Dr. Peter Gerner-Smidt is a Danish/American MD, DSc with specialty in clinical microbiology. He received his education in Denmark but moved to the United States in 2005 to take his current position as the chief of the Enteric Diseases Laboratory Branch in the Division for Foodborne, Waterborne and Environmental Diseases at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. He is leading the effort to implement whole genome sequencing and metagenomics for public health surveillance of bacterial foodborne infections at CDC and the United States. He is also involved in its implementation globally through the Global Microbial Identifier initiative and PulseNet International.