

WORKSHOP

**The Microbiome, Diet and Health:
Assessing Gaps in Science and Innovation
Brussels, 30-31 May 2016**

Biographies of contributing experts

DOUWINA BOSSCHER



Douwina Bosscher holds a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences.

She is lecturer Nutrition and Food Sciences at the University of Antwerp, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Belgium.

Douwina is member of the Cargill Global Food Research Leadership Team, Global R&D, Food Ingredient Systems; leading the Global Nutrition team and for EMEA the Technology teams: Material Characterization and Material Processing. She is located in the Cargill EMEA R&D Centre in Brussels, Belgium.

The Nutrition function is responsible for development and implementation of strategic research plans, conduct of clinical and pre-clinical trials, partnering in business strategy related to Nutrition & Health and together with corporate and regulatory affairs functions for Cargill's Nutrition & Health positioning, ingredient approvals, scientific substantiation of health claims, scientific dissemination and representing Cargill at scientific associations.

Technology related functions are Cargill's activities on Material Characterization which involves EMEA Advanced Analytics team mainly focussed on method development and validation with subsequent effective implementation in the Cargill Corporation. The Material Processing activities cover the pilot plant in Brussels area for process development and upscaling of newly developed ingredients.

PATRIZIA BRIGIDI



Patrizia Brigidi is Full Professor in Fermentation Biotechnology at the Pharmacy and Biotechnology School, University of Bologna.

Scientific Research Activity

Her research activity is mainly focused on the characterization of the human intestinal microbiota, in the perspective of its compositional and functional modulation to promote the host's health. She has pioneered the use of probiotics for the treatment of patients affected by gastrointestinal disorders and contributed to the development of new probiotic strains. Currently, she leads a number of European and national projects aimed at studying, by omics approaches, the relationship among diet, lifestyle and intestinal microbiome for the prevention of diet-related diseases and healthy aging.

Other appointments:

2015 -current: Delegate of the Rector (University of Bologna, Italy) for European Research

2012-2015: Director of the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Bologna

2012-current: Responsible of the Scientific activities of the National Agrifood Cluster – Area “Nutrition and Health”

2011-current: Member of the International Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy Forum

2011-current: Coordinator of the group of experts of the University of Bologna working on the actions bridged to Horizon2020 (KIC, JPI) and related activities

2011-current: Member of the Content Working Group of the FoodNext Consortium in preparation to a KIC on the theme FOOD4FUTURE

2010-current: Evaluator for the Italian Ministry of Education and Research

PAMELA BYRNE



Dr Byrne CEO of Food Safety Authority of Ireland holds a PhD in Environmental Toxicology from University College, Cork (UCC); an MSc in Aquatic Resource Management from Kings College, University of London; a BSc in Zoology from UCC and a Higher Diploma in Environmental Law from the University of Aberystwyth in Wales. She has worked as a Director of Regulatory Policy and Intelligence with Abbott Nutrition and prior to that she worked in the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Cabinet of Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn. She has expertise in the areas of food regulation, environmental risk assessment and food safety management at both national and international levels and the development of food research and innovation policy and programmes.

Dr. Byrne is the Chair of the Management Board of the Joint Programming Initiative A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life and the Strategic Advisory Board of the Institute of Food and Health at University College Dublin, Ireland. She is a member of the Association of Chief Executives of State Agencies.

FRANCISCO GUARNER



Dr. Francisco Guarner graduated in Medicine at the University of Barcelona in 1973, trained Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Hospital Clinic (Barcelona); obtained PhD degree at University of Navarra (Spain). He was Research Fellow at Royal Free Hospital (London, UK), King's College Hospital (London, UK), and Wellcome Research Laboratories (Beckenham, UK). He is Consultant of Gastroenterology at the Digestive System Research Unit, University Hospital Vall d'Hebron (Barcelona, Spain). Member of the Steering Committee of the International Human Microbiome Consortium (www.human-microbiome.org), past member of the Board of Directors on the International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics (www.isapp.net), and current President of the Board of the Spanish Society for Probiotics and Prebiotics (www.sepyp.es). Chair of the Steering Committee of World Digestive Health Day for 2014 (www.worldgastroenterology.org), and co-author of 295 publications on original research or reviews (Web of Science); holds an h-index of 50.

JO HANDELSMAN,



Dr. Jo Handelsman is the Associate Director for Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate in June of 2014. Dr. Handelsman helps to advise President Obama on the implications of science for the Nation, ways in which science can inform U.S. policy, and on Federal efforts in support of scientific research.

Prior to joining OSTP, Dr. Handelsman was the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor and Frederick Phineas Rose Professor in the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology at Yale University. She previously served on the University of Wisconsin-Madison faculty as a Professor in Plant Pathology from 1985 to 2009 and as Professor and Chair of the Department of Bacteriology from 2007 to 2009. In 2013, she served as President of the American Society for Microbiology.

