

WASHINGTON STATE
Academy of Sciences

Science in the Service of Washington State

WSAS COMMITTEE ON
PFAS IN FOOD PACKAGING

For questions or comments to the committee, contact:
Yasmeen Hussain, Program Officer – yasmeen.hussain@washacad.org

Simona Balan – Simona.Balan@dtsc.ca.gov

Dr. Simona Balan, Senior Environmental Scientist in the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. Dr. Balan is leading the Safer Consumer Products team on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). Dr. Balan previously managed international projects on the use of flame retardants and PFASs in consumer products. She was recognized by the Collaborative on Health and the Environment as one of 20 Pioneers under 40 in Environmental Public Health. Dr. Balan has a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Policy and Management from the University of California, Berkeley.

Elaine Faustman (chair) – faustman@uw.edu

Dr. Elaine Faustman is a toxicologist and Professor and Director of the UW Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences. She is also Adjunct Professor in the UW Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. Dr. Faustman's research focuses on identifying biochemical mechanisms of developmental neurotoxicity and to develop new approaches for the evaluation and characterization of health risks from environmental agents. Her expertise is in risk assessment of chemical hazards and neurodevelopmental toxicology. Dr. Faustman received the 2019 Merit Award from the International Union of Toxicology and was elected into the Washington State Academy of Sciences. Dr. Faustman earned a PhD in Toxicology from Michigan State University.

Lauren Heine – lauren@chemforward.org

Dr. Lauren Heine is Senior Science Advisor at Northwest Green Chemistry and is adjunct faculty at Gonzaga University. Dr. Heine applies green chemistry, green engineering, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to the development of products and processes. She led development of GreenScreen® for Safer Chemicals, a method for chemical hazard assessment increasingly used worldwide. Dr. Heine drafted Policy Principles for Sustainable Materials Management for the OECD, and she helped develop criteria for the Design for the Environment (DfE) Safer Choice and Alternatives Assessment Programs for the EPA. Dr. Heine was technical advisor to the development of the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse (IC2) Alternatives Assessment Guide and the WA Alternatives Assessment Guide. She serves on the Apple Green Chemistry Advisory Board, and previously served on the California Green Ribbon Science Panel. Dr. Heine earned a PhD in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Duke University.

Pat Hunt – pathunt@wsu.edu

Dr. Patricia A. Hunt is Meyer Distinguished Professor in the School of Molecular Bioscience at Washington State University. Her primary research interest lies in human aneuploidy, mammalian germ cells and meiosis, and she is best known for showing the adversary effect of Bisphenol A and replacement bisphenols (BPS, BPF, BPAF, Diphenyl sulfone) on the reproductive system of mammals. Dr. Hunt's current work centers on the reproductive effects of exposure to chemicals with estrogenic activity. She was elected into the Washington State Academy of Sciences. Dr. Hunt earned a PhD in Reproductive Biology from the University of Hawaii.

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Donatien Pascal Kamdem – kamdem@msu.edu

Dr. Donatien Pascal Kamdem is Professor in the School of Packaging at Michigan State University and works with Global Packaging Solutions LLC. His research interests include the chemical, physical, and mechanical properties of packaging made from wood, paper, and natural fibers, and technology to improve the performance and reduce cost of those products. Dr. Kamdem is an elected fellow of the International Academy of Wood Science. He has served as a witness expert, consultant, and reviewer on many projects regarding wood products. Dr. Kamdem earned a PhD in Wood Science from University Laval in Quebec, Canada.

Michael Skinner – skinner@wsu.edu

Dr. Michael Skinner is Professor in the School of Biological Sciences at Washington State University. He has been on the faculty of Vanderbilt University and the University of California at San Francisco. Dr. Skinner's research focuses on the investigation of gonadal growth and differentiation, with emphasis in reproductive biology. His current research has demonstrated the ability of environmental toxicants to promote the epigenetic transgenerational inheritance of disease phenotypes due to abnormal germ line epigenetic programming in gonadal development. Dr. Skinner established and was the Director of the Washington State University and University of Idaho Center for Reproductive Biology, and established and was the Director of the Center for Integrated Biotechnology. He received the 2013 American Ingenuity Award from the Smithsonian. Dr. Skinner earned a PhD in Biochemistry from Washington State University.

Huqiu Zhang – huqiu.zhang@sme-engineers.com

Dr. Huqiu Zhang is Senior Scientist at Sevee & Maher Engineers. Dr. Zhang specializes in optimizing chemical testing programs, applying analytical methods, and implementing chemical controls in the manufacturing process, covering the entire supply chain of food packaging. She has international experience in regulatory compliance for consumer product chemical safety, food contact, and food packaging. Dr. Zhang's expertise includes chemical and material industry product supply chains and chemical management, particularly in paper, paperboard, and plastic products, as well as chemical hazard identification, exposure evaluation, and risk assessment. Dr. Zhang's early research was in perfluorine chemistry. Dr. Zhang earned a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.