

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
FEDERAL INSECTICIDE, FUNGICIDE, AND RODENTICIDE ACT (FIFRA)
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL (SAP)

List of Candidates (including Biographical Sketches)

Docket Number: EPA-HQ-OPPT-2026-5679

NOTE: This list of candidates includes all interested and available nominees under consideration for appointment to the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) established in 1975 under FIFRA. The biographies of current FIFRA SAP members are available on the FIFRA SAP website at: <https://www.epa.gov/sap>.

Public comments must be submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). When preparing and submitting your comments, see Commenting on EPA Dockets at: <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments. Do not electronically submit any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information or other information for which disclosure is restricted by statute. Copyrighted material will not be posted without explicit permission of the copyright holder. Members of the public should also be aware that personal contact information, if included in any written comments, may be posted on the internet at <https://www.regulations.gov>.

Diana S. Aga, PhD

Affiliation: Director, Research and Education in Energy, Environment, and Water (RENEW) Institute, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, Buffalo, New York

Expertise: Analytical Chemistry; Environmental Chemistry; Environmental Engineering; Ecotoxicology; Agricultural Chemistry

Education: PhD, Chemistry, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; BS, University of the Philippines at Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines

Experience Summary: Dr. Diana S. Aga is Director of the Research and Education in Energy, Environment, and Water (RENEW) Institute at the University at Buffalo. She is internationally recognized for her research in analytical and environmental chemistry, particularly the occurrence, fate, transport, and treatment of emerging contaminants in environmental systems. Her work integrates analytical chemistry with environmental engineering to address contaminants affecting water quality and ecosystem health. Dr. Aga has authored numerous high-impact scientific publications and has provided leadership in multidisciplinary environmental research and education.

Antonio T. Baines, PhD

Affiliation: Associate Professor of Biological & Biomedical Sciences, North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC Member, Curriculum in Toxicology & Environmental Medicine, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Expertise: Pharmacology, Toxicology, Cancer Biology, Environmental Biology, Cell Biology, Undergraduate and Graduate STEM education

Education: Postdoc in Pharmacology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Arizona; BS in Biology, Norfolk State University

Experience Summary: Dr. Baines is an Associate Professor in Biological & Biomedical Sciences at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and an Adjunct Associate Professor in Pharmacology at UNC-Chapel Hill. He has been teaching undergraduate and graduate classes and conducting cancer research as a faculty member for 18 years. In addition, Dr. Baines has a joint appointment with the Cancer Research Program in the JLC-Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute at NCCU. He is a current member on the Executive Committee for the Curriculum in Toxicology and Environmental Medicine at UNC. Dr. Baines is a former member of the Springer Nature US Research Advisory Council (2023-2024). He has served on a Working Group for the Advisory Committee for the NIH Director focused on Novel Alternative Methods (NAMs) (2022-2023). Additionally, he serves on the Science Education and Career Advancement committee for the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) (2022-2027). Dr. Baines has served as a Councilor on the Council of the Society of Toxicology (2021-2024). His primary research interests involve trying to validate novel drug targets in cancer, especially pancreatic cancer, to help develop better therapeutics for treatment and to help combat drug resistance. Also, he is interested in how environmental exposure can promote the development of cancer.

Michelle C. Cora, DVM, DACVP

Affiliation: Group Leader, Clinical Pathology Group, Division of Translational Toxicology, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

Expertise: Toxicologic Clinical Pathology; Clinical Chemistry; Hematology; Urinalysis; Cytopathology; Hazard Identification; Laboratory Methods

Education: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Illinois; BS in Biology and Chemistry, Illinois College, Jacksonville, Illinois

Experience Summary: Dr. Michelle C. Cora is Group Leader of the Clinical Pathology Group within the Division of Translational Toxicology at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. She has more than 14 years of experience in toxicologic clinical pathology, including research fellowship training and board certification in clinical pathology. Dr. Cora provides clinical pathology expertise for National Toxicology Program and NIEHS studies and manages the Clinical Pathology Core Laboratory. She has authored or co-authored more than 40 toxicology publications and technical reports, chaired multiple Society of Toxicologic Pathology committees, and served on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Toxicologic Pathology. Her research focuses on mechanisms of toxicant-induced disease and serum metabolomic changes associated with PFAS exposure.

