

Candace L. Doepker, Ph.D.

PRINCIPAL SCIENTIST

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Dr. Candace Doepker is Senior Vice President of ToxStrategies' Food and Consumer Products practice, as well as a Principal Scientist, and she is based in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area. She was trained in the field of cytogenetic toxicology and has 20 years' experience providing toxicological and scientific issues management support for many different multi-billion-dollar food, health, beauty and oral care brands. Relevant to the food industry, Dr. Doepker spent 16 years working for multibillion-dollar industries, helping to ensure consumer safety, worker safety, and general product stewardship in all of the following categories: coffee, snack foods, jams, jellies, baking mixes, juices, peanut butter, flavors, and oils. Recently, she has developed a strong working knowledge of the Food Safety Modernization Act and is experienced in facilitating discussions with multi-disciplinary teams to prepare for its implementation. Additionally, she has helped to evaluate risk and guide the strategic direction of companies involved with topics such as actives in drug products, caffeine, California Proposition 65 regulations, heat-formed toxicants, nuisance dusts, workplace allergens, and carbon monoxide.

Dr. Doepker is recognized in the food industry for her strong working knowledge of diacetyl and workplace flavor safety. Dr. Doepker has served multiple years as the Chairwoman of the Caffeine and Food Ingredients Committee of the International Food Information Council, as well as serving on the Council's Board of Directors. She has been on the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Coffee Association for 5 years and has been an active member of both the Grocery Manufacturers Association and International Life Science Institute's science and regulatory committees.

Specifically related to experience with the Generally Recognized as Safe (GRAS) process, Dr. Doepker has participated on a GRAS expert panel. In addition, she has helped over the past four years to prepare numerous dossiers, both for notification to the FDA and for self-GRAS without formal notification. She has helped as part of a multi-disciplinary team to facilitate and guide clients through the process successfully.

As a consultant, Dr. Doepker has become familiar with the FEMA-GRAS process, and is currently helping clients in the pet food and animal feed industry navigate the pilot GRAS program at the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), as well as helping trade associations to consider future direction options.

EDUCATION AND DEGREES EARNED

1995 Ph.D., Toxicology, Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati
1990 B.S., Biology, Xavier University, Cincinnati, OH (*cum laude*)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Grocery Manufacturers Association, co-founder, Diacetyl Workplace Environment Exposure sub-committee
International Food Information Council, Chair, Caffeine Committee
International Food Information Council, Co-chair, Food Ingredients Committee
National Coffee Association, Active Member, Scientific Advisory Group

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Product Safety & Scientific Affairs Management

Helped to facilitate implementation of Food Safety Modernization Act compliance measures at a \$4.5B food company.

Established a Product Safety & Scientific Affairs Section that could support a \$1.6B stand-alone coffee company.

Responsible for identifying, understanding, and prioritizing risks (perceived or real) associated with coffee manufacturing and consumption.

Led a Diacetyl Assessment Team, which effort had multimillion-dollar cost avoidance implications.

Used toxicology mastery and leadership/collaboration skills to help guide Government Relations' and trade associations' strategic direction related to legislative/ regulatory activities at state and federal levels.

Monitored FDA and OSHA regulations relevant to food manufacturing, and provided simplified explanations of complex regulatory language, as well as strategic guidance, to brand managers.

Monitored and developed strategies for addressing proposed regulations related to flavor and food safety.

Developed safety programs for marketing clearance of new beauty care, oral care, personal health care, and snack and coffee products.

MANUSCRIPTS

Mihalchik AL, Roberts A, LaCombe J, Lloyd M, **Doepker C**, Eapen A. 2026. Evaluation of the safety and potential genotoxicity of a high-purity mogroside ingredient containing siamenoside I produced from a modified strain of *Yarrowia lipolytica*. *Toxicol Rep* 17(Dec):102297; doi: [10.1016/j.toxrep.2026.102297](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxrep.2026.102297).

Frankenfeld CL, Mowva N, Hooda N, Gauthier J, Reichert H, **Doepker C**. 2026. Analysis of National Health and Nutrition Survey (NHANES): Nutrient, food, and beverage intake of GLP-1-RA users with type 2 diabetes, 2007-2020. *J Nutr* 101685; doi: [10.1016/j.tjnut.2026.101685](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tjnut.2026.101685). Online ahead of print June 22.

