



United States
Department of
Agriculture

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Salmonella – State of the Science

Speaker Biographies



Mindy Brashears

Under Secretary for Food Safety, USDA



Dr. Mindy M. Brashears was confirmed on March 23, 2020 as the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) 5th Senate-confirmed Under Secretary for Food Safety, the highest-ranking food safety official in the United States. In this role, Dr. Brashears will continue to lead the Office of Food Safety at USDA, overseeing the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), which has regulatory oversight for ensuring that meat, poultry and processed egg products are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled. She also serves as chair of the U.S. CODEX Policy Committee and offers expert scientific guidance to the CODEX Program, an international food standards-setting body of 188 member countries that protects consumer health and sets international food standards.

Dr. Brashears is committed to working closely with FSIS' leadership to lead with science, build relationships, and influence behavior change to protect and promote public health. Under Dr. Brashears' leadership, the FSIS has finalized rulemaking for the modernization of swine inspection, is in the process of implementing pathogen reduction performance standards through the public rulemaking process, and is actively seeking new ways to influence positive behavior change to reduce food borne illnesses.

On January 29, 2019, Dr. Brashears was sworn in as the USDA's deputy under secretary for food safety by Secretary Sonny Perdue. Prior to joining USDA, she was a professor of food safety and public health and the director of the International Center for Food Industry Excellence at Texas Tech University. Dr. Brashears has spent her career improving food safety standards to make an impact on public health through research, outreach and education. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and has received numerous awards including the International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) Laboratorian Award, the American Meat Science Association (AMSA) Distinguished Research Award, the AMSA Distinguished Industry Service Award, AMSA Achievement Award and was listed in the National Provisioner's Top 25 Future Icons in the Meat Industry. She has an extensive publication record in peer-reviewed journals and also holds many patents for her innovative approaches to improving food safety in the food supply.

Paul Kiecker

Administrator, FSIS, USDA



Paul Kiecker was named Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in February 2020. From May 2018 through February 2020, Kiecker was the Agency's Deputy Administrator.

Throughout his over 30 year career with FSIS, Kiecker has fostered his commitment to ensuring the Agency meets its food safety public health goals, including the current FSIS Strategic Goals: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health; Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches; and Achieve Operational Excellence.

In his current and past roles, Kiecker will continue his dedication to a robust public health vision that has guided him to overcome obstacles, identify opportunities for improvement, efficiently manage resources, and achieve food safety objectives to prevent foodborne illness.

In 1988, Kiecker joined FSIS as a food inspector and served as Deputy District Manager in Madison, Wisconsin; and District Manager in Madison, Wisconsin, and in Springdale, Arkansas. He also served as Executive Associate for Regulatory Operations and Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Field Operations in Washington, D.C. Kiecker's FSIS experience also crossed program areas where he worked as a Compliance Investigator and a Supervisory Compliance Investigator with the Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit.

In his various positions with FSIS, Kiecker has played a critical role in leading external coordination with other federal, State and local governments, nonprofit and private sector organizations, international entities and law enforcement agencies. He has also had oversight responsibility for strategic planning, policy formulation and implementation, budget development and execution, human resource management, and day-to-day inspection operations.

Frank Yiannas

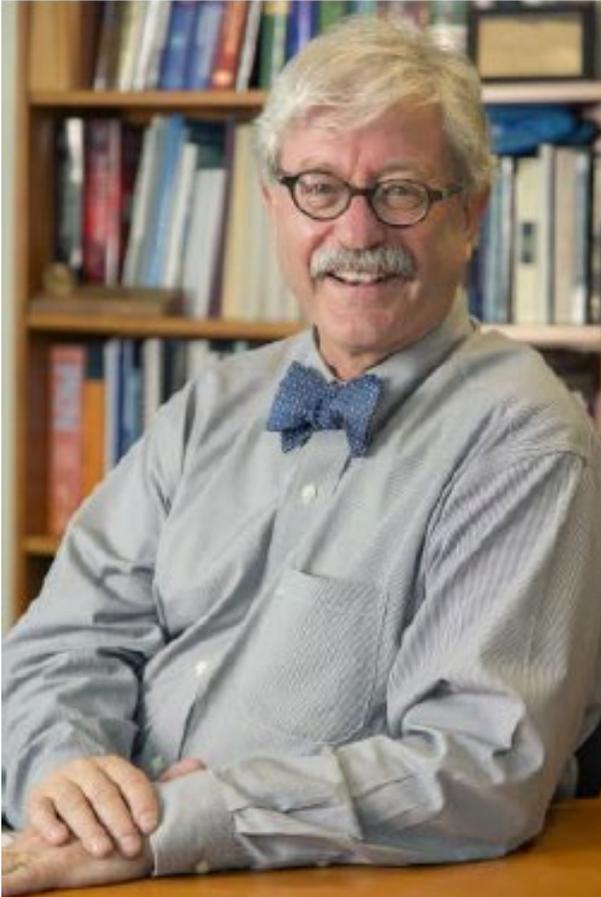
Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response, FDA



