

Christine Swanson, PhD

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Dr. Christine Swanson was trained in nutritional sciences and epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley where she received her PhD and MPH degrees. She received her undergraduate degree in dietetics from the Montana State University in Bozeman. Her research efforts have been focused on various aspects of human nutrition with public health applications. Early in her career, she studied human requirements for zinc and selenium. Those studies provided the first human data to estimate Recommended Dietary Allowances for pregnancy. Dr. Swanson combined her nutrition and epidemiology training while working as a Senior Staff Fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Her early studies confirmed obesity as a risk factor for endometrial and post-menopausal breast cancer. In later studies, obesity was identified as a risk factor for esophageal cancer. Her studies were among the first to bring attention to the relation between moderate alcohol consumption and cancers of the breast and oral cavity. At the Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Dr. Swanson works with scientists and program administrators to facilitate research to explore the potential role of dietary supplements in maintaining health and preventing chronic disease. She is currently the Director of the NIH Botanical Research Centers Program which is jointly funded by ODS and the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine.