



Melissa Badding, PhD, DABT
Senior Managing Scientist
Exponent, Inc.

Dr. Badding is a Senior Managing Scientist at Exponent, Inc. where she consults on a variety of matters related to human health risk assessment. She is a board-certified toxicologist and specializes in the evaluation of chemical exposures and their potential health effects. Her expertise includes toxicological risk assessments for a variety of exposure scenarios and substances, including medical devices, consumer products, personal care products, metals, and particulates. Dr. Badding received her MS and PhD degrees in Toxicology from the University of Rochester and her BS in Biotechnology from Rochester Institute of Technology. She is an author on 15 peer-reviewed publications. She has been an active member of the Society of Toxicology since 2010 and is currently serving as the Vice President of the NCAC of SOT.



Patrick Crittenden, PhD
Toxicologist
US Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

Dr. Crittenden is a Toxicologist at the US Food and Drug Administration in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, where he reviews pre-market notifications for the Division of Food Contact Substances. In this position, he assesses the safety of indirect food additives (i.e., packaging materials) by evaluating their potential for genotoxicity, carcinogenicity, and systemic toxicity. Dr. Crittenden has had a diverse career in science including experience as a waste fuels chemist for a private contract lab and as a biochemical technician in a agriculture research laboratory. He has several years of experience as a study director for a contract research laboratory, where he was responsible for conducting preclinical and environmental toxicology studies for regulatory submissions. Prior to working with the US FDA, Dr. Crittenden was a professor of biology responsible for teaching courses including anatomy and physiology, cellular physiology, immunology, neurobiology, and toxicology. Dr. Crittenden received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Microbiology from Mississippi University for Women. Subsequently, he obtained a Master of Science in Biological Sciences from Mississippi State University with a focus in immunotoxicology, and a Doctor of Philosophy from Mississippi State University in Environmental Toxicology with a focus in neuroimmunotoxicology. He has published 6 peer-reviewed research papers, 3 as the first author. Dr. Crittenden has been a member of SOT since 1993 and is currently an Associate member of the society.



Ryan Hitzman, PhD
Toxicologist I/Study Director
Institute for In Vitro Sciences

Dr. Hitzman graduated *cum laude* with a BS in biology and a minor in chemistry from the University of Illinois at Chicago. During his undergraduate time, Dr. Hitzman studied abroad in Singapore at Nanyang Technological University where he volunteered at the Genome Institute of Singapore conducting research on regulatory mechanisms of cancer. After receiving his BS Ryan spent a year as a Visiting Research Associate focusing on repair mechanisms in myocardial infarction models. In 2016 he began his graduate studies in pharmacognosy at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy. During this time he joined the UIC Botanical Center for Dietary Supplement Research, studying the safety and efficacy of women's health botanicals in preclinical and clinical models. Dr. Hitzman's dissertation focused on the role of Aryl hydrocarbon Receptor-activating botanicals on estrogen chemical carcinogenesis. Upon graduating with his PhD in Pharmacognosy in 2021, Dr. Hitzman spent a year as a postdoc at the NIH National Cancer Institute concentrating on the role of acetylation in *in vivo* models of development and cancer. He began working as a Toxicologist and Study Director in 2022 at the Institute for In Vitro Sciences, focusing on irritation in 3D tissue models. He has presented at numerous conferences and has six publications, including first author publications in *Chemical Research in Toxicology* and *Phytochemistry*.