LEN MARQUART, PH.D., R.D.

Len Marquart, Ph.D., R.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Minnesota. His current research focuses on consumer understanding and factors that influence whole grain consumption. Research conducted by his group – introducing whole-grain foods into the diets of school children – has been instrumental in establishing approaches for gradually delivering whole-grain food through the school meals program. While at General Mills, he led the company’s research in the health aspects of whole grains. He received the James Ford Bell Technical Leadership Award and the General Mills Presidents’ (Champion) Award for his contributions.

Len is also the founder and president of the Grains for Health Foundation. The Foundation’s goal is to deliver to consumers grain-based foods that taste good, more closely meet dietary guidelines, and are highly consumed. This public health effort is facilitated by convening scientists, health professionals and policy/regulatory experts, establishing collaborative environments and working toward collective food solutions throughout the grains supply chain.