- Doepker C**, Franzen A, Brorby G, Brown L, Choksi N, East A, Wikoff D. 2026. Smoke flavoring—A case study demonstrating the value of using benefit-risk analysis for foods (BRAFO) to provide transparency for risk management decisions. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 167(May):106033; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2026.106033](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2026.106033).
- Summan M, **Doepker CL**, Brorby GP. 2026. Safety evaluation of an aqueous root and leaf extract of Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*). *Phytother Res*; doi: [10.1002/ptr.70314](https://doi.org/10.1002/ptr.70314). Online ahead of print April 15.
- Choksi N, McMillan D, Schmitt D, **Doepker C**, Henderson RG. 2026. Demonstration of safety for rice bran wax and sunflower wax based on bridging to other naturally derived waxes used in food. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 165(Feb):105990; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2025.105990](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2025.105990).
- Brorby G, Franzen A, Thompson C, Wikoff D, **Doepker C**. 2025. Human health risk assessment of three smoke flavoring primary products. *Food Chem Toxicol* 202(Aug):115490; doi: [10.1016/j.fct.2025.115490](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2025.115490).
- Doepker C**, Rabert C, Heard P, Dubnicka T, Choksi N, Eapen A. 2024. An investigation of the genotoxic potential of a well-characterized yerba mate extract. *Toxicol Rep* 12:477–484; doi: [10.1016/j.toxrep.2024.04.007](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.toxrep.2024.04.007).
- Doepker C**. 2023. Response to Dr. Kawada's letter (Coffee consumption and health risk: A causal association). *Food Chem Toxicol* 113790; doi: [10.1016/j.fct.2023.113790](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2023.113790).
- Henderson RG, Vincent M, Rivera BN, Bonn-Miller MO, **Doepker C**. 2023. Cannabidiol safety considerations: Development of a potential acceptable daily intake value and recommended upper intake limits for dietary supplement use. *Regul Toxicol Pharmacol* 144:105482; doi: [10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105482](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yrtph.2023.105482).
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- Doepker C**, Movva N, Cohen SS, Wikoff DS. 2022. Benefit-risk of coffee consumption and all-cause mortality: A systematic review and disability adjusted life year analysis. *Food Chem Toxicol* 170:113472; doi: [10.1016/j.fct.2022.113472](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2022.113472).
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- Doepker CL**, Heintz MM, van de Ligt JLG, Wikoff DS. 2021. Review of potential risks associated with supplementary dietary exposure to nitrate-containing compounds in swine — A paradox in light of emerging benefits. *Trans Anim Sci* 5(4):txab203; doi: [10.1093/tas/txab203](https://doi.org/10.1093/tas/txab203).
- Fitch SE, Payne LE, van de Ligt JLG, **Doepker C**, Handu D, Cohen SM, Anyangwe N, Wikoff D. 2021. Use of acceptable daily intake (ADI) as a health-based benchmark in nutrition research studies that consider the safety of low-calorie sweeteners (LCS): A systematic map. *BMC Public Health* 21(1):956; doi: [10.1186/s12889-021-10934-2](https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-021-10934-2).
- Heintz MM, **Doepker CL**, Wikoff DS, Hawks SE. 2021. Assessing the food safety risk of ochratoxin A in coffee: A toxicology-based approach to food safety planning. *J Food Sci* 86(11):4799–4810; doi: [10.1111/1750-3841.15938](https://doi.org/10.1111/1750-3841.15938).
- Chappell GA, Wikoff DS, **Doepker CL**, Borghoff SJ. 2020. Lack of potential carcinogenicity for acesulfame potassium — Systematic evaluation and integration of mechanistic data into the totality of the evidence. *Food Chem Toxicol* 141:111375 [open access]; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2020.111375>.
- Chappell GA, Borghoff SJ, Pham L, **Doepker CL**, Wikoff DS. 2019. Lack of potential carcinogenicity for sucralose — Systematic evaluation and integration of mechanistic data into the totality of the evidence. *Food Chem Toxicol* 135:110898 [open access]; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2019.110898>.

Wikoff DS, Chappell GA, Fitch S, **Doepker CL**, Borghoff SJ. 2019. Lack of potential carcinogenicity for aspartame – Systematic evaluation and integration of mechanistic data into the totality of the evidence. Food Chem Toxicol 135:110866 [open access]; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2019.110866>.

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Wikoff DS, Thompson C, Rager J, Chappell G, Fitch S, **Doepker C**. 2018. Benefit-risk analysis for foods (BRAFO): Evaluation of exposure to dietary nitrates. Food Chem Toxicol 120:709–723; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2018.08.031>.

Wikoff D, Welsh BT, Henderson R, Brorby GP, Britt J, Myers E, Goldberger J, Lieberman HR,..., **Doepker C**. 2017. Systematic review of the potential adverse effects of caffeine consumption in healthy adults, pregnant women, adolescents, and children. Food Chem Toxicol 109(Pt1):585–648; doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fct.2017.04.002>.

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Doepker CL, Dumont KW, O'Donoghue J, English JC. 2000. Lack of induction of micronuclei in human peripheral blood lymphocytes treated with hydroquinone. Mutagenesis 15(6):479–487; doi: [10.1093/mutage/15.6.479](https://doi.org/10.1093/mutage/15.6.479).

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BOOK CHAPTERS

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Doepker CL. 2001. Aliphatic nitro, nitrate and nitrite compounds. Chapter 55 in Bingham E, Cohrssen B, Powell C, eds: Patty's Toxicology, New York: John Wiley & Sons.

PROTOCOLS

Fitch S, van de Ligt J, Payne L, **Doepker C**, Kleinman R, Handu D, Cohen SM, Anyangwe N, Wikoff D. 2019. Systematic map protocol: A systematic map of the use of acceptable daily intake (ADI) as a health-based benchmark in nutrition research studies that consider the safety of low-calorie sweeteners (LCS). Open Science Framework; <https://osf.io/6x3ks/>.

ABSTRACTS AND PRESENTATIONS

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Covington TR, Borghoff SJ, Brorby GP, **Doepker CL**, Wikoff DS, Franzen AC. Using IVIVE to address systemic exposure challenges in genotoxicity testing of complex mixtures. Poster Session PO-41, American Society for Cellular and Computational Toxicology (ASCCT) 14th Annual Meeting, Gaithersburg, MD, October 2025.

Franzen AC, Thompson CM, Brorby GP, Wikoff DS, Ilkbahar Z, **Doepker C**. Risk assessment of three smoke flavoring primary products currently under re-evaluation by EFSA. Abstract 4514, Society of Toxicology 62nd Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN, March 2023.

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Wikoff DW, Welsh BT, Henderson R, Brorby G, Britt J, Myers E, Goldberger J, Lieberman HR, O'Brien C, **Doepker C**. Application of systematic review in the evaluation of caffeine safety: Potential adverse effects of caffeine consumption in healthy adults, pregnant women, adolescents, and children. Society of Risk Analysis Annual Meeting, Arlington, VA, December 10-14, 2017.

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