



May 21-22, 2019

Loews Coronado Bay Resort

San Diego, California

Dr Mary K. Wagner

President

MK Wagner & Associates

Mary K. Wagner is a recognized executive leader and board director with a reputation for creating innovative products, managing risks, handling corporate crises, and managing food quality and safety. She is a strategist, an operational leader, and a team builder who has been an executive in branded global retail and consumer packaged goods (CPG) companies. She has created growth through consumer-facing innovation and brand building.

Mary is known for her ability to engage people around a common goal. She has a history of transforming organizations, building departments from scratch, and creating an R&D culture of innovation. She has significant experience in managing crises and risks around food quality and safety. She has built strong relationships with CEOs, with boards of directors, and with external stockholders, suppliers, and industry colleagues. She has served in significant leadership roles on industry and non-profit boards of directors.

Mary is well-known in the food industry. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Griffith Foods International, a developer and manufacturer of food ingredients, as well as Jones Dairy, a manufacturer of meat and meat products.

She is president of MK Wagner and Associates, a food science management consulting firm specializing in R&D strategic leadership and innovation.

In December 2016, she retired from Starbucks Coffee Company as Senior Vice President of Global Product Innovation, Food Safety and Quality where she was responsible for creating global food and beverage products for Starbucks' retail, food service and consumer packaged goods. Mary led basic research, the innovation process, equipment engineering, packaging, sensory, quality, food safety risk assessment and regulatory, as well as new retail concept exploration. Her contributions helped Starbucks be recognized as the Product Development Management Association's (PDMA) Outstanding Corporate Innovator in 2014.

Mary previously worked at Mars, Inc. as General Manager of Mars Botanical, a manufacturer of food supplements sold through retail and internet channels. She has also served as Chief Technology and Quality Officer at E&J Gallo Winery, the largest winery in the world. Reporting to Gallo's CEO, she created their first Global Technology and Quality function, launched an innovative and unique consumer sensory mapping process for wines, and led a wave of beverage product innovation.



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As Chief Technology and Quality Officer at Taco Bell, Mary created a new product platform for their restaurants and was the point person to manage the company's response to the highly publicized genetically modified corn crisis in 2000.

Mary began her career as an executive in the food and nutrition area of General Mills Inc. and among her various roles served as VP of R&D and Quality/Regulatory Operations at Gorton's Seafood.

Among her many board directorships, she has served as President of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) and Chair of the National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI). She was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture as Co-Chair of the USDA National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics (NAREEE) board.

Mary has a passion for youth and education. She is currently on the boards of Washington STEM, Peace Trees Vietnam, and the Transforming Age Foundation. She has been a director of the national board of Girls, Inc. and on the board of the children-focused Red Shield for the Modesto Salvation Army. Mary has been a commencement speaker and frequent presenter to industry and university groups. She is the recipient of several awards for her leadership in food, nutrition, and innovation.

Mary holds a Professional Director Certification from the American College of Corporate Directors (ACCD) and is a Governance Fellow of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD). She is a member of Women Corporate Directors, as well as a Belizean Grove member.

Mary is a graduate of Harvard's Program for Management Development (PMD), and a participant in the Kellogg Family Governance program. She has a BS and MS from Iowa State University and a PhD from the University of Minnesota.