

Harnessing Knowledge to Ensure Food Safety

Opportunities to Improve the Nation's Food Safety Information Infrastructure

Panel Discussion

May 22, 2008

Biographies

DAVID WILLIAM KENNEDY ACHESON, M.D., F.R.C.P., Associate Commissioner for Foods, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Dr. David William Kennedy Acheson graduated from the University of London Medical School in 1980, and following training in internal medicine and infectious diseases in the United Kingdom, moved to the New England Medical Center and Tufts University in Boston in 1987. As an Associate Professor at Tufts University, he undertook basic molecular pathogenesis research on foodborne pathogens, especially Shiga toxin-producing E. coli. In 2001, Dr. Acheson moved his laboratory to the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore to continue research on foodborne pathogens.

In September 2002, Dr. Acheson became the Chief Medical Officer at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). In January 2004, he was named Director of CFSAN's Food Safety and Security Staff. In January 2005, the mission of the office was expanded and renamed the Office of Food Safety, Defense and Outreach; in January 2007 it was further expanded to become the Office of Food Defense, Communication and Emergency Response. In May 2007, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Andrew von Eschenbach, appointed Dr. Acheson the Assistant Commissioner for Food Protection to provide advice and counsel to the Commissioner on strategic and substantive food safety and food defense matters. In January 2008, Dr. von Eschenbach expanded Dr. Acheson's portfolio by naming him Associate Commissioner of Foods, which gives him an agency-wide leadership role for all food and feed issues, including health promotion and nutrition.

Dr. Acheson has published extensively and is internationally recognized both for his public health expertise in food safety and his research in infectious diseases. Additionally, Dr. Acheson is a fellow of both the Royal College of Physicians (London) and the Infectious Disease Society of America.

MICHAEL BATZ, M.Sc., Executive Director, Food Safety Research Consortium

Mr. Batz is the Head of Food Safety Programs at the Emerging Pathogens Institute of the University of Florida and Executive Director of the FSRC. Prior to his tenure at UF, he was a

Program Manager in the Department of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD, and a Research Associate at Resources for the Future in Washington, DC. He earned an M.Sc. in electrical and computer engineering and a B.S. in both electrical and computer engineering & engineering and public policy from Carnegie Mellon University.

His research focuses on using computer modeling and quantitative analysis to inform policy in environmental and human health, namely foodborne disease. His research includes efforts ranking microbial foodborne hazards by multiple metrics of public health impact, the valuation of health states associated with foodborne disease, exploration of HRQL (Health Related Quality of Life) metrics for measuring foodborne illness health states, and the examination of uncertainty in complex quantitative analysis. In addition to foodborne illness, Mr. Batz's research has included work on criteria air pollution policy, Superfund program management, decision modeling of small-scale Oaxacan coffee farmers, modeling airborne particulates from brick manufacturers in Juarez, Mexico, and modeling land-trust conservation behavior.

ROBERT E. BRACKETT, Ph.D., Senior Vice President and Chief Science and Regulatory Officer, Grocery Manufacturers Association

Robert E. Brackett serves as Senior Vice President and Chief Science and Regulatory Officer at the Grocery Manufacturer's Association (GMA). GMA represents the world's leading food, beverage and consumer products companies. The Association promotes sound public policy, champions initiatives that increase productivity and growth and helps to protect the safety and security of the food supply through scientific excellence. Dr. Brackett oversees all of the association's scientific and regulatory activity, including the operation of its in-house food safety laboratory.

Prior to coming to GMA, Dr. Brackett served in various positions within the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, eventually attaining the position of Center Director. As Center Director, he provided executive leadership to the Center's development and implementation of programs and policies relative to the composition, quality, safety, and labeling of foods, food and color additives, dietary supplements and cosmetics

From 1994 until 2000, Dr Brackett served as Professor of Food Science and Technology in the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia, where he was an active researcher in the area of food microbiology, specializing in microbiological safety of foods. Dr. Brackett has also served on the faculty of North Carolina State University where he held the title of Extension Food Safety Specialist and Assistant Professor. Dr. Brackett received his B.S. in bacteriology and his M.S. and Ph.D. in food microbiology, all from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Dr. Brackett has served elected leadership positions in several professional associations, and is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the International Association for Food Protection. He is also the recipient of numerous professional awards and serves on the Advisory Boards of the National Center for Food Protection and Defense, and the National Center for Food Safety and Technology.