Frank Yiannas is the Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy and Response at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He is the principal advisor to the FDA Commissioner on food safety policies, including implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. His leadership role 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.

Robert V. Tauxe

Director, Division of Foodborne, Waterborne, and Environmental Diseases, CDC



Dr. Robert Tauxe is Director of the CDC Division that is charged with prevention and control of foodborne, waterborne and fungal infections. The Division monitors the frequency of these infections in the United States, investigates outbreaks, and develops strategies to reduce the disease, disability and deaths that they cause.

Dr. Tauxe graduated from Yale University in 1975, and received his medical degree from Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville, Tennessee. He holds a Masters in Public Health degree from Yale, and completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Washington. He then then trained at CDC in the Epidemic Intelligence Service for two years, and joined CDC staff in 1985.

His interests include bacterial enteric diseases, epidemiology and pathogenesis of infectious diseases, epidemiologic and clinical consequences of bacterial genetic exchange, antimicrobial use and resistance to antimicrobial agents, and teaching epidemiologic methods. His faculty appointments include the School of Public Health and the Department of Biology at Emory University, Atlanta.

Dr. Tauxe has written/co-authored 290 journal articles, letters and book chapters.

Kis Robertson Hale

Chief Public Health Veterinarian and Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Kis Robertson Hale was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in October 2017. In this role, Dr. Robertson Hale partners with the OPHS Assistant Administrator in informing agency decision-making through a program responsible for scientific analysis, advice, and recommendations on matters related to science and public health. These efforts ensure FSIS' Strategic Goals 1 and 2: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health and Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches are executed to enhance a modernized scientific response to foodborne illness outbreaks and adulteration events.

Dr. Robertson Hale's career with FSIS began in 2003 in the Office of Field Operations, where she worked as an Enforcement, Investigation and Analysis Officer. In 2008, she joined the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer and led several domestic and international epidemiologic investigations related to rabies in human and animal populations. During 2010-2011, she continued with the CDC as a Preventive Medicine Fellow assigned to the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, providing zoonotic disease expertise to the office of the State Public Health Veterinarian.

In 2011, she returned to FSIS and joined OPHS' Applied Epidemiology Staff, ultimately becoming Deputy Director. In this role, she helped oversee the development and implementation of illness cluster surveillance activities, consumer complaint monitoring, and the coordination of outbreak investigations linked to meat and poultry products. She also was instrumental in characterizing and identifying trends in consumer-reported hazards leading to voluntary product recalls and harmonizing federal activities related to whole genome sequencing.

Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Georgia Institute of Technology, a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Degree from Tuskegee University, and a Master of Public Health Degree from the University of Minnesota. She also is board certified in veterinary preventive medicine. She is a Captain in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Denise Eblen

Assistant Administrator, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Denise Eblen was appointed as Assistant Administrator for the Office of Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in May 2018. In this role, Dr. Eblen leads OPHS to provide expertise in scientific analysis, including oversight of FSIS laboratories and testing of regulatory samples, risk assessment, and outbreak investigation and response. Her team provides recommendations on all matters involving public health and related sciences at FSIS. Her duties directly support FSIS' Strategic Goals 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health, and 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches.

In 2015, Dr. Eblen joined USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) in Washington D.C., as a Deputy Director. In this role, she led NIFA's Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, which supports research, education and extension activities in food safety, food quality, nutrition and obesity.

Dr. Eblen first joined the FSIS family in 2001 as the Agency's first Food Safety Fellow and rose to become OPHS' Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator in 2013. Dr. Eblen previously held the position of Research Associate at the USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, where she studied the safety of produce.

