

Chemistry and Food: Safety, Authenticity, and Other Challenges

Speaker Biographies

Nick Halla has built his career leading sustainable technology development and commercialization. Mr. Halla joined Impossible Foods as its first employee and helped build the company from the ground up during his 11 years there. He held numerous senior executive roles at Impossible Foods including Chief Strategy Officer, SVP Retail, and SVP International. Mr. Halla also sat on the Board of Kite Hill who make yogurt and cheese from almonds. Currently, Mr. Halla is working on new climate ideas with the mission to rapidly decrease atmospheric concentrations of methane and carbon dioxide to change the trajectory of climate change. In addition, he is an independent Board Director at InnerPlant where they are transforming farming by enabling crops to communicate with growers. Mr. Halla holds a BS in Chemical Engineering from the University of Minnesota, an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and an MS in Environment and Resources from the Stanford School of Earth Sciences.

Florian Schattenmann is Cargill's Chief Technology Officer and Vice President for Innovation and Research & Development (R&D). He also leads the Strategic Growth Business Accelerator, designed to accelerate and scale cross-Cargill innovation and science-driven strategic growth businesses currently focused on alternative protein and human health technologies. Prior to joining Cargill in November 2018, Dr. Schattenmann spent eight years at The Dow Chemical Company. His most recent role was Vice President for Performance Materials & Coatings R&D. He has also held leadership roles at SulphCo Inc. and GE-Bayer Silicones. Earlier in his career, Dr. Schattenmann managed several research laboratories at GE's Global Research Center. Florian is a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and a candidate for 2024 President-Elect of the ACS. He is a certified Six Sigma Master Black Belt, holds seven U.S. patents and has numerous publications. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Boards College of the College of Science and Engineering at the University of Minnesota and the Department of Chemistry at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned his PhD in inorganic chemistry from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA and his Diplom Chemiker degree from the Technische Universität München, Munich, Germany.

Felicia Wu is the John A. Hannah Distinguished Professor of Food Safety, Toxicology, and Risk Assessment at Michigan State University; and President-Elect of the Society for Risk Analysis. She works at the nexus of agriculture, food and nutrition, and public health to improve global human health outcomes. Currently Dr. Wu leads and co-leads nine extramural grants and one World Health Organization contract, with topics ranging from assessing the impact of climate change on aflatoxin risk in corn, improving resilience of food systems against shocks, reducing presence of mycotoxins, heavy metals, and pathogens in food crops, and assessing effects of dairy consumption and aflatoxin M1 on Ethiopian children's health. Dr. Wu is an expert advisor to the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and an elected Fellow of the Society for Risk Analysis. Recently she was appointed by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer to become a Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development for the state of Michigan. Dr. Wu earned her PhD in Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and AB and SM in Applied Mathematics/Medical Sciences at Harvard University.