CAROLINE SMITH DeWAAL, J.D., Director of the Food Safety Program, Center for Science in the Public Interest

Caroline Smith DeWaal is the director of the food safety program for the Center for Science in the Public Interest and co-author of *Is Our Food Safe? A Consumer's Guide to Protecting Your Health and the Environment* (Three Rivers Press, 2002). She represents CSPI in the media, in Congress and in the regulatory arena on a broad range of food safety issues.

Ms. DeWaal is the leading consumer analyst on reform of laws and regulations governing food safety. Since 1999, she has maintained and annually published a listing of foodborne illness outbreaks organized by food source that now contains over fifteen years of outbreaks reports. She has presented CSPI's outbreak database at numerous scientific conferences, including the American Public Health Association, International Association for Food Protection and the American Society for Microbiology. She has presented papers on food safety at over 50 scientific and public policy conferences. She has participated in a number of World Health Organization consultations on food safety and represents the International Association of Consumer Food Organizations at the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene.

Ms. DeWaal was a member of the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection from 1997-2000 and is presently a member of the Food and Drug Administration Food Advisory Committee. She chaired of the Editorial Board of the Food and Drug Law Journal and is a member of the International Association of Food Protection. DeWaal graduated from the University of Vermont and Antioch School of Law. She is a member of the Massachusetts Bar.

TIMOTHY JONES, M.D., State Epidemiologist, Tennessee Department of Health

Dr. Jones completed medical school at Stanford University and a residency in Family Medicine at the Brown University/Memorial Hospital of Rhode Island program, where he also did a fellowship in Maternal/Child Health. He practiced in an underserved population in Utah before joining the CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service in 1997, at which time he was assigned to Tennessee. He now serves as the State Epidemiologist for the Tennessee Department of Health, overseeing programs including Immunizations, TB, Emergency Preparedness, Foodborne Diseases, Hospital Infections, Zoonotic Diseases and Environmental Epidemiology.

RUTH J. KATZ, J.D., M.P.H., Dean and Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy, The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services

Ruth J. Katz is the Dean and Walter G. Ross Professor of Health Policy of the School of Public Health and Health Services at The George Washington University, the only school of public health in the nation's capitol. Prior to joining The George Washington University, Ms. Katz was Associate Dean for Administration at the Yale University School of Medicine, where she also held appointments in the departments of Internal Medicine (General Medicine) and Epidemiology and Public Health as an Assistant Professor.

Ms. Katz, a *magna cum laude* graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, holds a law degree from Emory University and a Master of Public Health from Harvard. She served for over a decade, from 1982 to 1995, as Counsel to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment (chaired by Congressman Henry A. Waxman) of the Committee on Energy and Commerce in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, Ms. Katz was, from 1995 to 1996, the Director of Public Health Programs at the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; in 1996, the Democrat nominee for New Jersey's 2nd Congressional District for the U.S. House of Representatives; and, in 1997, Counsel to the Advisory Committee on Tobacco Policy and Public Health, chaired by Drs. C. Everett Koop and David Kessler. She also was engaged in the private practice of law from 1977 to 1979.

While Counsel to the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, Ms. Katz was instrumental in the enactment of many major pieces of legislation affecting the public health and federal health care financing. She has received several awards recognizing her efforts, including those from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Women's Association, and the National Association of Community Health Centers.

In addition to her duties at The George Washington University, Ms. Katz currently serves on the boards of Emory University, the CDC Foundation, and NARAL Pro-Choice America. She is a member of the National Advisory Committee for the Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholars program; the Finalist Selection Committee of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, and the Trustees' Council of Penn Women. She has also completed terms as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Office of Research on Women's Health of the National Institutes of Health, the Advisory Committee to the Director of CDC, and CDC's National Vaccine Advisory Committee.

