



BRCGS
CONNECT

AMERICAS
OCTOBER 13-14

Conference Agenda

Tuesday 13 October 2026

07:45-08:30 **Coffee & Registration**

08:30-08:40 **Welcome Address**

Chair: Gillian Kelleher, BRCGS International Advisory Board Chair & Mike Wilson, Managing Director

08:40-09:05 **Risk Assessments in the Real World**

Speakers: Gordon Hayburn, VPFSQA

09:05-09:30 **Delayed Enforcement, Continuing Risk: Why Food Crime Prevention Cannot Wait for 2028**

Speaker: Jennifer Lott, Technical Development Director

09:30-09:50 **Thought Leader Session:**

Speaker: TBC

09:50-10:35 **PANEL: Horizon Scanning - Emerging risks**

Speaker: Steven Mandernach, Executive Director

Denise Webster, Trainer & Consultant

Wendy Maduff, Vice President, Corporate Food Safety and Quality

10:35-10:40 **Video Thought Leader:**

10:40-11:10 **Networking Break and Exhibition**

11:10-11:20 **BRCGS Awards Ceremony - Part 1**

11:20-11:45 **Building the Food Safety Workforce Together: Connecting Education, Industry, and Opportunity**

Speaker: Clint Stevenson, Professor of Food Science

11:45-12:10 **Addressing Listeria Harborage in Frozen Food Operations**

Speaker: Sanjay Gummalla, Senior Vice President, Food Safety and Scientific Affairs

12:10-12:25 **Thought Leader Session: Maximizing Value Through Product Inspection: Reducing Waste and Enhancing Quality Across Production**

Speaker: Robert Rogers, senior advisor for food safety and regulation

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SGS



the
Wonderful
company



BRCGS

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY

AFFI AMERICAN
FROZEN FOOD
INSTITUTE

METTLER TOLEDO



Conference Agenda (continued)

Tuesday 13 October 2026

- 12:25-13:10 **PANEL: IAB Industry Panel**
Speakers: Tom Ford, Vice President, Food Safety and Quality Assurance
Rodger Ziolkowski, VP Global Food Safety and Quality
Colleen Mulluer, Head of North American Food Safety
Adam Zamorski, Director of Supplier Performance
- 13:10-14:20 **Networking Lunch and Exhibition**
- 14:20-14:35 **BRCGS Awards Ceremony - Part 2**
- 14:35-15:00 **You Own It. They Shape It. Now What? Closing the Leadership Gap in Food Safety Culture**
Speaker: Tia Glave, President + Co-Founder & Jill Stuber, President + Co-Founder
- 15:00-15:45 **Panel: Not Just a Checklist: Building a Living Food Safety Culture Through Leadership**
Speaker: Vanessa Coffman, Director of the Alliance to Stop Foodborne Illness
Jorge Hernandez, VP Quality Assurance
John Boyce, Core Team Member
- 15:45-16:20 **Networking Break and Exhibition**
- 16:20-16:35 **Improve Safety with Consumer Products Certification - An update on BRCGS Consumer Products i5**
Speaker: Gwenda Jarrett, Non-Food Programme Manager & Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards
- 16:35-17:00 **AI & Predictive Food Safety & Quality**
Speaker: Hillari Bynum, Director of Marketing & Innovation
- 17:00-17:40 **Panel: What Keeps You Up At Night**
Speakers: Steven Mandernach, Executive Director
Mike Wilson, Managing Director
Spir Marinakis, VP of Food Safety, Quality, Technical Services and Sanitation
Sara Mortimore, Independent Consultant, former Vice President of Global, Food Safety compliance at Walmart
- 17:40-17:45 **Closing Remarks**
Chair: Gillian Kelleher, BRCGS International Advisory Board Chair
- 18:30-21:00 **Evening Networking Drinks**





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Masterclass Agenda

Wednesday 14 October 2026

07:30-08:15 **Breakfast Masterclass: BRCGS Consumer Products i5 – The Big Picture**

Chair: Gwenda Jarrett, Non-Food Programme Manager & Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards

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08:00-08:30 **Arrival Coffee**

08:30-10:00 **OPTION 1 Accidents, Attackers, and Adulterators: Addressing HACCP, TACCP, & VACCP Assessments**

Hosts: Gordon Hayburn, VPFSQA

Nadia Narine, President/CEO, Approved BRCGS Trainer and Consultant



08:30-10:00 **OPTION 2 Change Management and Effective Communication Strategy**

Host: Goranka Platisa, Director - FSQ Consultant & Trainer & Rajko Platisa, Food Safety Compliance Consultant & Trainer



10:00-10:30 **Networking break**

10:30-12:00 **OPTION 1 AI in food quality: what actually works, what doesn't and where to start**

Host: Julien Steel, Head of Product & co-founder & Louis Opsomer, CEO & co-founder

backbone

10:30-12:00 **OPTION 2 How to be a Culture Influencer - Strategies that Deliver**

Host: Krista Harrison, Business Operations Manager, PACS & Gary Smith, Senior Director - Consulting

intertek
alchemy

Midday **BRCGS Connect Event Close**

Delivery Partners Session Agenda

Wednesday 14 October 2026

NOTE: This is a closed session for BRCGS approved training providers and certification bodies only

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| 13:00-13:05 | Welcome Address
Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager |
| 13:05-13:20 | Setting the Scene and Business Updates
Mike Wilson, Managing Director |
| 13:20-13:50 | Standards: The Latest Updates and Insights
Angela O'Donovan, Head of Standards |
| 13:50-14:20 | GFSI Benchmark Update: Review and Impact
Anna Malek-Woznica, Head of Integrity & Quality |
| 14:20-14:50 | Academy Workshop - The Power of Mentorship
TBC |
| 14:50-15:20 | Networking Break |
| 15:20-15:50 | Auditor Calibration Check-In: Insights, Q&A & What's Next
Panel host: Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager
Sara Dias, Head of BRCGS Academy
Anna Malek-Woznica, Head of Integrity & Quality |
| 15:50-16:20 | Responsible Use of AI: Policy, Risks & Value
TBC |
| 16:20-16:50 | CPi5 launch
Gwenda Jarrett, Non-Food Programme Manager |
| 16:50-17:20 | Ask BRCGS Anything: An Open Q&A
Session host: Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager |
| 17:20-17:30 | Closing Remarks
Jessica Burke, Senior Strategic Account Manager & Mike Wilson, Managing Director |