



Richard Williams

AUTHOR. ACADEMIC. ORATOR.

The Most Hated Man at the FDA.

Dr. Richard Williams is not a good bureaucrat.

Even after 27 years of never going along with the Food and Drug Administration's culture, he continues to write thoughtful narratives illuminating why the agency continues to fail U.S. consumers.

With a breadth of experience in academia, including the nine years he spent as Vice President for Policy at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, Richard knows how to analyze risk and advise on federal policies and regulations on food safety and nutrition. He is a prolific author and speaker, with op-eds in a wide variety of publications and speaking engagements throughout the U.S., Europe, Korea and China. Richard holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Virginia Tech and an undergraduate degree from Old Dominion University.

Aside from authoring his next book and providing thoughtful and relatable presentations and interviews on food safety, policy and technologies; he spends his time reading historical, scientific and economics-related nonfiction. In great weather, you can find him with good friends playing bad golf.

Most Requested Interview & Keynote Topics

- 1 NEW FOOD TECHNOLOGIES**
(growth, expansion, policy, regulation, risk management)
- 2 FOOD SAFETY & FDA FAILURES**
(food safety, gmo, nutrition, labeling, health)
- 3 SCIENCE VS. POLICY**
(Roles of science in policy making, mass media vs. truth, EPA, FDA)

EXPERTISE & AFFILIATIONS



What People Are Saying

“Dr. Williams did a wonderful job [at the Canadian Nutrition Society Annual Meeting] by providing the theory of behavioral economics and then bringing it to life with real life examples from his illustrious career in government and academia.”

— ERIC HENTGES, PH.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
ILSI NORTH AMERICA, WASHINGTON DC.

“Richard Williams is the most feared person in the FDA because he isn’t afraid to tell people the truth.”

— ANONYMOUS FDA DIRECTOR

“Richard Williams, a former FDA director for social sciences, nails this takeaway in his New York Times piece, saying “most of what people want to avoid by eating natural food has no basis in science.”

— LIZ CASELLI-MECHAEL, “NATURALLY CONFUSING: TWO THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW FROM NEW YORK TIMES “NATURAL’ DEBATE.”

“This guy is NUTS. How in the world does he know that NO ONE has ever been effected [sic] by GM FOODS.”

— GAIL, TWITTER, REPLYING TO TELEVISED INTERVIEW
ON CSPAN @CSPANWJ @MERCATUS @US_FDA

Dr. Williams believes in evidence-based truth and fact-based policy recommendations. He has testified numerous times before Congress on federal regulatory processes and food safety. Despite his honesty, he earned the Award of Merit for outstanding service at the FDA.

As Seen In

The New York Times



Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO
SUN*TIMES



C-SPAN

THE HILL

REAL
CLEAR
POLICY



CONTACT ME

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