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## NEWS RELEASE

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# Nutritional Supplement Industry Touts New Benchmarking Standards at ANSI's Dietary Supplements Standardization Coordination Meeting

## *Walmart's Dadrion Gaston Leads Panel on SSCI*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – New benchmarking standards for nutritional supplements were discussed today during the [American National Standards Institute's](#) (ANSI) Dietary Supplements Standardization Coordination Meeting. Dadrion Gaston, Senior Director, Corporate Ethics & Compliance for Walmart led a panel discussion on the Supplement Safety and Compliance Initiative (SSCI), which includes new benchmarking guidance that is being onboarded by the world's largest retailers.

During the panel discussion, Gaston said that she expects retailers, including Walmart, to meet new guidelines set by SSCI. SSCI's guidance was released during a meeting at Walmart's headquarters in Bentonville, AR on March 28, followed by a 30-day public comment period.

"We're proud to bring together the best experts from the leading supplement companies to examine everything from auditor training, qualification, and the way audits are conducted," said Gaston, Senior Director, Corporate Ethics & Compliance, Walmart.

"Every certification body and standard owner should benchmark their standard. There is no reason not to," said Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D.

Gaston was joined by Randy Slikkers, Global Retailer and Manufacturer Alliance (GRMA) CEO, and Michael Finamore, President, GRMA Governance Board and CEO of Gemini Pharmaceuticals, Inc. The event also featured stakeholders from the Federal Trade Commission, Walgreens, Pew Charitable Trusts, and the Global Food Safety Initiative.

"SSCI is the only comprehensive program to provide end-to-end transparency in the natural products supply chain," said Daniel Fabricant, Ph.D., President and CEO of NPA. "We created a system understanding that the FDA can't solve all our problems. We set out to demonstrate to consumers and regulators that they can have confidence in the industry, and SSCI is the way we are going to achieve that."

ANSI hosted today's panel to identify opportunities to advance safety, quality, and trust in the dietary supplements supply chain, particularly through voluntary consensus standards and related conformity assessment programs.

### Key Objectives for SSCI

- Create effective global systems to ensure traceability, transparency & quality in the supply chain



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- Reduce risks by ensuring equivalence between safety management systems
- Drive global change through benchmarking of domestic & international standards
- Eliminate redundancy in certification, improve operational efficiency & costs
- Provide a unique stakeholder platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing & networking

**Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI)**

The **Supplement Safety & Compliance Initiative (SSCI)** is an industry-driven initiative *led by retailers* to provide a harmonized benchmark to recognize various safety standards throughout the entire dietary supplement supply chain. SSCI is a bold step forward in providing quality assurance from harvest to retailer shelf. Dietary supplements must meet or exceed the SSCI benchmark to be accepted in major retailers, all with the goal of providing quality products and increasing consumer confidence.

SSCI Vision: Safe and authentic dietary supplements for consumers everywhere.

Visit: <http://www.ssciglobal.org/>