A native of Ireland, Dr. Eblen is a naturalized U.S. citizen. She holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Ulster at Coleraine in Northern Ireland, a Master of Science Degree in Food Science from Queen's University, Belfast, in Northern Ireland, and a Ph.D. in Food Safety Microbiology from the University of Ulster at Jordanstown, Northern Ireland.

William K. Shaw, Jr.

Executive Associate for Laboratory Services, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Bill Shaw works in the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) as the Executive associate for Laboratory Services (EALS). The EALS leads the 3 FSIS Field Services Laboratories and the accompanying Laboratory Quality Assurance Staff and Food Emergency Response Network Staff in the analysis of meat, poultry, and egg products for known and emerging foodborne hazards. The EALS leads a dynamic and geographically dispersed staff of ~230 staff. The EALS leads studies, reviews, and evaluations of scientific lab sampling data collected by FSIS and other public health partners related to meat, poultry, and egg products to determine potential impact on human health; directs analyses of food safety hazards as a science-based resource used for public health decision making; and serves as a national and international resource on food borne hazards and collaborates with other public health officials at the Federal, State, and local levels. Prior to being selected as EALS, Bill did a detail as acting EALS where he led the selection and coordination of implementing three new microbiological screening methods for *L. monocytogenes*, *Salmonella*, and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* within the laboratory system.

Bill received his Bachelor of Science in Food Science from the University of Delaware in 1996. He then received a Master of Science in Food Science in 2001 and Doctor of Philosophy in Food Science in 2004 from the University of Massachusetts. While part of the academic research community, Bill conducted research in the areas high hydrostatic pressure processing, pulsed electric field processing, rapid microbiological detection and enumeration methods, and *Listeria* spp. biofilm formation.

Prior to joining OPHS, Bill spent his first years at FSIS in the Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) where he eventually became the Director of the Risk, Innovations, and Management Staff. As director, Bill led the agency policy development in the areas of EIAO methodology, sampling and testing policy, food safety risk management, compliance guidance, new technologies, new ingredients, and financial management of OPPD.

Philip Bronstein

Assistant Administrator, Office of Field Operations, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Philip Bronstein was appointed Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Office of Field Operations (OFO) on January 2019. In this capacity, Dr. Bronstein plays a critical role in guiding the District Offices, which provide inspection in more than 6,000 establishments throughout the United States and territories, to ensure domestic and imported meat, poultry and processed egg products are safe, wholesome and properly labeled

Throughout his career, Dr. Bronstein has been committed to public health and to serving the American public. He joined USDA's Agricultural Research Service in 2004 as a Research Molecular Biologist. In this role, he was responsible for developing and implementing research to study the interactions between plants and pathogenic bacteria. In 2010, he joined FSIS as a Microbiologist in the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS). In this role, he worked on a wide range of microbiological issues including providing microbiological support to the field, identifying emerging microbiological issues, and explaining the scientific underpinnings of FSIS policies to international audiences. In 2015, Dr. Bronstein was selected as the Director of the OPHS Science Staff and provided microbiological and chemical residue support for the Agency. He joined OFO's team in 2017 and helped implement the Siluriformes inspection program.

Dr. Bronstein holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Microbiology from Texas A&M University and a Doctorate in Microbiology Degree from the University of Washington.

Carol Blake

Assistant Administrator, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education, FSIS, USDA



Carol Blake was appointed as the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education (OPACE) in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in November 2011. In this role, Blake leads efforts to ensure that all customers receive valuable and consistent food safety information. Her extensive communications experience with FSIS and USDA provides a solid foundation to lead OPACE initiatives.

As Assistant Administrator of OPACE, Blake oversees the strategic communication programs that inform and educate a variety of audiences, including Congress, media, consumer and industry stakeholder organizations on FSIS policy and public health activities, foodborne illness prevention efforts, and safe food handling. She also oversees the communication strategies to the Agency's nearly 9,500 employees nationwide. During her time with USDA, she has seen a wide range of technology advancements that have helped raise the profile of FSIS in the ever-evolving world of 21st century communications. Under her leadership, FSIS has led innovative outreach using traditional and social media, including a multi-million-dollar Ad Council campaign, as well as modernized its website into a mobile-friendly public health tool.

In her current role, she leads efforts that directly link to [FSIS' three strategic goals](#) – Goal 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health; Goal 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches; and Goal 3: Achieve Operational Excellence. One of Blake's missions is to increase the number of consumers who follow safe food handling practices through education and awareness campaigns. She has been instrumental in securing behavior research studies that are used to influence consumer messaging and ensures that the public can receive critical food safety information through a variety of social media. She leads the Agency in its development of mobile apps and consumer tools and pursues partnerships with government and non-government organizations to strengthen awareness of FSIS priorities and food safety issues.

