Moderator and Panelists Bios

Jane Black is a Washington, D.C. food writer who covers food politics, trends and sustainability. Her work appears in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and the Washington Post.

Dr. Donna Garren is currently the Executive Vice President, Science & Policy for the American Frozen Food Institute. Her extensive background and expertise in food safety, food science, nutrition, and regulatory affairs are instrumental in building and enhancing strong and effective regulatory programs for the food and beverage industry. Prior to joining AFFI, Dr. Garren was the President and General Manager for NSF Agriculture (formerly NSF Davis Fresh), a business unit of NSF International. Dr. Garren was the Vice President, Food Safety Programmes for The Consumer Goods Forum. She was responsible for the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) activities in the Americas. Dr. Garren was the Vice President, Health and Safety Regulatory Affairs for the National Restaurant Association, headquartered in Washington, DC prior to her tenure at The Consumer Goods Forum. Her responsibilities included advising and representing the NRA and its membership on health and safety legislative and regulatory issues impacting the restaurant industry. Before joining the National Restaurant Association, she spent six years as the Vice President, Scientific and Technical Affairs at the United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association (United). She was responsible for all produce food safety, food security and food quality related issues and activities, sciencebased regulatory and legislative activities, and technical consultation to United's membership. In addition, Dr. Garren began her professional career at Boskovich Farms, Inc. as the Director of Research & Development / Product Safety. She drove the creation and introduction of produce food safety programs. Dr. Garren graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in food science and nutrition, with a minor in microbiology. She earned her doctorate degree in food science and technology from the University of Georgia.

Drew Hanks, PhD is Assistant Professor of Human Sciences in the College of Education and Human Ecology at the Ohio State University. His research deals with the psychological and economic factors that influence food choice and food intake. He contributes to the FIC by bringing his experience in field experimentation to study questions about food choice and intake in real-world settings through randomized controlled field experiments and other innovative methods. Findings in this research can inform policy makers and provide tools consumers can use to improve their diet.

Dr. Chanita Hughes-Halbert serves as the Associate Director for Cancer Equity. She is a nationally recognized leader in cancer prevention and minority health research. She has dedicated her career to reducing the disparities in cancer outcomes that affect patients from underrepresented communities, with a primary focus on African American communities. Among her many achievements, she has identified sociocultural, psychological, genetic and environmental determinants of cancer health disparities and translates this information into interventions to improve health equity among racially and ethnically diverse populations, as well as other medically underserved groups. For her many contributions, Hughes-Halbert was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2017. In addition to her election to the National Academy of Medicine, Hughes-Halbert received the American Cancer Society's Cancer Control Award in 2010. President Barack Obama appointed her to the National Cancer Institute's Board of Scientific Advisors in 2012, and in 2014 she joined the National Advisory Council of the National Human Genome Research Institute. The American Association for Cancer Research named her chair of its Minorities in Cancer Research Council the same year, and she received the AACR Distinguished Lecture Award on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities, funded by the Susan G. Komen Foundation, in 2018. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees from Howard University after graduating summa cum laude from Hampton University.