

# Zero Waste Live!

7 April 2020 - 03.00 p.m. CET

## COVID-19 AND ZERO WASTE



**Jane Muncke**

Managing Director and Chief Scientific Officer at Food Packaging Forum Foundation





# Healthy food packaging: Human health and environmental concerns.

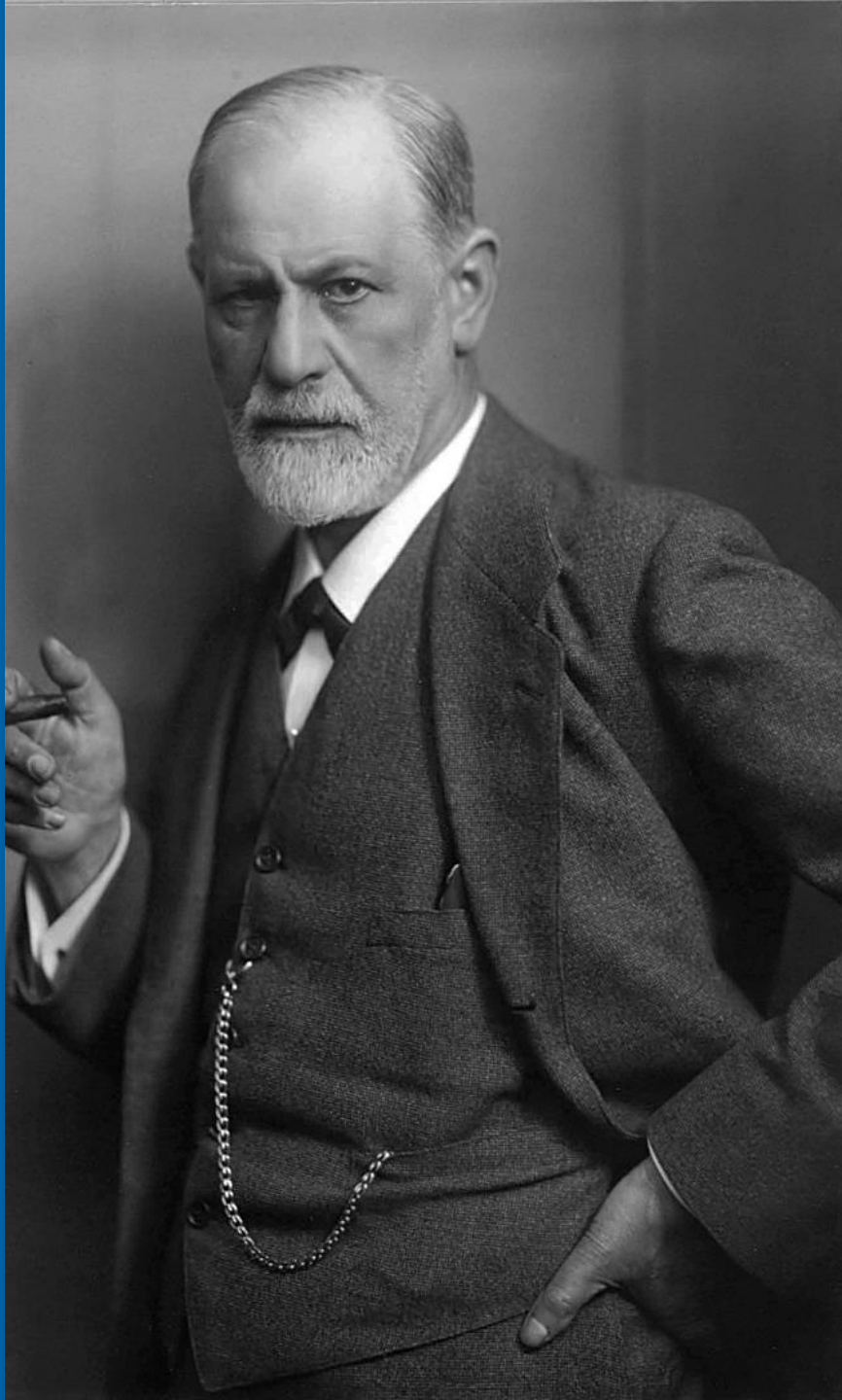
Dr. Jane Muncke, PhD

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“The voice of reason is a soft one, but it is persistent and does not rest until it has been heard.”  
Sigmund Freud.