In August 2008, Blake was named the Director of FSIS' Congressional and Public Affairs Office. Since joining FSIS in 1999, she held positions that include press officer and deputy director over the correspondence and Freedom of Information Act functions. Before joining FSIS, Blake handled media and communication initiatives for USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and the Office of Communications.

Though Blake didn't set out determined for a career at USDA, she feels a strong connection with the Department, as her grandfather was the head of what is now USDA's Office of Budget and Program Analysis. Blake's earliest formal experience at USDA entailed working as a clerk with the Forest Service during college breaks. She graduated from Randolph-Macon College with a degree in English.

Melvin Carter

Director, Risk Management and Innovations Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Melvin Carter is the Director of the Risk Management and Innovations Staff within the Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD). He administers the execution and management of science-based food safety programs concerning pathogen testing or prevention, use of new ingredients, use of processing aids, and the use of new production processes with their assessment toward food safety policies and risk management in the development of new guidance for stakeholders or proposed new requirements for industry. He previously served as a National Program Lead with the Institute of Food Safety and Nutrition, where he was involved in Food Safety, Food Quality, Food Manufacturing and Innovative Research for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. Dr. Carter received both his Bachelors and Masters in Food Science Technology from Alabama A&M University and PhD, from Auburn University.

Rachel Edelstein

Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development, FSIS, USDA



Rachel Edelstein became the Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) on June 7, 2020. Edelstein leads the Agency's efforts to modernize regulations, improve instructions to FSIS field personnel and eliminate unnecessary burden to the industry. These efforts align with [FSIS' Strategic Goals](#) 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health and Goal 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches.

Previously, she served as Deputy Assistant Administrator of OPPD since 2012.

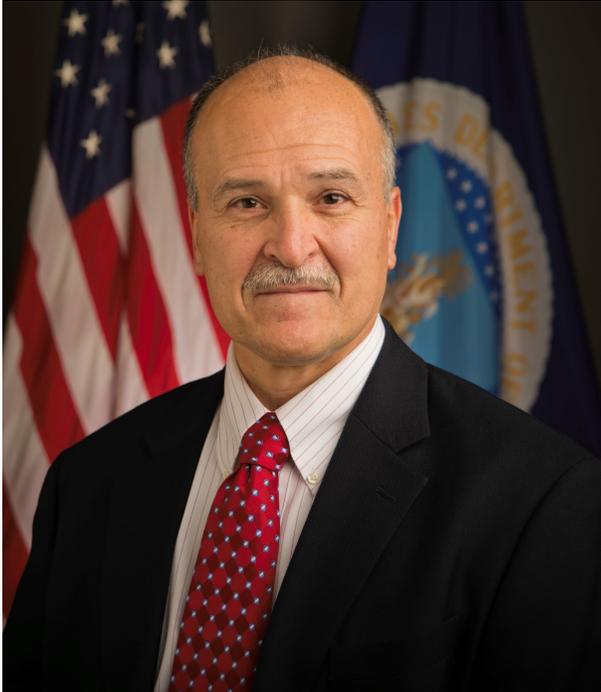
Edelstein's policy work has covered a range of issues that are important to both consumers and the industry. She finalized the policy that declared certain non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* to be adulterants in non-intact raw beef products and directed the development of related sampling instructions for inspectors. Following various outbreaks, Edelstein promoted stronger food safety protections through policy requiring establishments to reassess their Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points plans for ground and comminuted poultry products. She also led the development of policies and procedures for the new sampling and testing of comminuted poultry products for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*.

As OPPD's Assistant Administrator she led the development of the rules, guidance, and instructions to the field to modernize poultry slaughter inspection and swine slaughter inspection.

Edelstein has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English from the College of William and Mary and a Master of Arts Degree in English from the University of Virginia.

Emilio Esteban

Chief Scientist, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. J. Emilio Esteban was appointed as Chief Scientist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in August 2018. In this capacity, Dr. Esteban serves as the primary scientific advisor on matters of public health and food safety that affect the mission of the Agency, with primary responsibility for scientific initiatives within the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS). Dr. Esteban's efforts directly support [FSIS' Strategic Goals](#) 1: Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health, and 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches.