Megan M. Dewdney, PhD

Affiliation: Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Citrus Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Lake Alfred, Florida

Expertise: Plant Pathology; Plant Disease Epidemiology; Plant Disease Management; Tree Fruit Diseases

Education: PhD, Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; MSc., Plant Science, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Canada; BSc., Plant Science, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Experience Summary: Dr. Megan Dewdney is a Professor of Plant Pathology at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center with more than 18 years of experience in tree fruit disease research and management. She has published extensively on citrus disease epidemiology, fungicide resistance, and integrated disease management. Her research has advanced understanding of citrus black spot, citrus greening-associated disease management, and fungicide resistance in major citrus pathogens. Dr. Dewdney is recognized internationally for her contributions to citrus pathology and extension education.

Lauren M. Diepenbrock, PhD

Affiliation: Associate Professor of Entomology and Citrus Entomology Extension Specialist, University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, Florida

Expertise: Entomology; Insect Ecology; Extension

Education: PhD, Plant, Insect, and Microbial Sciences, University of Missouri–Columbia; MS, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Florida State University; MS, Biology Education, Syracuse University; BA, Biology, University of Missouri–Columbia

Experience Summary: Dr. Lauren Diepenbrock is an Associate Professor of Entomology and Citrus Entomology Extension Specialist at the University of Florida Citrus Research and Education Center. She has more than a decade of research and extension experience developing integrated pest management strategies for fruit crops. Her research examines insect biology, ecology, and management to improve citrus production while addressing invasive pests and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. Dr. Diepenbrock is an active member of the Entomological Society of America and has served in numerous leadership and committee roles.

Rebecca C. Fry, PhD

Affiliation: Carol Remmer Angle Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Expertise: Biology; Environmental Health; Toxicology; Epigenetics

Education: Postdoctoral Fellowship, Environmental Health Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; PhD in Biology, Tulane University; BS in Biology, William Smith College

Experience Summary: Dr. Rebecca C. Fry is the Carol Remmer Angle Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She has more than two decades of experience investigating the health effects of environmental chemical exposures and has published more than 300 peer-reviewed scientific articles. Dr. Fry is internationally recognized for her research in environmental epigenetics and toxicogenomics, with a particular emphasis on arsenic, lead, manganese, and PFAS exposures. She directs the UNC Superfund Research Program and founded the Institute for Environmental Health Solutions. Dr. Fry has served in leadership roles within the Society of Toxicology and on advisory committees for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

James J. Galligan, PhD

Affiliation: Associate Professor and Associate Department Head, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Expertise: Analytical Chemistry; Biochemistry; Toxicology; Chemical Biology

Education: PhD, Pharmacology, University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus; BS, Physiology, Michigan State University

Experience Summary: Dr. James J. Galligan is Associate Professor and Associate Department Head of Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Arizona. His research investigates the intersection of metabolism and cell signaling, with particular emphasis on mechanisms of toxicology and epigenetics. Dr. Galligan has extensive experience serving on National Institutes of Health review panels and contributes to advancing research in biochemical toxicology and chemical biology through both scientific leadership and peer review.

Kurunthachalam Kannan, PhD

Affiliation: Deputy Director, Division of Environmental Health Sciences, Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, Albany, New York

Expertise: Environmental Chemistry; Ecotoxicology; Analytical Chemistry; Exposure Assessment; Biomonitoring

Education: PhD in Environmental Chemistry and Ecotoxicology, Ehime University, Japan; MSc. In Agricultural Microbiology, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India; BSc. In Agricultural Sciences, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India

Experience Summary: Dr. Kurunthachalam Kannan is Deputy Director of the Division of Environmental Health Sciences at the Wadsworth Center, New York State Department of Health, and Professor in the Department of Environmental Health Sciences at the University at Albany. He has more than 35 years of experience studying the environmental distribution, fate, and human exposure of toxic chemicals, including pesticides, and has published over 1,000 peer-reviewed scientific articles. Dr. Kannan is internationally recognized for his pioneering research on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and has received numerous international awards and honors. He serves on the editorial boards of several journals and has contributed to national and international scientific advisory committees, including the International Agency for Research on Cancer.