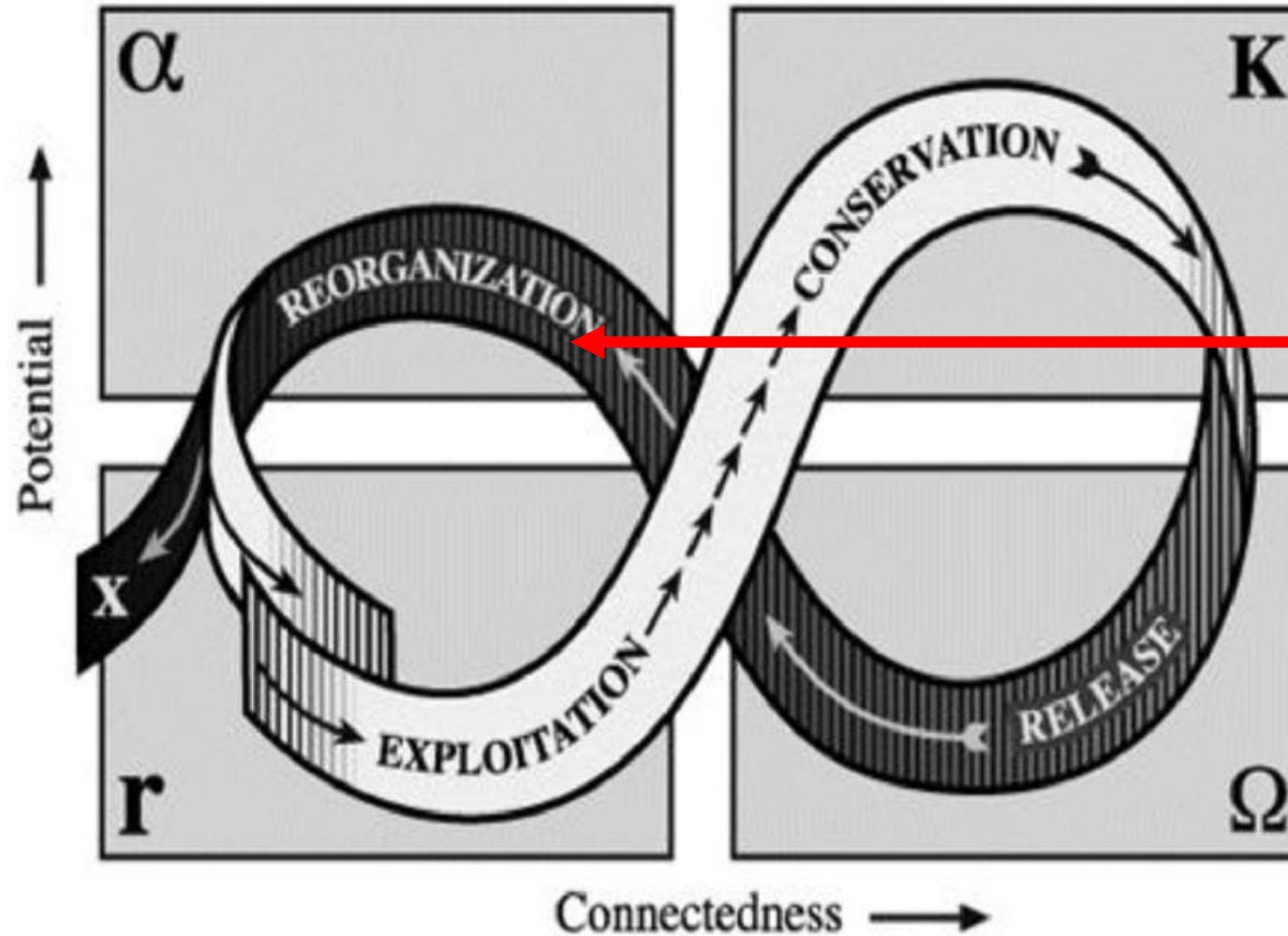
**Die Stimme der Vernunft ist leise**, aber sie ruht nicht, ehe sie sich Gehör verschafft hat.





