott Sicherer, MD, *Professor of Pediatrics, Director, Elliot and Roslyn Jaffe Food Allergy Institute, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York*

2:35PM

BREAK

2:45PM

Potential Applications

Moderator: Lauren Jackson, PhD, *Chief, Chemistry & Process Engineering Branch, Division of Food Processing Science & Technology, Office of Applied Microbiology and Technology, Office of Laboratory Operations and Applied Science, HFP, FDA*

Panelists:

Scott Hegenbart, *Manager of Regulatory Affairs, Conagra Brands, Inc.*

Melanie Downs, PhD, *Associate Professor, Food Allergy Research & Resource Program (FARRP), University of Nebraska-Lincoln*

Nathan Mirdamadi, MS, MBA, *Global Director of Sanitation, Kerry*

Rasma Zvaners, *Vice President, Government Relations, American Bakers Association*

Laura Shumow, MS, *Executive Director, American Spice Trade Association*

Benjamin C. Remington, PhD, *Senior Scientist, FDA Contractor*

Matthew Greenhawt, MD, MBA, MSc, *(Chief Medical Officer, Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA)), Washington DC*

3:45PM

Wrap-up

Dianne Benjamin, MS, RD, LDN, *Policy Analyst, ONFL, NCE, HFP, FDA*

4:00PM

ADJOURN