

Biography – Dr Harpreet S. Kochhar, Chief Veterinary Officer of Canada



Dr. Harpreet S. Kochhar was appointed the Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada in January 2014. He is also Associate Vice-President of the Operations Branch at the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Dr. Kochhar joined the CFIA in 2002 as a Senior Animal Biotechnology Policy Specialist. Since then, he has worked in a number of roles in the CFIA's Science Branch, Operations Branch and Policy and Programs Branch, including Executive Director of Operations Strategies and Delivery, Executive Director of Western Area Operations and Executive Director of the Animal Health Directorate.

Prior to joining the CFIA in 2002, Dr. Kochhar worked as a veterinarian in private practice and an assistant professor with research interests in animal biotechnology at the University of Guelph's Ontario Veterinary College.

Dr. Kochhar is a veterinarian by training with a Master's degree in Veterinary Science and a PhD in biotechnology. He is an expert on animal biotechnology for the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and has worked internationally with such organizations as the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr. Kochhar leads Canada's efforts to effectively manage current and emerging disease threats in order to protect animal and human health, and to maintain international trust in Canada's inspection and certification systems in support of market access.