Dr. Handelsman is an expert in communication among bacteria that associate with soil, plants, and insects and helped pioneer the field of metagenomics, bridging agricultural and medical sciences. Handelsman is also recognized for her research on science education and women and minorities in science, and received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Mentoring in 2011. Dr. Handelsman also co-chaired the PCAST working group that developed the 2012 report, “Engage to Excel,” which contained recommendations to the President to strengthen STEM education to meet the workforce needs of the next decade in the United States.

Dr. Handelsman co-founded the Wisconsin Program for Scientific Teaching, the Yale Centre for Scientific Teaching, and the National Academies Summer Institute on Undergraduate Education, programs focused on teaching principles and practices of evidence-based education to current and future faculty at colleges and universities nationwide.

Dr. Handelsman received a B.S. from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



EILEEN O'HERLIHY

EU Grants Manager,
APC, Microbiome Institute,
University College Cork,
Cork,
Ireland.

DAVID PETITEAU

Business partnership manager in charge of Microbiome projects,

Human and Animal Nutrition and Health

INRA Centre de recherche de Jouy-en-Josas

DIRK PILAT



Dirk Pilat, a Dutch national, is Deputy Director of the OECD [Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation](#). He supports the Director of STI in overseeing OECD's work on innovation, business dynamics, science and technology, information and communication technology policy as well as the statistical work associated with each of these areas. He also helps ensure this work contributes to the strategic objectives of the Organisation to support and develop better policies for better lives.

He joined the OECD in February 1994 and has worked on many policy issues since then, including innovation, the role of digital technologies for economic growth, climate change and environmental innovation, labour markets, regulatory reform, global value chains, productivity and entrepreneurship, as well as health innovation. He was one of the coordinators of the 2015 OECD report [The Innovation Imperative – Contributing to Productivity, Growth and Wellbeing](#), that brings together policy analysis on innovation from across the OECD.

He was responsible for the OECD's Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy from 2006 to January 2009, and for the Committee on Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship from February 2009 to December 2012.

Before joining the OECD, he was a researcher at the University of Groningen, where he also earned his PhD in Economics, working primarily on productivity and economic growth. He has published widely both before and since joining the OECD.

ALEX PUISSANT



Alex Puissant, a Belgian journalist based in Italy, is a multilingual independent conference facilitator. He has written for weekly and daily newspapers and has 20 years of experience with public television in Belgium, as a Europe correspondent and news anchorman. He has moderated more than 500 events organised by E.U. and U.N.institutions, international trade federations and global corporations. He has chaired sessions with speakers as diverse as Margaret Thatcher, Bill Gates and Vaclav Havel.

Alex is a graduate of the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism in the City of New York. He is the Author of “The press, a voice on behalf of the citizen?” on social responsibility of the media, published on behalf of the Brussels-based not-for-profit King Baudouin Foundation. More about Alex Puissant, including contact details, at www.linkedin.com/in/alexpuissant.

JEROEN RAES



Jeroen Raes was born in 1976 in Belgium. After his masters in Biochemistry (UA, 1998) and masters in Bioinformatics (FUNDP, 2001) he did his PhD in bioinformatics and comparative genomics in the lab of Pierre Rouze and Yves Van de Peer (VIB-PSB, UGent), focusing on the role of gene and genome duplication in evolution and the birth of novel gene functions. After an IWT postdoc with CropDesign on the identification of novel yield target genes, he moved to the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany, for a postdoc in the lab of Peer Bork on computational analysis of environmental sequence data (metagenomics), where he was later promoted to scientist, focusing on the integration of heterogenous environmental ‘omics’ data. Jeroen Raes is a very productive young researcher with several high ranked publications. Computational metagenomics is a field that is growing extremely fast in Europe, but also in the US and Asia.

MANFRED RUTHSATZ

Global Head Regulatory Advocacy, Nestlé Health Science

Nestlé Health Science was created in 2011 to pioneer science-based nutritional solutions for people with certain medical conditions. Dr. Ruthsatz' role is to build and strengthen relations with regulators, policymakers and professional associations world-wide.

He held lead regulatory positions in healthcare industries, providing him with a wide blend of hands-on experiences in nutrition, drugs, devices, biotech, botanicals and cosmetics, at times rounded out by responsibilities in quality assurance, safety, vigilance, health economics and reimbursement. Prior to this, he served at the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a reviewing pharmacologist and was a Visiting Fellow at the US National Institute of Health (Cancer Research).