In 2002, Dr. Esteban joined OPHS as the Director of the Western Laboratory. In this role, he directed the implementation of the sampling program and was responsible for the physical plant, equipment and personnel infrastructure. In 2008, he was appointed as the FSIS Science Advisor for Laboratory Services, where he harmonized the operation of all three FSIS laboratories, maintained operations to meet with the ISO17025 standard and coordinated emergency response.

Prior to joining FSIS, Dr. Esteban worked in several positions at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). From 1994 to 2002, he was as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer; a Staff Epidemiologist in the National Center for Environmental Health; and an Assistant Director for the CDC Food Safety Office.

He received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Mexico's National University, a Master of Business Administration Degree from the Panamerican Institute, and a Master's of Preventive Veterinary Medicine Degree, as well as a Doctorate in Epidemiology from the University of California at Davis.

Sheryl Shaw

Director, Applied Epidemiology Staff, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Sheryl Shaw is a veterinarian with 30+ years of experience, including 12 years of private practice in food animal medicine and 20 years with USDA including Food Safety and Inspection Service Field Operations and Headquarters and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) as an Epidemiologist, Area Veterinarian in Charge, and Import/Export Service Center Director. Dr. Shaw holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from Washington State University and a Master of Public Health from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Shaw is a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine and a Senior Executive Fellow from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Shaw currently serves as the Director of the Applied Epidemiology Staff within the Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, in Washington, DC.

Janet Stevens

Assistant Administrator, Office of Planning, Analysis and Risk Management, FSIS, USDA



Janet B. Stevens, PMP, TKP, was appointed the Assistant Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Office of Planning, Analysis and Risk Management (OPARM) in October 2019. In this capacity, Ms. Stevens is responsible for supporting food safety and protecting public health through strategic planning, evaluation, data analysis and visualization, enterprise risk management and internal controls Agency-wide. Ms. Stevens also oversees the Chief Data Scientist/Chief Data Officer, Chief Risk Officer, Evaluation Officer, and Statistical Officer. Her efforts directly impact [FSIS' Strategic Goal 2: Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches](#).

In October 2018, Ms. Stevens held the OPARM Deputy Assistant Administrator's position. In that role, she supported the OPARM Assistant Administrator in completing the functions of the program area.

From April 2007 to October 2018, Stevens was FSIS' Chief Information Officer (CIO). As CIO, she was responsible for supporting food safety, protecting public health, and ensuring food defense requirements through the development, implementation and protection of data, infrastructure and information systems. Her efforts supported Goals 2: (see above) and 3: Achieve Operational Excellence.

Ms. Stevens oversaw innovative and multiple award-winning technical and customer experience work for cybersecurity, web and information technology (IT) leadership for FSIS. She co-led USDA IT Modernization and Center of Excellence initiatives and was elected as the Director and Vice Chair for USDA's OCIO Chief Information Officer's Council. Additionally, she spearheaded several USDA eGovernment initiatives and participated in the development of the Federal recommendations for public websites as part of Office of Management and Budget's Interagency Committee on Government Information Web Content Standards Working Group, as well as the Federal Digital Government Strategy.

Previously, Ms. Stevens was the Director of the FSIS Web Services Staff from 2004 to 2006 and the Director of the Management Controls Technology Staff from 2006 to April 2007. She began her career at USDA in 1991 as a Writer/Editor for the Economic Management Service (now part of the Economic Research Service). In 1998, Ms. Stevens became the Web Manager for the Risk Management Agency, where she also served as the acting Public Affairs Director.

Ms. Stevens is a proponent of innovative methods of how people interact with data, information and technology to better protect public health, as well as avenues to improve data transparency with FSIS employees and external stakeholders. She is also an advocate for using data analytics and visualization as part of the decision-making process, and she strives to provide the best customer experience possible. In 2012, Ms. Stevens received the U.S. Government Information Security Leadership Award for the leadership of FSIS Accomplishments in Cybersecurity Process and Policy Improvements.

In 1991, Ms. Stevens earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with a concentration in Communications from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia.

Joanna Zablotsky Kufel

Director, Risk Assessment and Analytics Staff, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Joanna Zablotsky Kufel is the Director of the Risk Assessment and Analytics Staff (RAAS) within the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS). In this role, she oversees the development of risk assessments and other analyses to support key FSIS initiatives, such as pathogen reduction performance standards and modernization efforts. Additionally, Dr. Zablotsky Kufel serves as an FSIS Steering Committee member in the Interagency Food Safety Analytics Collaboration (IFSAC). Dr. Joanna Zablotsky Kufel received both her Masters in Public Health (MPH) and PhD, as well as a Risk Sciences and Public Policy Certificate, from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH).

