FOOD FORUM

Microplastics from Food and Water: State of the Science and Potential Impacts on Human Health
Speaker and Moderator Biographical Sketches

Robin Churchill, Ph.D., M.Sc.
Health Canada
Moderator
Robin Churchill is Director of the Bureau of Chemical Safety at Health Canada. Her group is responsible for the regulation of chemicals in foods and food packaging. She has an interest in microplastics in foods from a safety perspective and is also interested in the impacts on the safety of food packaging as the world tries to address plastics pollution through increased recycled plastic content. Dr. Churchill holds a B.Sc. (Hon.) in biochemistry from the University of Calgary, an M.Sc. in biochemistry from Memorial University of Newfoundland, and a Ph.D. in environmental biology from the University of Guelph.

Scott Coffin, Ph.D
California State Water Resources Control Board
Invited Speaker
Scott Coffin serves as a Research Scientist at the California State Water Resources Control Board. His research has focused on microplastics toxicity and characterization. Currently, he is leading California's development of drinking water regulations for microplastics and advising on the development of management strategies for microplastics in aquatic ecosystems. He has led international expert groups to assess risks of microplastics to humans and aquatic ecosystems, as well as an analytical method harmonization of microplastics. Dr. Coffin holds a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology.

Robert Ellis-Hutchings, Ph.D., DABT
The Dow Chemical Company
Invited Speaker
Robert Ellis-Hutchings is a Toxicologist at the Dow Chemical Company and provides leadership and guidance on the health, safety, and sustainability of new and existing Dow products. He leads active efforts within Dow and the industry to understand and address scientific gaps relating to the potential risk of microplastic hazards to humans. He is involved with several multi-stakeholder microplastic committees including PlasticEurope's microplastic science team, which he chairs, and microplastic task forces within the American Chemistry Council (ACC), the European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic), and the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA). He is also a member of the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) Europe's dietary microplastic initiative. Dr. Ellis-Hutchings holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology and toxicology from the University of California, Davis.

Kara Lavender Law, Ph.D.
Sea Education Association
Invited Speaker
Kara Lavender Law is Research Professor of Oceanography at the Sea Education Association in Woods Hole, MA. Since 2007, Dr. Law's research has focused on plastic debris in the ocean, beginning with an analysis of SEA's then-25-year data set of floating microplastics in the North Atlantic, collected by more than 7,000 SEA students and scientists. Her initial research focused on physical processes that transport and transform plastics in the marine environment, and has since expanded "upstream" to better understand the generation, pathways and treatment of plastic waste, with the goal to ultimately prevent plastics from leaking into the environment. Dr. Law served as co-principal investigator of the Marine Debris Working Group at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), is co-chair

of the SCOR Working Group FLOTSAM (Floating Litter and its Oceanic TranSport Analysis and Modelling), and has participated in many other international working groups, workshops and panels, including at the National Academies, on the topic of plastic marine debris. In 2018, she served as a witness in the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Hearing on "Cleaning Up the Oceans: How to Reduce the Impact of Man-Made Trash on the Environment, Wildlife, and Human Health?". Dr. Law received her Ph.D. in physical oceanography from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography/University of California, San Diego.

Sabine Pahl, Ph.D., M.Sc.
University of Vienna
Invited Speaker
Sabine Pahl is Full Professor of Urban and Environmental Psychology at the University of Vienna. Before that, she spent 14 years at the University of Plymouth, where she was part of the International Marine Litter Unit. Her research focuses on the human dimension in environmental issues and takes place in the context of large interdisciplinary projects. She investigates perceptions and behavior change, particularly in the area of plastic pollution and microplastics. Dr. Pahl has provided science advice and input into policy at national (UK), European and international levels, always contributing psychological and behavioral science perspectives. At the international level, she has contributed to two microplastics reports with the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Pollution, and has led the UNEP-funded global stocktake of actions against plastic pollution in 2020. She was vice-chair of an interdisciplinary working group that reported to the EU Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Following this, she was part of both the UK and EU delegation to a G7 working group on microplastics in Oct 2019 and contributed to a WHO working group in March 2020. Dr. Pahl holds an M.Sc. in social and applied social psychology from the University of Kent and a Ph.D. from the University of Sheffield.

Yasir Sultan, Ph.D.
Safe Environments Directorate, Health Canada
Invited Speaker
Yasir Sultan is the Acting Director for the Water and Air Quality Bureau at Health Canada. His program has a mandate to protect Canadians from potential contaminants in indoor and outdoor air, and water. Dr. Sultan has a Ph.D. in chemistry with a specialization in advanced functional nanoparticles.

Stacey Wiggins, Ph.D., M.S.
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Invited Speaker
Stacey Wiggins is the Science Advisor for the Division of Seafood Safety, Office of Food Safety at FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition. In this role, she performs scientific assessments and provides scientific advice on chemical and microbiological contaminants in seafood to inform guidance, policy, and regulation. Prior to becoming the Science Advisor, Dr. Wiggins spent much of her FDA career as a Research Biologist in the Division of Analytical Chemistry in the Office of Regulatory Science. She was a Principal Investigator for seafood safety research, which included developing and validating detection methods for foodborne toxins, investigating traditional and emerging sources and vectors of marine biotoxins, and understanding the dynamics of toxin transfer to seafood. She has authored/co-authored over 50 publications, co-edited books and journals, and co-authored reports to Congress. Dr. Wiggins serves as the Chair of FDA's internal Micro- and Nanoplastics in Foods Work Group and represents FDA on a number of external committees, including the National Science and Technology Council's Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology. She earned both her M.S. and Ph.D. in marine biology and biological oceanography from the University of Connecticut.