



Karen L. Howard, PhD

Director of Science and Technology Assessment
Science, Technology Assessment, and Analytics (STAA)
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)

Dr. Howard is Director of Science and Technology Assessment for GAO. In this role she leads teams of scientists, engineers, and policy analysts to provide insight, oversight, and foresight for the U.S. Congress through analysis of science and technology issues and the related policy implications. She manages a broad portfolio of topics including environmental quality, forensic algorithms, vaccine development, biological threats, chemical weapons, water scarcity, national security implications of emerging technologies, and many other issues.

Dr. Howard received the prestigious 2021 Arthur S. Flemming Award for Leadership in Government Service, GAO's 2022 Distinguished Service Award and 2019 Meritorious Service Award, among others. She holds a PhD in Environmental Chemistry, MS in Analytical Chemistry, and MS in Education.