



Dr. Dionne Toombs, Director, Office of the Chief Scientist

OCS Update

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

OFFICE OF
THE CHIEF
SCIENTIST



ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST

INTRODUCTION

The Office of the Chief Scientist provides scientific leadership and coordination across the Department.

We make sure that research supported by, and scientific advice provided to, USDA and external stakeholders are held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity.



OCS RESEARCH COORDINATION ACTIVITIES



OCS COORDINATION: USDA International Science and Technology



International science and technology (S&T) engagements are critical for advancing the interests of American agriculture. USDA focuses on opportunities that are mutually beneficial and leverage foreign and domestic resources.

- Bilateral S&T activities
- Critical issues of research security
- Ensuring the integrity of the USDA research
- Co-lead the Agricultural Innovation Mission for Climate with the State

ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)



USDA continues to conduct and fund research to understand the drivers of antimicrobial resistance and to find effective alternatives to antimicrobial drugs to help maintain animal health and welfare, food security, and agriculture sustainability.

Best practices for managing animal health to help reduce the need for antibiotics.

The Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria Task Force released its 2020-2025 National Action on October 9, 2020.

A large, detailed close-up photograph of several honey bees on a golden honeycomb. The bees are in various positions, some facing the viewer and others with their backs to it. The honeycomb cells are clearly visible, filled with a golden substance.

POLLINATORS

As authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, OCS's Honey Bee and Pollinator Research Coordinator helps to address and coordinate pollinator health research efforts across the Department.

Major research areas include:

- 🐝 Pollinator status and trends
- 🐝 Habitat, forage, and nutrition
- 🐝 Pests and pathogens
- 🐝 Environmental stressors
- 🐝 Genetics and biology



RENEWABLE ENERGY, NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

OCS manages a diverse portfolio of activities across biofuels, bioproducts, the bioeconomy, stewardship of America's natural resources, and critical natural resources impacted by a changing climate.

OCS engages stakeholders and coordinates and directs activities toward outcomes leading to public and environmental benefit through federal and USDA efforts including:

- Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Grand Challenge
- Domestic Sources of Natural Rubber
- Agrivoltaics



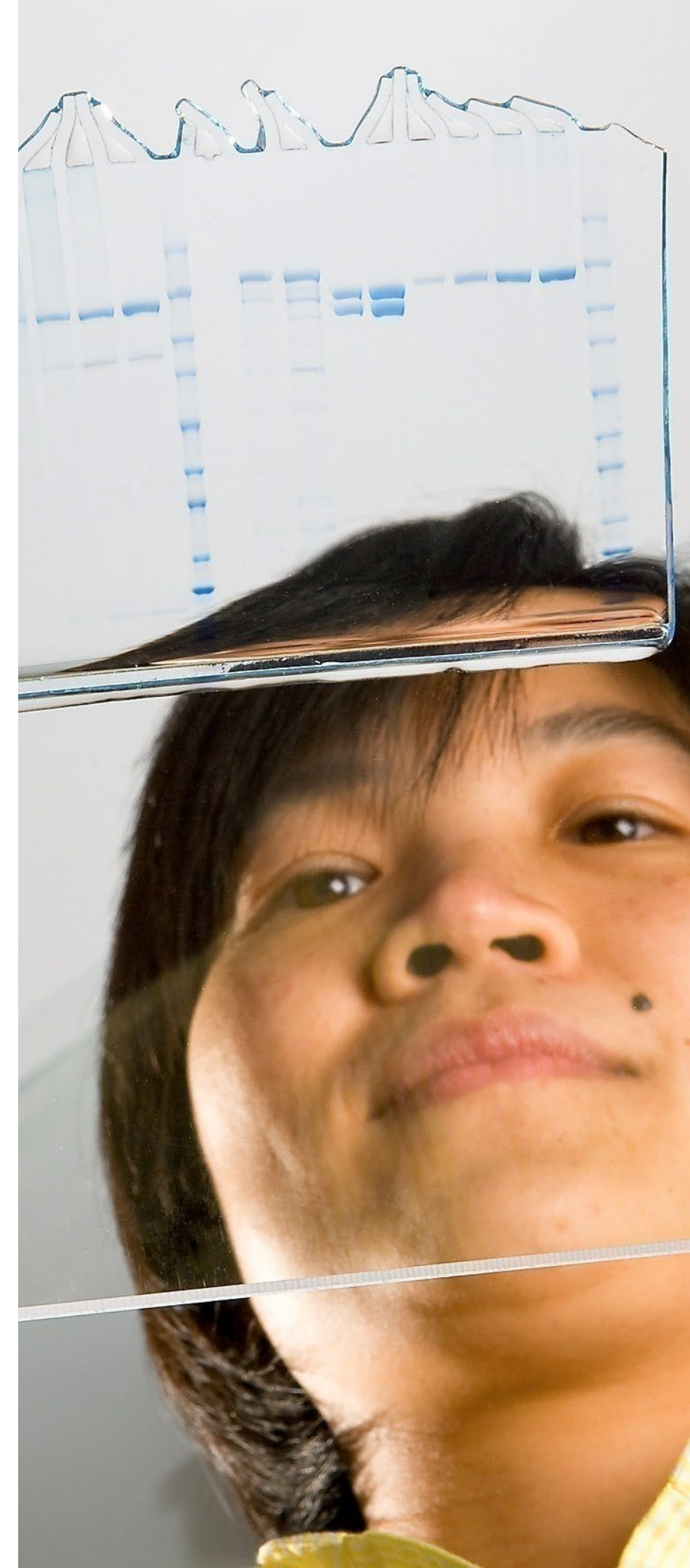
NUTRITION, FOOD SAFETY, & HEALTH

- 🍏 Coordinates food safety and nutrition research communities where multi-disciplinary efforts are necessary.
- 🍏 Help to provide guidance to promote healthier diets and safe food for Americans.,
- 🍏 Highlights nutritional guidance, including precision nutrition.



SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY

- Promote a culture of scientific integrity as the norm
- Develop and implement training materials
- Ensure the quality, accuracy, and transparency of scientific and technical information supported by USDA
- Ensure scientific communication free of political interference
- Ensure dispute resolution mechanisms are in place



STRATEGIC PLANNING



ENTERPRISE RISK
MANAGEMENT



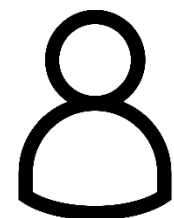
EVIDENCE & EVALUATION



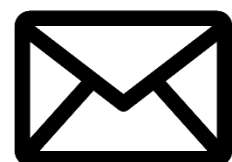
STRATEGIC PLANNING
& PERFORMANCE



QUESTIONS?



DIONNE TOOMBS
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SCIENTIST



DIONNE.TOOMBS@USDA.GOV



202-306-0129