

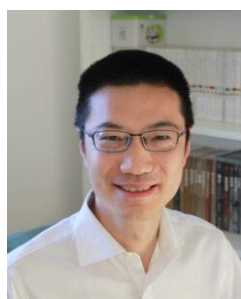
Speaker biographies

Dr Sarah Cahill



Working as a Senior Food Standards Officer with the Secretariat of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in Rome, Italy since 2018, Dr Cahill leads the Secretariat's work on communications, awareness raising, relations with Members and Observers as well as being responsible for work of several Codex committees, including on food hygiene, the Commission and its Executive Committee. She is also currently responsible for the day to day running of the Secretariat. With a PhD in food microbiology, Dr Cahill worked in the dairy and beverage sectors before she joined FAO in Rome where she played a key role in the establishment of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) in the early 2000s and subsequently led the FAO JEMRA Secretariat, overseeing the provision of scientific advice on microbiological hazards in a wide range of foods to underpin Codex Standards and supporting work of and FAO Member countries. She also supported provision of scientific advice to other UN agencies (WFP, UNICEF) and worked in the development of guidance on risk assessment, including on risk ranking.

Dr Kang Zhou



Dr Kang Zhou is a Food Safety Officer working with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) since 2018. He is one of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meeting on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) secretariats to provide microbiological risk assessment and scientific advice to Codex Alimentarius, to support the development of international guidelines and standards, and also transfer the technology to member countries for capacity development. He obtained his Bsc and PhD from China Agricultural University on food science and food microbiology, while he was also a joint-PhD in Institution of Food Research (Quadram Institute now) of UK. Before FAO, he worked with Sichuan Agricultural University as lecturer and then associated professor from 2011 to 2018.

Dr Arie Hendrik Havelaar



Dr Arie Hendrik Havelaar is a Preeminent Professor of Global Food Safety and Zoonoses in the Animal Sciences Department, the Emerging Pathogens Institute and the Global Food Systems Institute of the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA. He is a honorary professor at Haramaya University in Ethiopia. Before moving to the United States in 2014, Arie worked at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment, Bilthoven, the Netherlands in various scientific and management roles, most recently as Principal Scientist in the Center for Zoonoses and Environmental Microbiology. He is an emeritus professor of Microbial Risk Assessment at the Institute for Risk Assessment Sciences of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University, the Netherlands.

Arie holds an MSc degree in Chemical Engineering with a major in Microbiology from the Delft University of Technology, a PhD in Microbiology from Utrecht University and an MSc in Epidemiology from the Netherlands Institute for Health Sciences at the Erasmus University, all in the Netherlands.

His research focuses on epidemiology and risk assessment of foodborne and zoonotic diseases and their prevention in the USA and globally. He has published extensively on the global burden of foodborne disease, including in his role as chair of the WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group, currently serving as consultant to the World Health Organization to support the process of updating these estimates. He contributes to the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems and several projects focusing on food safety and zoonotic infections in Low- and Middle-Income Countries as well as in the US. His current research is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Department for International Development, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the US Department of Agriculture.

Mr Wendafrash Abera



Mr Wendafrash Abera by profession is a food technologist working at Ethiopian Food and Drug Authority (EFDA) as Food safety and Nutrition Technical Advisor. Mr Wendafrash was a Director, Inspection & Surveillance Directorate, Food, Medicine & Health Care Administration & Control Authority and a lead technical assessor of inspection body. Mr Wendafrash participated in different food safety survey, specifically on the burden of food borne diseases surveillance at national level, on hygienic Status of food processing and mass-catering establishments in Ethiopia and other food safety related activities. He has prepared different guidelines on hygienic status of fruit & vegetable processing plant, meat hygiene, and mass-catering establishment for the purpose of inspection and enforcement. Currently he is leading a food safety technical committee at EFDA and also a focal person for the coordination of the national food safety initiative at national level.