

Cara Welch, Ph.D.

Deputy Director, Office of Dietary Supplement Programs
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA
240-402-2333

cara.welch@fda.hhs.gov

Cara Welch, Ph.D., is currently the Deputy Director for the Office of Dietary Supplement Programs (ODSP) in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). In this role, Dr. Welch leads the development of new policies and programs involving regulatory compliance and provides scientific expertise for emerging issues affecting the dietary supplement industry. She is also responsible for prioritization and execution of ODSP's research portfolio. Prior to returning to ODSP, she was on detail as a Special Assistant to the Deputy Commissioner for Policy, Legislation, and International Affairs in the Office of the Commissioner. In this role, she provided expertise on agency level food policy issues. Prior to joining FDA, Welch was the Senior Vice President of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs at the Natural Products Association. Welch earned her Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Rutgers University working with traditional medicinal African plants.