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Dr. Smith is the Director of International Activities within the Office of the Center Director, Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). He represents FDA and CVM in several international harmonization organizations, including as the FDA Delegate to the International Cooperation on Harmonization of Technical Requirements for Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VICH), as the Special Assistant to the Chair of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods, and as the Executive Secretariat of the U.S. Delegations to the Codex Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance and the Codex Working Group on Animal Feeding.

He received his undergraduate degree in liberal arts from the University of Virginia and his early career was as a chemist and inspector of food manufacturing facilities working at the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Commerce in Richmond. He was awarded the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in microbiology and food science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, completing research in the area of food-borne infections and intoxications. While at VPI he was a member of Phi Kappa Phi Honorary Society and Gamma Sigma Delta Agricultural Honor Society. Dr. Smith earned his J.D. from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America, focusing on trade and administrative law. He has been a member of the District of Columbia Bar since 1984.

Prior to coming to CVM in 2001, Dr. Smith worked in the Office of International Programs, Office of the FDA Commissioner, where he held a number of positions including the Africa and Near East Desk Officer, the Americas Desk Officer, the Multilateral Programs Desk Officer, the International Harmonization and Trade Affairs Desk Officer, and the Associate Director for International Agreements. Dr. Smith was detailed to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in the Executive Office of the President during the period 1993-94 where he assisted in finalizing both the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, the latter establishing the World Trade Organization. At USTR Dr. Smith held the position of Special Assistant for Health and Safety and served to advise senior U.S. Government officials on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and technical barriers to trade, among other issues. From 1975-84, Dr. Smith worked in FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition in a number of technical and regulatory positions within the Division of Food Technology, the Division of Food and Color Additives, and the Office of Compliance.

Dr. Smith has published numerous technical and regulatory articles and has received several honors while at FDA, including twice receiving the agency's highest award--the FDA Award of Merit.