

# IMMUNO-SAFETY CAREER WEBINAR

Presented by



**HESI Immuno-Safety Committee  
Education & Outreach Workgroup**

**Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM EST**

## Webinar Goal

The HESI ITC Science Outreach Group aims to increase awareness about careers in the immuno-safety and immuno-pharmacology fields, with a target audience of graduate students, post-docs, and early career scientists. This webinar will allow meaningful Q&A interactions between the audience and speakers to give insight on their respective career pathways. [Learn more on the ITC Career Webinar webpage here.](#)

## Agenda (All times in Eastern Standard Time)

11:00–11:05 AM	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> Tracey Papenfuss, Charles River Laboratories, ITC Workgroup Co-Lead E'Lissa Flores, HESI Scientific Program Manager
11:05–11:15 AM	<b>Immuno-Safety Field Overview</b> Tracey Papenfuss, Charles River Laboratories, ITC Workgroup Co-Lead
11:15–11:30 AM	<b>Career Speaker Introductions</b> Wendy Freebern, Janssen, ITC Workgroup Co-Lead David McMillan, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ITC Member Cheryl Rockwell, Michigan State University
11:30–11:55 AM	<b>Open Discussion and Q&amp;A with Attendees &amp; Speakers</b> Open to all
11:55–12:00 PM	<b>Closing Remarks</b> Danice Wilkins, Charles River Laboratories, ITC Science Outreach Group Lead

## Additional Information

### Registration

Please register and submit your questions for the speakers in advance to receive a webinar link. [Registration is free – register here.](#)

### Questions or Concerns

Please email Dr. E'Lissa Flores, HESI Scientific Program Manager, at [eflores@hesiglobal.org](mailto:eflores@hesiglobal.org) with any related questions.

**Note:** This webinar is open to all trainees, post-docs, early career scientists, or faculty to join. Feel free to share.

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## Speakers



### **Tracey Papenfuss, DVM, PhD, DACVP**

*Charles River Laboratories, ITC Education & Outreach Workgroup Co-Lead*

Tracey Papenfuss obtained her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine degree at the University of Minnesota and her PhD, post-doctoral, and anatomic pathology residency training at The Ohio State University. She is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (DACVP) and currently works as a toxicologic pathologist at Charles River Laboratories, a contract research organization laboratory. Prior to her current position in industry, she ran an NIH-funded Discovery Immunology lab evaluating cellular immunotherapies to treat inflammatory and autoimmune diseases and cancer. With a Ph.D. in immunology and board certification in veterinary pathology, Dr. Papenfuss utilizes immunopathology and works with other immunosafety scientists to understand how xenobiotics and novel therapies impact the immune system.



### **Wendy Freebern, PhD, DABT**

*Janssen, ITC Education & Outreach Workgroup Co-Lead*

Wendy Jo Freebern is the Global Leader of Hematological and Immunological Toxicology at Janssen with over 18 years of pharmaceutical drug development experience. Wendy's major career contributions are within the discipline of Immunotoxicology and Investigative Toxicology across pharmaceutical modalities and therapeutic areas.



### **David McMillan, PhD**

*US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), ITC Member*

Dr. McMillan is a board-certified toxicologist at the U.S. Food & Drug Administration. He completed his Ph.D. in Toxicology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry in 2013, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. Dr. McMillan joined the U.S. Food & Drug Administration in January 2016, and is a nonclinical reviewer in the Division of Pharmacology/ Toxicology for Infectious Diseases assigned to the Division of Antivirals. He is also the current chair of the FDA/CDER Immunotoxicology Subcommittee.



### **Cheryl Rockwell, PhD**

*Michigan State University*

Dr. Rockwell is an associate professor in the department of Pharmacology & Toxicology at Michigan State University. She received her Ph.D. in 2005 in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Michigan State University. During her postdoctoral training at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Dr. Rockwell received a K99/R00 transitional grant from NIEHS, which allowed her to transition into an independent tenure-track position at Michigan State University. She also received an Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) grant from NIEHS.

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## Moderators



**Danice Wilkins, PhD, MS**

*Charles River Laboratories, ITC Science Outreach Group Lead*

Danice Wilkins, Scientific Director for Immunology and Biomarkers at Charles River Massachusetts, is an immunologist with over 18 years of combined academic, CRO and biopharmaceutical drug development experience. Her combined CRO and drug development experience includes the strategic design and outsourcing of preclinical in vivo pharmacodynamic and immunotoxicology studies, as well as the development and validation of flow cytometry and cell-based functional bioassays and immunology biomarkers.



**E'Lissa Flores, PhD**

*HESI Scientific Program Manager*

E'Lissa Flores joined HESI in 2020 as a Scientific Program Manager. She currently co-manages several HESI committees, including the Cardiac Safety Committee, the Genetic Toxicology Technical Committee (GTTC), and the Immuno-Safety Technical Committee (ITC). Prior to joining HESI, she advised philanthropists and non-profit foundations to help manage several neurology-related disease projects and grant initiatives. E'Lissa has background in immunotoxicology with a PhD in Translational Biomedical Sciences from the University of Rochester.