

Biography

John H. Callahan was born in Denver, CO and received a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from The Colorado College in Colorado Springs, CO. He received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where his thesis research was focused on physical-analytical chemistry and mass spectrometry. After a National Research Council post-doctoral fellowship at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL), Dr. Callahan joined the staff at NRL as a research scientist and later served as section head for the Mass Spectrometry and Analytical Chemistry Sections. His work at NRL focused on basic and applied applications of mass spectrometry and analytical chemistry, and included fundamental studies of carbon clusters, the development of MS methods for the study of biomolecules, and the analysis of volatile organic compounds in the enclosed atmospheres of U.S. Navy nuclear submarines. He joined the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) in 2003 as a staff scientist where his work focused on the development of bioanalytical methods for the analysis of protein allergens and toxins in foods. He then served as the acting or permanent Branch Chief for the Spectroscopy and Mass Spectrometry Branch (SMSB) of the Office of Regulatory Science from 2005 to 2013. Work in SMSB was focused on the development of methods for the analysis of marine toxins, allergens and protein toxins in foods, the development of high-throughput untargeted screening methods and the application of advanced spectroscopic methods for foods analysis. After serving as the acting Director of the Division of Analytical Chemistry in the Office of Regulatory Science, became the acting Deputy Director of the Office of Regulatory Science and in August 2015 he was appointed permanently to that position. He currently serves as Chair of the Chemistry Research Coordinating Group under the Office of Food and Veterinary Medicine (OFVM) Science and Research Coordinating Committee. Dr. Callahan has been a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS) since 1979, was elected to serve as the Chair of the Analytical Division of the ACS in 2005, and served on the ACS Analytical Division Executive Committee from 2004-2007. He has been a member of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry (ASMS) since 1984 and was elected to serve as an ASMS Board Member At-Large from 2008-2010. Dr. Callahan also served as an instructor for the short course "Interpretation of Mass Spectra" at the ASMS National meeting from 1990-2011. He has been a member of the Washington-Baltimore Mass Spectrometry Discussion Group since 1986 and handled communications for that group for most of that period. Dr. Callahan's scientific interests are focused on analytical chemistry and mass spectrometry as applied to food safety, and he is author or co-author of over 80 peer-reviewed publications.