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Shelly J. Schmidt received her Ph.D. in Food Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1986. Since that time, Dr. Schmidt has served as a faculty member at Illinois in the Departments of Food Science and Human Nutrition, Agricultural and Biological Engineering, and Agricultural Education. Dr. Schmidt's research focuses on the elucidation of the relationship between water and solid mobility and the physical, chemical, microbiological stability, and quality characteristics of food systems – in a nutshell Food Materials Science. Dr. Schmidt has received numerous teaching and research awards, including the 2010 Chicago Section Institute of Food Technologist Achievement Award, the 2011 Illinois Campus Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring Award, and the 2012 Spitze Land-Grant Professorial Career Excellence Award. Dr. Schmidt is a University Scholar and a Distinguished Teacher/Scholar, a Fellow of the Institute of Food Technologists, and a professional member of the American Chemical Society. In addition, Dr. Schmidt is currently serving as the Scientific Editor of the Journal of Food Science Education.