

PLENARY SESSION

Welcome

Anne Mikelonis, Erin Silvestri & Viktoriya Plotkin, Conference Organizing Chairs | *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Dr. Anne Mikelonis welcomed everyone to the 12th U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) International Decontamination Research and Development Conference, and thanked participants and the conference Organizing Committee. Dr. Mikelonis acknowledged the steep learning curve while adjusting the conference from in-person to a virtual format while keeping favorited aspects of the conference intact. She extended congratulations to everyone who helped make it possible.

Dr. Viktoriya Plotkin noted 677 registrants for the conference, with over 60% representing state, local, and federal governments. Participants were from all over the world, including the United Kingdom, Sweden, Canada, and Brazil, to name a few.

Dr. Erin Silvestri expressed excitement for participants to engage with the conference programming and hoped everyone would be able to find ways to collaborate virtually. Dr. Silvestri introduced the next speaker, Dr. Wayne Cascio, the Acting Principal and Deputy Assistant Administrator of Science in the U.S. EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD).
