

IAFP Secretary Election

This information is provided to help you make your selection of the next IAFP Secretary.

IAFP Members have until Tuesday, March 3 to cast their vote. The link and passcode will be emailed to Members on February 2.



Dr. Maria Hoffmann is a Genomics Research Scientist in the Human Foods Program at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Washington, D.C., where she leads nationally- and internationally-recognized initiatives to advance the genomic epidemiology of foodborne pathogens. Dr. Hoffmann earned her Master's in Food Chemistry and Ph.D. in Microbial Genetics from the University of Hamburg. Over the past two decades, she has worked at the intersection of science, public health, and food safety policy, developing advanced genomic methods, building global networks, and strengthening outbreak detection through whole genome sequencing (WGS). She began her public health career at the Institute for Hygiene and Environment in Hamburg before joining the FDA in 2007.

Dr. Hoffmann's work has helped shape the modern era of food safety genomics. She established the FDA/HFP's long-read sequencing program and played a foundational role in developing GenomeTrakr, the global WGS network that has transformed outbreak traceability. Her research focuses on precision genomics, including antimicrobial resistance and stress tolerance detection, as well as foodborne pathogen survival and persistence within food systems. Dr. Hoffmann brings a highly collaborative leadership approach and a broad global perspective, cultivated through sustained engagement with diverse scientific and public health communities including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA); the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring and Surveillance (NARMS); the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL); the World Health Organization (WHO); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment (BfR); the Robert Koch Institute (RKI); the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA); the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES); and academic institutions worldwide. She has authored more than 100 scientific publications, delivered more than 100 international presentations, and received 19 awards recognizing her scientific and regulatory impact.

Dr. Hoffmann is also deeply committed to capacity building and standards development. She serves as a Technical Advisor for the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene; advises the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; and convenes ISO TC 34/SC 9 AHG5 to establish global standards for antimicrobial resistance gene identification using WGS.

Within IAFP, Dr. Hoffmann has been an active member since 2014 and is consistently recognized for her leadership and service. She has organized the annual Whole Genome Sequencing Workshop since 2016; convened numerous symposia and roundtables; and supported multiple PDGs. She has also served as chair, reviewer, and judge for the Larry Beuchat Young Researcher Award; served on the Nominating Committee; and contributed four consecutive years to the Program Committee, including chairing the 2025 Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. Hoffmann is deeply committed to nurturing the development of emerging food scientists. Throughout her career, she has mentored numerous students and early-career scientists through the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE); the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN); and IAFP's Mentor Match Program.



Dr. Martin Duplessis is a dedicated leader in food safety with nearly two decades of senior-level expertise in microbial food safety, regulatory policy, food emergency response, and international standard-setting. He champions science-based collaboration across governments, industry, academia, and consumers as essential to reducing the global burden of foodborne illness.

Since 2019, Dr. Duplessis has served as Director of the Bureau of Microbial Hazards within Health Canada's Food and Nutrition Directorate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He leads a nationally and internationally recognized team that sets Canada's food safety standards and guidelines, delivering science-based risk assessments, and advancing food safety education and outreach.

Under his leadership, the Bureau's scientists are driving progress and innovation in microbial hazard characterization and developing innovative detection methods for foodborne pathogens. This work strengthens public health protection and informs food safety policies in Canada and globally.

Dr. Duplessis has headed Canada's Delegation to the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) since 2019, providing strategic leadership and representing Canada's interests on the global stage. He has successfully contributed to the development of international guidance that enhances food hygiene practices and promotes alignment with risk-based approaches to food safety worldwide.

Before assuming his current role, Dr. Duplessis served as Director of the Bureau of Product Review and Assessment within Health Canada's Natural and Non-Prescription Health Products Directorate (2017–2019). He began his career at Health Canada in 2007, working in food emergency preparedness and response, and scientific advisory roles before advancing into leadership positions within the Food and Nutrition Directorate. Throughout his career, he has been recognized for his commitment to evidence-based decision-making, transparent communication, effective collaboration, and building strong interdisciplinary teams. He is widely acknowledged as a highly capable leader who leads with both empathy and integrity.

An active IAFP Member since 2015, Dr. Duplessis has made significant contributions through committee leadership, symposia, and mentorship. He currently serves on the *Journal of Food Protection* Management Committee, and served on the ad-hoc Awards Committee, the Developing Scientist Awards Committee, and chaired the IAFP Program Committee in 2021. He has organized and presented symposia, delivered poster presentations, and actively supported PDGs. His IAFP engagement builds on a longstanding tradition of leadership from Health Canada scientists, beginning with Dr. Ewen Todd. One of Dr. Duplessis' greatest strengths is his passion for mentoring students and early-career scientists, a commitment he would continue to bring to the IAFP Board.

Dr. Duplessis holds a B.S. in Microbiology and a Master's and Ph.D. in Food Microbiology, all from Laval University in Quebec City, Canada.