Dr. Ruthsatz maintains a long-standing recognition on governing boards and working groups with global and regional trade associations related to medical nutrition and food supplements (MNI, ISDI, SNE, ERNA) and is a past president of the European Botanical Forum (EBF).

Dr. Ruthsatz, a Registered Pharmacist, holds a Ph.D. in Toxicology & Biochemistry (Germany). He upholds Certifications in Pharmacy, with the American Board of Toxicology (DABT), the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society (RAC) and was distinguished as RAPS Fellow recently.

Dr. Ruthsatz has published and been an invited speaker worldwide, covering a wide array of healthcare related topics in food, drug, cosmetics, botanicals, toxicology and global harmonization.

He has lived and worked in several countries and is married to his Brazilian-Italian wife with three children.

YOLANDA SANZ



She has a BSc and PhD in Pharmacy, is Professor of Research of the Spanish National Council for Scientific Research (CSIC), holding a permanent position since 2001, and is head of the Research Unit on Microbial Ecology, Nutrition and Health of the Institute of Agrochemistry and Food Technology (IATA-CSIC). She was also Assistant Professor of Human Dietetics and Nutrition (University of Valencia; 2005-2011) and has participated in different MSc programs, including the MSc on Food Safety and Technology (University of Valencia, Spain), on Genetics, Nutritional and Environmental Factors for Growth and Development (University of Granada, Spain); on Coeliac Disease (University Università Politecnica delle Marche, Italy; University of Sevilla, Spain); on Community and Personalized Nutrition (University of Valencia, Spain) and on Functional Foods (University of Sevilla, Spain).

Her scientific field of interest is the human microbiota/microbiome and its influence on nutritional and health status, with a focus on inflammatory, metabolic and behavioral disorders. She has been the leader of 28 research grants and currently coordinates the largest EU project on the human microbiome (MyNewGut; www.mynewgut.eu). Her scientific contributions are reflected in more than 130 research articles in international peer-reviewed journals, 164 participations in conferences and eight patent applications.

COLETTE SHORTT



Colette Shortt is a science graduate of the National University of Ireland, Cork with post-graduate qualifications in nutrition (MSc, PhD) and a business qualification (MBA) from the School of Business Management, University of Surrey. As part of her post-graduate education, she has conducted nutrition research in Ireland, Canada and at the Rowett Research Institute, Scotland. She was one of the founding editorial board members of Trends in Food Science & Technology. Before joining Johnson & Johnson where she is currently Regulatory Director Emerging Science & Innovation, Consumer Global Franchise Organisation, she held a Research Nutrition position at SmithKline Beecham Consumer Healthcare and was Science Director at Yakult UK. Colette has been active in the development of product-related standards and health claim substantiation throughout her career (Joint Health Claim Initiative, Council of Europe, PASSCLAIM, Codex Fermented Milk Standard), coordinated one of the first successful disease risk reduction health claim submissions in Europe and has been an active Panel member of the Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council Food & Agriculture Committee and Visiting Groups and is a Visiting Professor to Ulster University. Colette is a J&J Consumer Fellow, a Registered Nutritionist and Fellow of the Association for Nutrition and the Royal Society of Medicine.

DOUWE VAN SINDEREN



Professor Douwe van Sinderen holds an MSc degree in Biochemistry and a PhD degree (1994) in Molecular Genetics (University of Groningen, The Netherlands). In 1996 he was appointed as academic staff member of the School of Microbiology, University College Cork, Ireland. He holds an SFI Investigator award since 2003 (renewed in 2008 and 2014) and is also a Principal Investigator of the APC Microbiome Institute (<http://apc.ucc.ie>). Research interests include the comparative genomics and molecular biology of bacteriophages infecting lactic acid bacteria, in particular *Lactococcus lactis*, *Streptococcus thermophiles* and certain *Lactobacillus* species. Furthermore, a significant part of his research activities is dedicated to comparative and functional genomics of bifidobacteria, which represent common gut commensals of mammals, including humans, with many reported health benefits. He has been principal investigator and/or co-ordinator of various EU funded projects, as well as projects funded through various national and international funding agencies and industries, and has served on various national advisory boards. He is a co-author of 295 peer-reviewed publications (of which 2 co-authorships in Nature, 8 in PNAS USA and 2 in ISME Journal), contributed to 16 book chapters, was co-editor of 2 books and listed as an (co-)inventor of 6 patents; His current H-index, according to Web of Science: 53 according to Google Scholar: 58. Douwe has given over 80 research seminars at international conferences and symposia in various capacities (invited speaker, key note, plenary speaker). Since 1996 he has generated a total grant income (to directly fund his research group) of nearly €19m from a wide range of funding sources (national, EU, industry, philanthropic) over 80 different grants/awards where in the majority of these grants he acts/ed as the (co-)PI.