

Toxicogenomics Speaker Biographies

Paul Hanlon, PhD, DABT, Co-Chair



Dr. Paul Hanlon earned his doctorate in molecular toxicology from the University of Wisconsin Madison and is Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology. After postdoctoral work at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, he has worked as a toxicologist in both the pharmaceutical and food industries.

Dr. Hanlon is currently a Director of Regulatory Affairs at Abbott Nutrition where his primary roles are overseeing the regulatory approvals of novel food ingredients as well as providing guidance to food safety programs that govern the control of chemical contaminants. He has developed, managed, and interpreted the toxicology studies conducted in support novel food approvals in multiple countries, including the United States, Canada, Taiwan, and Malaysia. He has also participated in the creation of regulatory guidance and maximum levels with regulatory agencies, including serving as a delegate to the Codex committees managing chemical contaminants and food additives.

Dr. Hanlon is active in the food toxicology community and over the past years has published multiple papers on the risk assessment of food substance, as well as given presentations on these topics to audiences around the world. He has been a member of the Toxicology Forum planning committee for two years, in which time he has coordinated and given presentations at several sessions on a range of topics.

Steven Hermansky, Pharm D, PhD, DABT, Co-Chair



Dr. Steven J. Hermansky joined US FDA in April 2022 to help the agency evaluate and move to New Alternative Methods in their continuing effort to reduce, refine, and even replace animal use in toxicology. Previously Dr. Hermansky worked at Conagra Brands beginning in 2007. He directed and oversaw the corporation's

toxicology and product safety risk assessment programs as well as headed the Food Protection, Regulatory Affairs, and Analytical and Applied Sciences departments. In these roles, Dr. Hermansky led teams of scientists in the safety sciences including microbiology, toxicology, and analytical chemistry as well as directing global regulatory affairs and food safety corporate audit functions. Prior to joining Conagra, he worked in the pharmaceutical industry as a toxicologist with responsibilities in drug safety clinical trials and adverse event tracking, trending, and reporting. He started his career as a toxicologist conducting contract laboratory animal studies with Union Carbide.

Dr. Hermansky has a Doctor of Pharmacy degree as well as Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in toxicology from the University of Nebraska. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology and has published over 40 textbook chapters, peer reviewed publications, and scientific abstracts. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Nebraska College of Public Health and has served on the advisory or editorial boards of several organizations.

Jessica Beekman, PhD, Speaker



Dr. Jessica Beekman is a Research Chemist in the Office of Regulatory Science at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) within the US Food and Drug Administration. Her work focuses on the development of analytical methods for the analysis of chemical contaminants in food products. In particular, Jessica has spent the last seven years on the development of methods for the analysis of monochloropropanediol (MCPD) and glycidyl esters in infant formula and other processed foods. She has authored numerous publications regarding MPCD and glycidyl esters research and has presented her work at meetings and conferences worldwide.

Dr. Beekman received her PhD in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Florida in 2014. She completed postdoctoral fellowships in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida and the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) at the US FDA.

Lauren Robin, ScD, Speaker



Dr. Lauren Posnick Robin is Chief of the Plant Products Branch, Office of Food Safety, at US FDA. From October-December 2022, she is on detail as Acting Branch Chief, Scientific Development Branch, Office of Food Additive Safety, US FDA. Dr. Robin is also the US Delegate to the Codex Committee for Contaminants in Foods, representing the United States in international discussions on chemical contaminants. She has a BA in Biology from Swarthmore College and an ScD in Molecular and Cellular Toxicology from the Harvard School of Public Health. She was an AAAS Risk Policy Fellow at US FDA from 1999-2000.

Matthew Dent, PhD, IDT, Speaker



Dr. Matthew Dent is a science leader in Unilever's Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre. Matt started his career as a study director for reproductive and developmental toxicology studies before joining Unilever in 2004. His current role focuses on leading research into novel (non-animal) approaches for systemic toxicology risk assessment and their application. He has served in various international task forces and working groups including with the OECD, ECVAM and Cosmetics Europe, and is currently the industry co-chair of the International Cooperation on Cosmetics Regulation's Joint Regulators-Industry Working Group on Integrated Approaches to Safety Assessment of Cosmetics. He has published several peer-reviewed papers predominantly concerned with the development and application of new approaches in toxicological risk assessment.

Matt received his PhD from Lancaster University following research into performing non-animal (next generation) safety assessments for anti-androgenic substances and holds the International Diploma in Toxicology.

Sean V. Taylor, PhD, Speaker



Dr. Sean V. Taylor is the Scientific Director of the International Organization of the Flavor Industry, the Scientific Secretary to the Expert Panel of the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEMA), the Senior Science Advisor to the International Association of Color Manufacturers, and is a Managing Director of Verto Solutions, a trade association management and scientific consulting firm based in Washington, DC.

Dr. Taylor's work with food ingredients is broadly focused in toxicology, and over the years he has worked to address requests for data on flavorings and color additives made by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the UN FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), among others. As the Scientific Secretary to the FEMA Expert Panel, Dr. Taylor administers the FEMA Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) program. Through his work with the FEMA GRAS program and the color additive and flavor industries, Dr. Taylor has co-authored publications describing genetic toxicity and repeat-dose toxicity studies, but also foundational publications that describe refinements in the use of chemical grouping, read across, and exposure assessment for flavor safety evaluation.

Dr. Taylor received a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Pennsylvania State University in 1992, a master's degree from Cornell University in 1995, and a PhD in Chemistry from Cornell in 1998. From 1998-2002, he conducted postdoctoral research in the Laboratory of Organic Chemistry at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zürich, Switzerland. Dr. Taylor was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at The Ohio State University from 2002 to 2005 before beginning his work with the food and food ingredient industries.

Suzanne Fitzpatrick, PhD, DABT, Panelist



Dr. Suzanne Fitzpatrick is the Senior Advisor for Toxicology at FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). A board-certified toxicologist in the US and in Europe, Dr. Fitzpatrick is the FDA lead for the federal collaboration among FDA, EPA, and NIH. She also has lead Toxicology Testing in the 21st Century (Tox 21), which looks to develop alternatives to animal testing, and chaired the FDA Predictive Toxicology Roadmap Committee. Dr. Fitzpatrick played a pivotal role in helping launch the organs-on-a-chip tool, a revolutionary testing technology being evaluated by FDA. Dr. Fitzpatrick is an adjunct professor at Johns Hopkins University, the FDA representative to the Johns Hopkins Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing Board, and past president of the American College of Toxicology. She served as the Society of Toxicology (SOT) Secretary and as president of the SOT National Capital Area Chapter. Dr. Fitzpatrick received her BA from the University of California at San Diego and her PhD from Georgetown University.