Bo Li, PhD

Affiliation: Marjorie Roberts Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

Expertise: Spatial Statistics; Spatio-Temporal Statistics; Environmental Statistics; Climatology; Atmospheric Sciences; Public Health; Forestry; Agriculture

Education: PhD in Statistics, Texas A&M University; BS in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

Experience Summary: Dr. Bo Li is the Marjorie Roberts Professor and Chair of the Department of Statistics at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She has more than 18 years of teaching and research experience in environmental statistics and is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Dr. Li serves on the National Science Foundation Advisory Committee on Environmental Research and Education (2023–2026) and has held numerous leadership positions within the American Statistical Association and the International Society for Bayesian Analysis. She has served on NSF review panels and as Associate Editor and Guest Editor for several leading statistical journals. Her research focuses on pesticide-related childhood cancer incidence, vector-borne infectious diseases such as West Nile virus, heatwave-related morbidity, and predictive modeling for human immunodeficiency virus interventions.

Carrie McDonough, PhD

Affiliation: Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Expertise: Environmental Chemistry; Analytical Chemistry; Environmental Chemical Biology; Exposure Assessment; Risk Assessment

Education: PhD in Oceanography, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, Rhode Island; BS in Chemistry, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Experience Summary: Dr. Carrie McDonough is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon University. She has published more than 40 peer-reviewed journal articles focused on the transport and fate of organic contaminants in the environment and their uptake and accumulation in living organisms, including humans. Her research has advanced contaminant identification through high-resolution mass spectrometry and ion mobility techniques and examines the bioaccumulation and biological transformation of emerging contaminants, particularly PFAS. Dr. McDonough teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental exposure and risk assessment and analytical chemistry. She serves as an editor for Environmental Toxicology & Chemistry and is a member of the Early Career Editorial Advisory Board for Environmental Science & Technology.

Irfan Rahman, PhD

Affiliation: Director, Center for Inhalation and Flavoring Toxicological Research, University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Environmental Medicine, Rochester, New York

Expertise: Circadian biology; chromatin remodeling; inflammation, sirtuin1 deacetylase (SIRT1) dynamic; and oxidants related to the impact of tobacco products on lung toxicology

Education: Postdoctoral fellowship in lung toxicology, University of Miami and Georgetown University; PhD in Biochemistry (neutrophil functions), University of Nagpur, India

Experience Summary: Dr. Irfan Rahman has been a longstanding pioneer with seminal contributions and cutting-edge research on mitophagy, steroid resistance, and lung cellular senescence and is a leader in the role of oxidative stress and redox signaling in gene transcription in tobacco-related pulmonary diseases. In addition, he also has been a leader in the molecular biology of chromatin remodeling and cellular senescence in the lung in response to oxidative stress and cigarette smoke and was the first to show chromatin remodeling and cellular senescence in the lung in response to cigarette smoke. Dr. Rahman has identified several exciting potential therapies that could prevent tobacco-related lung complications from progressing. Dr. Rahman's mechanistic discoveries and experience translated rapidly to address major issues for human health in the past five years, namely COVID-19 and e-cigarette toxicity. Of critical importance, he is constantly evolving his research to meet the challenging landscape of tobacco/e-cigarette products for lung health. For example, with regard to the rapid emergence of e-cigarettes in the high school population and the hookah waterpipe tobacco bars in college communities, Dr. Rahman already has published several papers on these products. During the pandemic, Dr. Rahman worked on COVID-19 biospecimens and showed that smokers/vapers are more susceptible to infection and are more likely to develop strong lung inflammatory response via upregulation of ACE2 via nicotine receptor alpha 7, particularly in older individuals.

Nora F. Savage, PhD

Affiliation: Program Director, National Science Foundation, Alexandria, Virginia

Expertise: Chemistry; Epidemiology; Chemical Engineering; Environmental Engineering; Materials Science

Education: PhD in Land Resources, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; MS in Environmental Engineering, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; MS in Environmental Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; BS in Chemical Engineering, Prairie View A&M University, Prairie View, Texas

Experience Summary: Dr. Nora F. Savage is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation, where she manages and coordinates technical scientific review panels and oversees a portfolio of research projects. She has more than 20 years of experience working across diverse scientific disciplines and communicating innovative advances in engineering. Dr. Savage also serves as a Foundation representative on a variety of federal cross-agency committees, contributing her expertise to interdisciplinary environmental and engineering initiatives.

