



INTERNATIONAL FOOD CONTROL CONFERENCE 2026

15th - 17th October 2026, Ha Noi - Viet Nam



Biography

Full name, Title: Karolina Mercoulia

Position: Division Lead Scientist of the Food and Environmental Reference Division

Affiliation: Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL), Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne



Karolina Mercoulia is the Division Lead Scientist of the Food and Environmental Reference Division at the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory (MDU PHL), Doherty Institute, University of Melbourne. She specialises in foodborne and environmental disease surveillance, pathogen genomics and public health microbiology.

Under her leadership, the team provides state and national public health support, leveraging expertise in microbiology, whole-genome sequencing and antimicrobial resistance surveillance to strengthen outbreak investigations, pathogen characterisation and disease surveillance. The team also contributes to international training and capacity-building initiatives in food and environmental microbiology.

Karolina is also the Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Foodborne Disease Surveillance and Genomics, where she leads a multidisciplinary team of laboratory scientists, bioinformaticians and epidemiologists supporting the World Health Organization in foodborne disease surveillance and genomics initiatives across the Western Pacific Region and globally. Through this role, she leads collaborative projects, technical assistance and capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening laboratory and surveillance systems and advancing the use of genomic approaches for foodborne disease detection, surveillance and outbreak response.

Her work brings together laboratory microbiology, genomics, bioinformatics and epidemiology to strengthen public health surveillance and response to foodborne and environmental pathogens, both nationally and internationally.