Isabel Walls

Senior Public Health Advisor and Scientific Liaison, Office of Public Health Science, FSIS, USDA



Dr. Isabel Walls joined FSIS OPHS in September 2019 as the Senior Public Health Advisor in the Office of the Public Health Science, where she is responsible for the development, planning, and analysis of program activities related to food safety and public health, including managing the Research Priorities program. Prior to this, Dr. Walls served as the National Program Leader for Food Safety at USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), providing scientific leadership to NIFA's food safety programs. Dr. Walls supported the development of new pathogen detection methods and control strategies to reduce food contamination. She also supported the careers of many young food safety scientists. During that time, Dr. Walls was detailed to serve as a Senior Advisor for Food Safety and Nutrition to USDA's Chief Scientist, where she coordinated multi-agency activities, including organizing a major conference on nutrition; she wrote speeches for the Chief Scientist and developed policy documents. Prior to this, Dr. Walls served as a Scientific Analyst at USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS), where she provided scientific advice to address Sanitary and Phytosanitary policy developments in international fora that impact US exports or imports of animal products. This included developing credible scientific information to address the issue of zero tolerance for *Salmonella* on raw poultry. Prior to that, she served as a Senior Scientist at FSIS in the Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response, where she managed projects related to foodborne bioterrorism. Dr. Walls has a Ph.D. in Food Microbiology and is recognized as an international expert in microbial food safety, with numerous invited presentations, both nationally and internationally, and 30+ manuscripts published in peer reviewed journals. She is a Past President of the International Association for Food Protection.

Kimberly Cook

National Program Leader, Food Safety, ARS, USDA



Dr. Cook has been with the USDA Agricultural Research Service for more than 16 years. She is a National Program Leader for Food Safety and ARS lead for antimicrobial resistance research associated with food safety. The food safety research program is dedicated to the study of foodborne pathogens and antimicrobial resistance involving basic and applied research in epidemiology, molecular biology, and microbiology to improve the microbiological safety and quality of food animals. Before coming to the ARS Office of National Programs, Dr. Cook was the Research Leader for the Bacterial Epidemiology and Antimicrobial Resistance (BEAR) Unit, National Poultry Research Center (NPRC), Athens, Georgia. Dr. Cook's personal research has focused on understanding the ecology of microorganisms associated with stored and applied animal wastes from poultry, swine, beef and dairy. The overarching goal was to develop cost-effective, environmentally sustainable intervention strategies to mitigate foodborne pathogen and antimicrobial resistance in pre-harvest production environments.

Terri Nintemann

Deputy Administrator, FSIS, USDA



Terri Nintemann was appointed Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) in April 2020. In this role, Nintemann assists the Administrator with overseeing FSIS' public health mission and leading a dedicated team of employees. These efforts directly support the Agency's Strategic Goals 1 Prevent Foodborne Illness and Protect Public Health; 2. Modernize Inspection Systems, Policies, and the Use of Scientific Approaches; and 3. Achieve Operational Excellence.

Nintemann has held several senior leadership roles in FSIS since she joined the Agency in 2003. She most recently served as the Acting Deputy Administrator from March 2020 to April 2020. Prior to this role, she was the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Policy and Program Development, leading the development of Agency policies, including regulations, instructions to the field, and guidance to industry. Previously, Nintemann was the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Planning, Analysis and Risk Management, the Office of Data Integration and Food Protection and the Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education.

In her career at FSIS, Nintemann spearheaded efforts to modernize the Agency's use of data, analytical tools and analysis and sharing of data with employees and stakeholders. She enhanced collaboration and strengthened partnerships at all levels. Nintemann also led and managed the FSIS enterprise governance process, a corporate approach to decision making, ensuring it continued to evolve as the process and structure matured.

Before joining FSIS, Nintemann was a professional staff member and legislative director for the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. She also served as a Legislative Director in the House of Representatives and a Legislative Assistant in the U.S. Senate.

Nintemann's passion for public service is rooted in her participation in FFA and 4-H as a young adult. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Animal Science and a minor in Ag Economics from the University of Minnesota.