

Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration



Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., is the director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research (CDER) at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. The Center's mission is to ensure that safe, effective, and high-quality drugs are available to the public. To achieve this, CDER regulates the medical products under its jurisdiction throughout their lifecycle, oversees the development of new and generic drugs, evaluates applications to determine whether drugs should be approved, monitors the safety of drugs after they are marketed, conducts research to advance regulatory science and takes enforcement actions to protect the public from harmful products.

Dr. Cavazzoni received her medical degree at McGill University and completed a residency in psychiatry and a fellowship in mood disorders at the University of Ottawa. During her training, she was an investigator in clinical trials of novel antipsychotic and antidepressant medications. She subsequently received a full-time appointment to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa, where she treated patients suffering from severe mood disorders, taught students and conducted research on genetic predictors of bipolar disorder as part of a multidisciplinary international collaborative effort, authoring numerous peer-reviewed scientific publications. After her tenure in academic medicine, Dr. Cavazzoni held executive positions in the private sector, until she joined the FDA.

Dr. Cavazzoni obtained certification by the American Board of Neurology and Psychiatry and is a recipient of the American College of Psychiatrists' Laughlin Fellowship.