



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

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

Speakers: Gordon Hayburn, VPFSQA



09:05-09:30 **Food Crime Prevention – Risks, Trends and Resources**

Speaker: TBC

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

Speaker: TBC

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

Speaker: TBC

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

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

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

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11:20-11:45 **Future of Auditing - Resources and Young Professionals**

Speaker: Clint Stevenson, Professor of Food Science

NC STATE
UNIVERSITY

11:45-12:10 **The changes to legislation on Listeria**

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

AFFI AMERICAN
FROZEN FOOD
INSTITUTE

12:10-12:25 **Thought Leader Session:**

Speaker: TBC

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
Sharon Birkett, VP Global Quality Operations

COMPASS
GROUP

Griffith
FOODS





Conference Agenda (continued)

Tuesday 13 October 2026

- 13:10-13:15 **Video Thought Leader:**
- 13:15-14:25 **Networking Lunch and Exhibition**
- 14:25-14:35 **BRCGS Awards Ceremony - Part 2**
- 14:35-15:00 **Culture Excellence: Moving beyond Checklists to Everyday Practice**
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
- 15:45-16:20 **Networking Break and Exhibition**
- 16:20-16:35 **Improve Safety with Consumer Products Certification**
Speaker: TBC
- 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: TBC
- 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

- 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 What AI will really break (and fix) in food compliance**
Host: Siska Lannoo, founder of backbone
- 10:30-12:00 **OPTION 2 Beyond the Checklist: Food Safety & Quality Culture**
Hosts: Kris Middleton, Business Unit Director - Food and Forestry
 Barry Meikle, Technical Manager – Food
- Midday **Event Close**

