

THE FUTURE OF FOOD SAFETY

THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON FOOD SAFETY AND TRADE
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Barbara B. Kowalczyk

Assistant Professor, Department of Food Science and Technology, Ohio State University, USA



Barbara B. Kowalczyk is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology and is affiliated with OSU's Translational Data Analytics Institute, Global One Health initiative and College of Public Health. She has a Doctorate in Environmental Health with a focus in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Cincinnati, and is a recognized expert in food safety and has broad experience and training in epidemiology, public health informatics, risk science, regulatory decision making, and public policy.

With a strong interest in public health, Barbara Kowalczyk spent the first 10 years of her career in the pharmaceutical industry as a biostatistician conducting clinical research. In 2001, her focus shifted to food safety when her 2 ½ year old son Kevin died from complications due to an *E. coli* O157:H7 infection. Since 2001, Barbara Kowalczyk has worked to improve food safety by bridging the gap between research and policy. In 2006, she co-founded the Center for Foodborne Illness Research & Prevention, a national 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to preventing foodborne disease by advancing a stronger, more science-based food safety system that improve public health locally and globally. In 2010, her efforts to improve food safety were highlighted in the Academy Award-nominated film *Food, Inc.* In 2017, she joined the faculty at The Ohio State University (OSU).

For over 15 years, Barbara Kowalczyk's efforts have focused on advancing a more systems-based approach to food safety that promotes evidence-based decision making from farm to fork to physician and considers the broader connectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. She has served on many national committees, including two National Academy of Sciences committees and her current appointment to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) Science Board. Her research interests include linking public health information with data from across the food system to enhance the understanding of foodborne disease epidemiology, supporting the development of evidence-informed policies and practices that prevent foodborne illness, and changing behaviors around food safety across the food system.