



Anju Rao

Chief Science Officer, McCormick & Company

As a visionary leader in food science, Anju Rao serves as McCormick's Chief Science Officer. In this role she is responsible for the company's Research & Development and Quality & Regulatory functions. She leads multidisciplinary global teams who are engaged in leveraging their expertise to deliver differentiated product innovation with a 'Passion for Flavor' anchored in the "Taste You Trust" principle for both customers and consumers. Anju is a member of McCormick's Global Operating Committee providing functional insights contributing to operational excellence and strategic thought leadership.

Prior to joining McCormick, Dr. Rao served on the Senior Leadership Team at Starbucks Coffee Company in her role as Senior Vice President for Global Product Safety, Quality & Regulatory, where she was accountable for enhancing food safety and product quality metrics in a rapidly evolving global consumer market ensuring growth, loyalty, and customer satisfaction across retail stores and the supply chain. Over the last two decades, she gained experience from numerous roles at Starbucks Coffee Company and Campbell's where she led product, process, and packaging development across many categories that included soups, sauces, and beverages in both consumer goods and retail business operating models. Dr. Rao also has had extensive experience in ingredient development and functionality from her work experience at Royal Friesland Campina N.V. focused on protein chemistry.

Anju graduated with a Ph.D. in Food Technology from Clemson University and currently serves as Board Chair for the Center for Food Safety at the University of Georgia, a consortium of industry, academia, and government agencies dedicated to ensuring a safe food supply. Anju grew up in India nurturing her curiosity of culinary arts and food science allowing her to study nutrition and dietetics as a practicing dietician before immigrating to the United States to pursue Food Technology.