ART LIANG, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Food Safety Office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Arthur Liang is Director of the Food Safety Office, at the Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention, National Center for Zoonotic, Vector-borne & Enteric Diseases. He is a former CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service officer and former chief of the Communicable Disease Division, Hawaii Department of Health. He currently serves on the Executive Committee of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods and is the CDC advisor to the Board of Directors of the Association of Food and Drug Officials. He is also a member of the Preventive Medicine Residency Advisory Committee for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, and a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine. He is board certified in General Preventive Medicine and Public Health. He has an M.P.H. from the University of Hawaii (1980), an M.D. from the University of Maryland (1974), and a B.A. from Oberlin College (1970).

RICHARD RAYMOND, M.D., Under Secretary, Office of Food Safety, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Richard Raymond was appointed as Under Secretary for Food Safety on July 18, 2005. In this position, Dr. Raymond is responsible for overseeing the policies and programs of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), and he chairs the U.S. Codex Steering Committee, which provides guidance to U.S. delegation to the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Dr. Raymond has extensive experience in developing and implementing policies and programs designed to improve public health. Prior to joining USDA, Dr. Raymond served as the director of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation & Licensure division where he oversaw regulatory programs involving health care and environmental issues.

While serving as Nebraska's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Raymond directed a large number of public health programs including disease prevention and health promotion. He also developed several anti-bioterrorism initiatives and a statewide health care alert system. He also played an integral role in developing health districts in each of Nebraska's 93 counties.

A life-long resident of Nebraska, Dr. Raymond practiced medicine in rural Nebraska for 17 years. Dr. Raymond established and directed a community-based Family Practice Residency for Clarkson Medical Center and served as president of the Nebraska Medical Association, as well as president of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO).

Dr. Raymond graduated from Hastings College and earned his Medical Degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

PAMELA G. RUSSO, M.D., M.P.H., Senior Program Officer, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Pamela Russo, M.D., M.P.H., is a senior program officer on the Public Health Team, which is committed to strengthening the public health system to enable it to protect and promote health. She is the lead on the foundation's programs in accreditation and quality improvement in public health agencies and also focuses on the translation of evidence to policy change in public health.

In addition to her work on the Public Health Team, Russo serves as the senior program officer for the Health & Society Scholars Program, an ongoing Foundation national program that enables more than 18 outstanding individuals annually who have completed doctoral training to engage in an intensive two-year program at one of six nationally prominent universities. This innovative program seeks to produce leaders who will change the questions asked, the methods employed to analyze problems, and the range of solutions offered to improve the health of all Americans. Russo also oversees the Foundation's Young Epidemiology Scholars (YES) Program, a program she designed. YES seeks to attract exceptional high school students to the field of public health by offering scholarships of up to \$50,000 that are awarded for original research projects that use epidemiological methods to study a health problem.

Russo came to the Foundation in November 2000 from the Cornell University Medical Center in New York City, where she was an associate professor of medicine, director of the clinical outcomes section, and program co-director for the master's program and fellowship in clinical epidemiology and health services research.

She earned an M.D. from the University of California, San Francisco, and completed her residency in primary care general internal medicine at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, followed by a fellowship in clinical epidemiology and rheumatology at Cornell University Medical Center and the Hospital for Special Surgery. She earned an M.P.H. in epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health and a B.S. from Harvard College.

MICHAEL R. TAYLOR, J.D., Research Professor, The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services

Mike Taylor is a research professor at The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, where he works on policy, resource, and management issues that affect the success of public health agencies in carrying out their prevention missions. Mr. Taylor chairs the Food Safety Research Consortium, which is a multi-university effort to improve food safety priority setting and decision-making.

He served from 1994-1996 as Administrator of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and before that as Deputy Commissioner for Policy at the Food and Drug Administration (1991-1994) and FDA staff lawyer and Executive Assistant to the Commissioner (1976-1981). In the private sector, he established the food and drug law practice at King & Spalding and was Vice President for Public Policy at Monsanto Company.

Mr. Taylor is currently a member of an NAS/IOM committee that is studying decision-making under uncertainty for the Environmental Protection Agency and recently co-chaired an NAS committee that conducted an EPA-sponsored study on human testing of pesticides and other EPA-regulated substances. He is a board member of Resolve, Inc. and the Alliance to End Hunger.

Mr. Taylor received his law degree from the University of Virginia and his B.A. in political science from Davidson College. Email: mike.taylor@gwumc.edu.