**From:** A Message from the Acting Commissioner
**Sent:** Monday, April 12, 2021 9:03 AM
**To:** FDA-Wide
**Subject:** Personnel Update – CDER Director

# A Message from the Acting Commissioner

U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce the permanent appointment of Dr. Patrizia Cavazzoni as Director for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER). Patrizia has been serving as acting in this executive role for the past year, providing extraordinary leadership for the Center during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response.

As CDER Director, Patrizia has chief responsibility for the entire CDER portfolio, ensuring that safe and effective drugs are available to improve the health of the people in the U.S. Having worked closely with Patrizia over the past several years, I can attest to her drive for operational excellence and innovation, as well as her commitment to scientific integrity and patient safety.

Patrizia joined the FDA in January 2018 as CDER's Deputy Director for Operations where she has led several key initiatives on behalf of the organization. She has expertly advised senior leaders, including me, on challenging policy development and navigated long-range organizational goals to advance our public health mission. During a period of transition, she also served as Acting Principal Deputy Commissioner of Food and Drugs in early 2019 prior to Dr. Amy Abernethy's arrival.

Patrizia received her medical degree at McGill University and completed a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in mood disorders at the University of Ottawa, both in Canada. She subsequently received a full-time appointment to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and joined the mood disorders program at the Royal Ottawa Hospital, where she treated patients suffering from severe mood disorders, taught students and conducted research on genetic predictors of bipolar disorder as part of a multidisciplinary international collaborative effort.

After her tenure in academic medicine, Patrizia worked in the pharmaceutical industry for several years and held senior executive positions in clinical development, regulatory affairs, and safety risk management in large companies across multiple therapeutic areas, until she joined the FDA.

I hold a deep appreciation for the CDER Director role, having spent most of my FDA career with the Center. This action means that my official position of record is now the Principal Medical Advisor to the Commissioner, a position I was detailed to last year. Of course, I'm also serving as your Acting Commissioner.

Please join me in congratulating Patrizia as she continues to carry out this important leadership position.

Sincerely,
Janet

**Janet Woodcock, M.D.**
**Acting Commissioner of Food and Drugs**


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