

2024–2025 IAFP SECRETARY ELECTION

This information is provided to help you make your selection of the next IAFP Secretary. IAFP Members have until Tuesday, March 5 to cast their vote. The link and passcode will be emailed to non-student Members on February 1.

Click [here](#) to access the voting platform.



LEON GORRIS
Nijmegen, Netherlands

on food safety risk assessment, risk management, and capability building. Prior to Unilever, he served with the Dutch Ministry of Agriculture in Wageningen for eight years in food research and preservation innovation research.

Dr. Gorris has been an active member of IAFP since joining in 1999. He received the IAFP Honorary Life Membership Award in 2022; the IAFP Fellow Award in 2016; and the President's Recognition Award in 2006. Dr. Gorris presented the John H. Siliker Lecture in 2014. He currently serves as Chair of the IAFP Membership Committee and has participated in or chaired the Nominating Committee; the International Leadership Award Selection Committee; and the Fellows Award Selection Committee.

Dr. Leon Gorris is a food safety professional based in Nijmegen, Netherlands, whose career has been dedicated to food safety research and food safety management. Dr. Gorris has fulfilled roles in various stakeholder groups including government, academia, and industry. He was most recently employed with Unilever for 21 years, stationed in The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and China, where he was responsible for food innovation research, food safety risk assessment, risk management, and regulatory affairs. During this time, he also held a special professorship in food safety microbiology at Wageningen University. After leaving Unilever, Dr. Gorris established Food Safety Futures, a consulting firm working for international clients

Dr. Gorris is the immediate Past Chair of IAFP's Water Safety and Quality PDG, and a Past Chair of both the International Food Protection Issues PDG and the Modeling and Risk Management PDG. He currently serves on the *Journal of Food Protection (JFP)* Editorial Board and has served on both Management Committees of *JFP* and *Food Protection Trends (FPT)*.

Throughout his membership, Dr. Gorris has supported IAFP by connecting with food safety professionals outside of North America. As Chair of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Europe Risk Analysis Taskforce, he teamed with IAFP in 2005 to help establish the first IAFP European Symposium on Food Safety in Prague. He served as Chair or was a member of the Organizing Committee for the European Symposium from 2005–2011. Other international conference locations where he contributed workshops and presentations include Australia; Brazil; China (9); Dubai (2); and Turkey. As a member of the International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods (ICMSF), Dr. Gorris has initiated regular ICMSF sessions and workshops at IAFP Annual Meetings and regional meetings, including workshops on "Useful Microbiological Sampling and Testing in Food Safety Management."

Dr. Gorris is recognized internationally for his expertise in several food safety domains, including general food microbiology; microbial physiology and ecology; food technology; food safety risk assessment and management; food safety legislation; and food safety standards. He has been a member of ICMSF for more than 20 years, serving as its secretary and Codex Alimentarius contact for much of that time. He shares his food safety expertise through many other organizations including FAO, WHO, JEMRA, ILSI, CIFST, NZIFST, NZFSSRC, and others.

Dr. Gorris is a formally registered, visiting professor in food safety microbiology at three universities in China.



PAMELA WILGER
Lakeville, Minnesota

and processes, and conducts training as needed to facilitate compliance with food safety procedures and management of microbial risks. Ms. Wilger also provides guidance to promote environmental pathogen control to minimize risk of product contamination, and approves and manages the relationships with outside laboratories used to conduct microbiological testing. In addition, she leads the integration of Quality and Food Safety microbiology programs following business acquisitions.

Previously, Ms. Wilger spent 21 years with Cargill in its Corporate Food Safety, Quality & Regulatory Affairs Department as an Applied Microbiologist and Food Safety Expert, working closely with its international businesses' manufacturing facilities and laboratories, customers, external research institutions, governments, and non-government organizations. Prior to that position, she was with Quest International for 11 years as the facility microbiologist and lab supervisor, then as a researcher in product development of fermented hydrocolloids.

Ms. Pamela Wilger is the Fellow Scientist – Microbiologist with Post Consumer Brands, Post Holdings, in Lakeville, Minnesota. Ms. Wilger is the Technical Leader and Resource of Microbiology, Quality, and Food Safety for the manufacturing facilities, third party laboratories, corporate leadership, engineers, R&D, supply chain, regulatory, customers, and suppliers. She plans, directs, and leads validation studies for pathogen reduction, as well as science-based solutions to minimize risk of product contamination including those related to adverse events. She writes and enhances policies, procedures, and work instructions associated with microbial safety and quality related to products, ingredients, equipment,

Ms. Wilger has been an active IAFP Member since 2001 when she volunteered on the Local Arrangements Committee for IAFP's Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Since then, she has been an Annual Meeting speaker, panelist, organizer, or convener for multiple topics. She served as the Program Committee Chair for **IAFP 2023** after serving as its Co-Chair and a member during the previous five years. Ms. Wilger actively participates in IAFP webinars and workshops. She is a firm believer that the future of the industry is in mentoring students and young professionals and has been in IAFP's Mentor Program for more than 10 years. She served as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Food Safety Education PDG from 2008–2012 and as the Chair and Vice Chair of the Applied Laboratory Methods PDG from 2004–2008. She was instrumental in establishing the Minnesota Food Protection Association (MFPA) Affiliate in 2013, becoming its first Vice President before assuming the President's role. She received the IAFP Harold Barnum Industry Award in 2018 and the President's Recognition Award in 2021 and 2023.

Ms. Wilger is a U.S. representative of the Technical Advisory Group to the ISO Technical Committee 34 on Food Products, Sub-Committee 9 on Microbiology, actively working on international standard development for Method Validation, Challenge Studies, Sampling, and Environmental Surface sampling since 2010. She is a member of the MicroVal General Committee (MGC); a reviewer of research grants for the U.S. Government; and served as a delegate on the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene, working on the Revision of the General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969) and its HACCP Annex.

Ms. Wilger received her B.S. and M.S. in Bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, while also working at the Food Research Institute.