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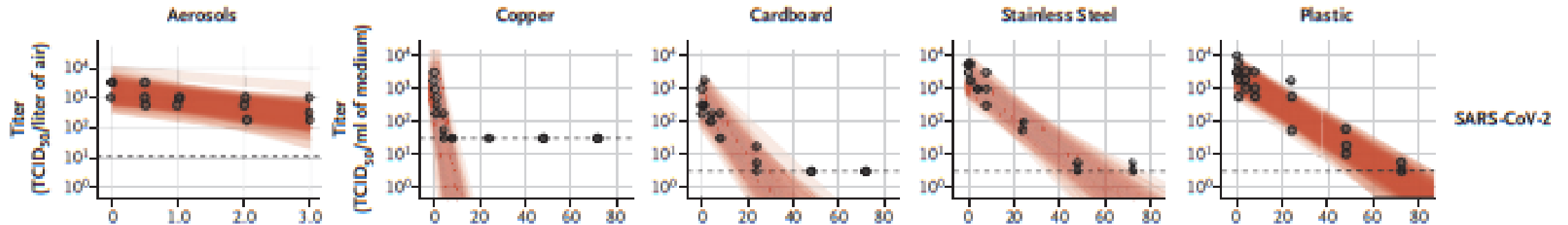
# The adaptive cycle model of complex systems



Reorganization based on scientific information

# SARS-CoV-2 viability on surfaces and aerosols

B Predicted Decay of Virus Titer



van Doremalen et al. 2020 <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.09.20033217v2>

- No evidence for food packaging being a vector for spreading the virus – but there is also no evidence for it NOT being a vector and involved in the spreading.
- Precautionary approach is to disinfect all surfaces that have been touched by potentially infected people e.g. products from the supermarket, home delivery, door handles, etc.
- Use soap/heat/ethanol or store items for up to 3 days before touching again (likely 8-24h are enough)
- Wash your hands after contact
- Stay at home to avoid inadvertently spreading SARS-CoV-2 – also if you are asymptomatic





“SAFE” packaging  
no untested chemicals  
and no hazardous chemicals  
are transferred into food



