


**CONGRESS
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SARS-CoV-2 and Risk Related to Food & Food Packaging Safety

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Abstract

The SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) pandemic has undoubtedly had a profound effect, globally in practically all spheres, including the food and beverage supply chain. Whilst we now understand far more than 18 months ago on the modes of transmission of the virus, questions arose early in the pandemic on the possibility of transmission through food and food packaging. This presentation will explore this possibility, relying on credible, scientific evidence to show that transmission via food and food packaging is highly unlikely and that ultimately, this virus poses an occupational health risk as opposed to a food safety risk.

Biography: Prof Lucia Anelich

- 25 years at Tshwane University of Technology, South Africa as HOD Biotechnology and Food Technology and Associate Professor.
- 2006: Joined Consumer Goods Council of South Africa and established a food safety body for the food industry, a first for the country.
- 2011: Started own successful national and international food safety consulting and training business, Anelich Consulting.

Prof Anelich was instrumental in providing guidance to the food industry on *Listeria monocytogenes* during the 2018 listeriosis outbreak and on SARS-CoV-2 related to food safety, during the COVID-19 pandemic, from January 2020. On both topics, she was interviewed many times for printed media, radio and TV and spoke at 17 events nationally and internationally, including conducting a webinar for the Daily Maverick on SARS-CoV-2 and safety of food.

Prof Anelich is:

- Member of the ICMSF
- Adjunct Professor at Central University of Technology
- Immediate Past President of SAAFoST
- Past Chair of Scientific Council of IUFOST
- Fellow of International Academy of Food Science and Technology
- Co-editor of new book "Present Knowledge in Food Safety"
- Technical expert and consultant for FAO and UNIDO Prof Anelich served 4 years as Food Hygiene Expert for the African Union (IBAR), authored/co-authored a number of publications and chapters in books and presented over 160 talks nationally and internationally.