



## Applied Research Center (ARC)

*Our People*



### **Robert S. Donofrio, Ph.D.** **Director, Applied Research Center**

Dr. Robert S. Donofrio has more than 20 years of expertise in microbiology (environmental, water, food and clinical), lab design, technical operations management and method development and validation. He holds a Ph.D. in biological sciences from Michigan Technological University and an M.S. in environmental microbiology from Duquesne University. Dr. Donofrio's research focus has been on microbial control in water distribution systems and in food production settings, as well as characterizing microbial contamination in various environments (such as households in NSF's Germ Studies) and assessing the efficacy of various treatment approaches. During his tenure at NSF, he spearheaded initiatives to incorporate molecular techniques for pathogen detection in food and water testing and established retail food and biofilm testing capabilities and the formation of virology and cell toxicity labs. He has authored numerous publications, serves on several advisory boards (i.e. Healthy House Institute, NoroCore, IAFP and US TAG for Nanomaterials), and is on the Board of Directors for the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology.



### **Kurt Kneen, Ph.D.** **Vice President, Global Laboratory Services**

Dr. Kurt Kneen has over 25 years of experience in analytical chemistry and instrumental analysis, with over 15 years at NSF International directing and managing world-class laboratories. He holds a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Michigan State University and a B.A. in chemistry from Wittenberg University. He expanded NSF's lab capabilities and developed and implemented new test methods for routine analysis and chemical testing. Dr. Kneen played a key role in establishing NSF's product testing lab in Shanghai and currently has global responsibility for NSF's laboratories. He has taught lab courses at Michigan State University and Lansing Community College. Dr. Kneen is an active member of the American Chemical Society and has presented at national events.



**Kerri L. LeVanseler, Ph.D.**  
**Director, Chemistry Laboratory**

Dr. Kerri LeVanseler has over 25 years of expertise in a wide range of laboratory techniques and analysis of various analytes in multiple sample types. Dr. LeVanseler holds a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Wayne State University and a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Michigan. Dr. LeVanseler currently serves as Director of NSF International's Chemistry Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Michigan. She is active in the Association of Official Analytical Chemists (AOAC) International and the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia, and is involved in programs launched by the National Institutes of Health Office of Dietary Supplements and the National Institute of Science and Technology. Her interests include the application of analytical instrumentation to address method development and problem solving needs.



**John Travis**  
**Senior Research Scientist**

John Travis has 18 years of experience in analysis of target analytes and method development. He specializes in the analysis of dietary supplements, utilizing techniques such as gas and high-performance liquid chromatography and mass spectrometry. His expertise in the analysis of prohibited substances in dietary supplements was instrumental in developing screening methods for NSF's Certified for Sport program. Mr. Travis has a degree in chemistry from the University of Michigan. He sat on the AOAC Presidential Task Force on Dietary Supplements and several review panels.



**Amanda D. Phelka, Ph.D.**  
**Director, Toxicology Services**

Dr. Amanda Phelka has more than 17 years of experience conducting and evaluating studies assessing chemical exposure and human health risk. She has authored a variety of risk, safety, hazard and exposure assessments, has provided extensive expert witness support in toxic tort litigation matters and has published peer-reviewed manuscripts on diverse toxicology, industrial hygiene and occupational health topics. She holds Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in toxicology from the University of Michigan. Dr. Phelka has served as an invited peer reviewer of the U.S. EPA's draft Provisional Peer Review Toxicity Values manuscripts and is a full member of the Society of Toxicology.



**J. Caroline English, Ph.D.**  
**DABT, Senior Principal Toxicologist**

Dr. Caroline English has over 29 years of experience in the chemical, consumer products, and public health industries. She specializes in quantitative health risk assessment, food and dietary ingredient safety, nanomaterials, drinking water and green chemistry programs. Prior to joining NSF in 2007, Dr. English worked for Eastman Kodak where she held a variety of technical and leadership roles conducting GLP metabolism, kinetic, biochemical and systemic toxicology studies. She designed and oversaw research and testing programs in support of product development and stewardship, assisting clients in North America, Asia and Europe to achieve marketplace success. Dr. English is an invited member of the U.S EPA Science Advisory Board's Chemical Assessment Advisory Committee and serves as NSF's representative on the World Health Organization Chemical Risk Assessment Network. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the NSF International Health Advisory Board and the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to ISO/TC 229 Nanotechnologies.



**Virunya Bhat, Ph.D., DABT**  
**Principal Toxicologist**

Dr. Virunya Bhat is a Principal Toxicologist for NSF International with more than 15 years of experience conducting human health risk assessments for industrial chemicals as applied to assessing drinking water quality and consumer product safety. She specializes in benchmark dose-response modeling, mode of action analysis and integrating multiple evidence streams. Her work has been presented at numerous technical conferences and has resulted in several peer-reviewed publications and awards. Dr. Bhat earned a Ph.D. in environmental toxicology at the University of California in Riverside, where she also was a guest lecturer for undergraduate and graduate risk assessment classes. She also earned an M.S. in pharmacy from the Ohio State University. Dr. Bhat is certified by the American Board of Toxicology and is an active member of the Society of Toxicology, currently co-chairing the regional and national K-12 Education Subcommittees.

## Applied Research Center (ARC) *Our People Continued*



### **Kevin Cox** **Senior Research Toxicologist**

Kevin Cox is a Senior Research Toxicologist at NSF International working in the area of human health risk assessments. His areas of work have included health effects assessments for drinking water contaminants, dietary supplements, toy products, as well as pool and spa chemicals. Prior to his current role, Mr. Cox was the Supervising Toxicologist for NSF International's Drinking Water Additives and Dietary Supplement certification programs. Kevin received his B.S. in biochemistry and history from the University of Michigan and his MPH in environmental health sciences - toxicology from the University of Michigan School of Public Health. Mr. Cox is currently an associate member of the Society of Toxicology. He also holds a J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School and is a member of the Michigan Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

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