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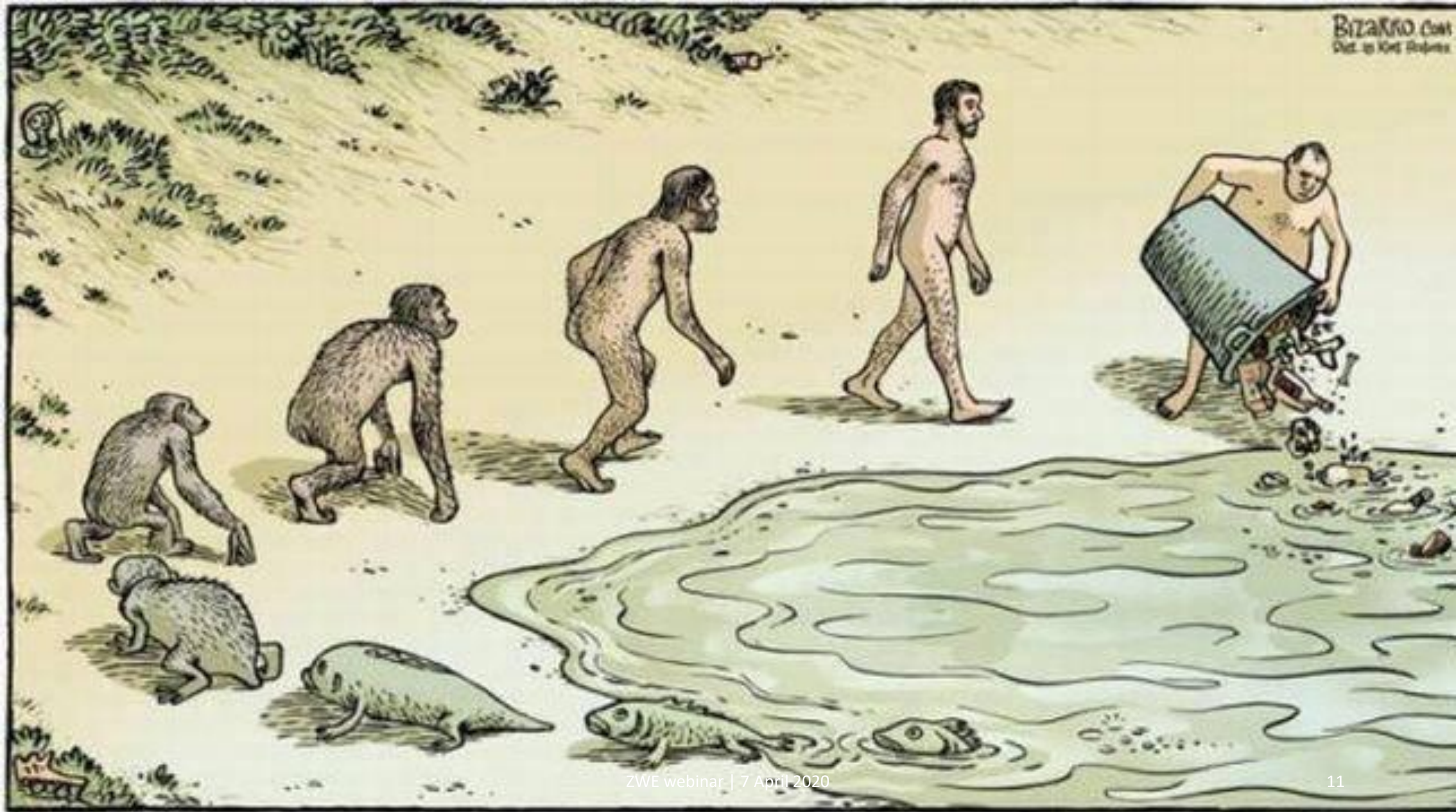


# Toxicity testing of food packaging chemicals

- Hazardous chemicals are in food packaging – and they migrate.
- Chemicals used to make food packaging are not routinely tested for immunotoxicity
- but it is known that chemicals can impair immune system health.
- In addition to carcinogenicity, testing of food contact chemicals needs to address impacts on different health aspects:
  - Nervous system
  - Endocrine system
  - Immune system
  - Cardiovascular system
  - Metabolic system



Solutions must protect human  
health and the environment.





# Conclusions

- COVID-19 is exposing weaknesses in current socio-economic system
- Instead of fighting symptoms, the way forward must be to **embrace complexity**: systems thinking and acting upon scientific knowledge to build a more resilient and sustainable system
- Food packaging may be a vector for spreading the virus into homes—a precautionary approach is to disinfect or sequester new produce for 24h (up to 3 days)
- Food packaging can be a **source of hazardous chemicals** with adverse effects on immune system health and more/other effects
- Solutions need to
  - (1) **assess the health impacts of all migrating chemicals and**
  - (2) **they need to be aligned with environmental, societal and economic requirements**



# Food Packaging Forum (FPF) Foundation



Science communication & scientific research (desk-based)



Food contact materials, chemicals, migration, human health



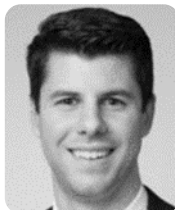
2012 in Zurich



Scientists & science communication experts



Donations and project-based funding, incl. BA Glass, Verallia



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ALL INFORMATION FREELY  
AVAILABLE:  
[www.foodpackagingforum.org](http://www.foodpackagingforum.org)



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# THANK YOU – and please save the date!

- **October 22, 2020**
- FPF workshop: science-policy interface – **a stakeholder dialogue**
- Join us for one day of **critical thinking** and **beyond-comfort-zone networking**: meet people you'd NEVER interact with!
- Learn about **chemicals in food contact** articles and **health impacts**
- Join **cutting-edge discussions** on a way forward, learn about the **newest science** and get **inspired!**
- Join by **webstream**

<https://www.foodpackagingforum.org/events/categories/workshops>