Elizabeth J. Skellam, PhD, MBA, MChem

Affiliation: Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas

Expertise: Natural Products Chemistry; Bioorganic Chemistry; Chemical Biology; Fungal Secondary Metabolism; Microbial Biotechnology; Synthetic Biology; Plant–Microbe Interactions; Biocontrol Agents

Education: PhD in Bioorganic Chemistry, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom; MBA in Business of Biotechnology, University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, North Carolina; MChem in Chemistry, Swansea University, Swansea, United Kingdom

Experience Summary: Dr. Elizabeth J. Skellam is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the University of North Texas with more than 20 years of experience investigating the characterization and engineering of bioactive natural products, particularly fungal secondary metabolites. Her interdisciplinary research integrates bioinformatics, analytical chemistry, molecular biology, and synthetic biology to investigate biosynthetic pathways and the biological functions of specialized metabolites relevant to agriculture and human health. Prior to joining UNT, Dr. Skellam held appointments at Leibniz Universität Hannover and in the biotechnology industry. She has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and actively reviews for the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, German Research Foundation, and numerous international scientific journals.

Marin Talbot Brewer, PhD

Affiliation: William Terrell Distinguished Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Expertise: Mycology; Fungal Evolution; Antifungal Resistance, Population Genomics

Education: PhD in Plant Pathology and Plant-Microbe Biology, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; MS in Plant, Soil, and Environmental Science, University of Maine, Orono, Maine; BS in Biological Sciences, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Experience Summary: Dr. Marin Talbot Brewer is an internationally recognized expert on the evolution and diversity of emerging fungal threats to plants and people. Her research focuses on the genetic basis of disease emergence and host specialization, the evolution of antifungal resistance and fungal mating systems, and fungal taxonomy and systematics. Dr. Brewer's recent work focuses on disease re-emergence and fungicide resistance of *Colletotrichum* species affecting cucurbits and apples, as well as antifungal resistance in *Aspergillus fumigatus* in the environment. Her research excellence has been recognized through numerous honors, including the American Phytopathological Society's Schroth Faces of the Future Award in 2013 and an invitation to serve as Plenary Speaker at Plant Health 2021. Her work has been supported by the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Dr. Brewer has also received numerous awards for teaching and mentoring, including the Weston Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Mycological Society of America (MSA). She has held several leadership roles within MSA, serving as Councilor from 2014 to 2016, Local Arrangements Chair for the 2017 annual meeting in Athens, Georgia, and Executive Vice President from 2018 to 2021. She currently serves as an Executive Editor of *Mycologia* and President-Elect of MSA.

Kyla Welch Taylor, PhD

Affiliation: Health Scientist (Epidemiologist), Integrative Health Assessments Branch (IHAB), Division of Translational Toxicology, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Expertise: Epidemiology; Environmental Epidemiology; Systematic Review; Hazard Identification; Environmental Health; Evidence Synthesis; Risk-of-Bias Assessment

Education: PhD in Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; MS in Population Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, Wisconsin; BA in Environmental Studies, Saint Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota

Experience Summary: Dr. Kyla Taylor is a Health Scientist and Epidemiologist at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences with more than 15 years of experience evaluating the human health effects of environmental and chemical exposures. Her work emphasizes rigorous systematic review methods, evidence synthesis, hazard identification, and public health decision-making. Dr. Taylor serves as a scientific lead on multidisciplinary evaluations, including National Toxicology Program assessments, and has contributed to high-impact publications examining fluoride exposure and neurodevelopment. She has received recognition for scientific leadership and regularly serves as an invited expert and peer reviewer for government agencies and scientific organizations.

Wei Zheng, PhD

Affiliation: Principal Research Scientist and Adjunct Faculty, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

Expertise: Environmental Chemistry; Environmental Engineering; Analytical Chemistry; Soil Chemistry

Education: PhD in Environmental Engineering, Zhejiang University, China; BS in Environmental Chemistry, Zhejiang University, China

Experience Summary: Dr. Wei Zheng is a Principal Research Scientist at the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, with nearly 30 years of research experience in environmental chemistry and engineering. His research focuses on the environmental fate and transport of legacy and emerging contaminants, including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, pesticides, nutrients, and PFAS. He also develops innovative treatment technologies, pollution prevention strategies, and sustainable remediation approaches, including the beneficial use of biochar. Dr. Zheng has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications and has established an internationally recognized research program in environmental contaminant remediation.