

Speaker profiles



International Non-Starch
Polysaccharide Forum
31 March – 2 April 2014

inspire

Scientific Committee

**Professor
Christophe Courtin**
KU Leuven, Belgium

Dr. Sanna Steinfeldt
Aarhus Universitat,
Denmark

**Professor
Hank Classen**
University of
Saskatchewan,
Canada

Dr. Nell Masey O'Neill
AB Vista, UK

Dr. Mike Bedford
AB Vista, UK

Professor Birger Svihus
Norwegian University
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Professor Christophe Courtin

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After obtaining a Master of Science in Bioscience Engineering, Food Technology and a Ph.D in Applied Biological Sciences, Christophe Courtin is now a Professor at the KU Leuven, working at the Laboratory of Food Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Christophe's core teaching activities lie within the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, teaching subjects at both Bachelor and Master levels. Recently, he served as Program Chair for the AACC International 2010 Annual Meeting. Since 2003 he has been the Associate Editor of Cereal Chemistry. Christophe has authored/co-authored a total of 180 peer-reviewed publications listed in ISI since 1998. These papers have been cited over 3000 times. He has successfully promoted 18 Ph.D. students and currently supervises 13.

Professor Hank Classen

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Hank Classen is a Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. His academic training includes a B.S.A. from the University of Saskatchewan, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Massachusetts. Hank was named a Distinguished Professor by the University of Saskatchewan in 2013 and also awarded a National Science and Engineering Research Council Industrial Research Chair in Poultry Nutrition for the period of 2013 to 2018. Hank's research interests are in the areas of poultry nutrition and management.

His nutritional research has focused on feed ingredients (nutritional value, anti-nutritional factors and processing) and feeding programs, and current projects emphasise the rate and extent of starch and protein digestion in broilers, laying hens and turkeys. Management research focuses on animal welfare issues including the impact of light (broilers and turkeys), beak trimming (laying hens), toe trimming (turkeys) and the nutritional manipulation of behaviour (laying hens, broiler breeders).

Professor John Patience

Iowa State University, USA

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John Patience is a Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences at Iowa State University, having joined the faculty in 2008. Prior to this, he was President and C.E.O. of the Prairie Swine Centre, a non-profit research and technology transfer company located in Saskatoon, Canada. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University and B.Sc. (Agr) and M.Sc. degrees at the University of Guelph in Animal Science and Animal Nutrition, respectively. John is responsible for research in applied swine nutrition and as such, undertakes investigations on energy metabolism, fibre utilisation and general wean-to-finish feeding and management. He also has responsibilities in extension, and enjoys working with pork producers across Iowa as well as the U.S. generally and internationally. He currently supervises four M.S. and four Ph.D. students. John has published more than 80 refereed journal articles and more than 500 other miscellaneous items. He recently edited a new book entitled *'Feed Efficiency in Swine'* published in 2012. He is past President of the Canadian Society of Animal Science and also the Midwest Section of the American Society of Animal Science.

Joran Verspreet
KU Leuven, Belgium

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Joran Verspreet obtained his master's degree in Bioscience Engineering in 2010 at the KU Leuven, Belgium. In his master's thesis, he investigated the health-promoting potential of different types of arabinoxylan, including arabinoxylan oligosaccharides, and combinations thereof. After obtaining his master's degree, Joran started a Ph.D. at the Laboratory of Food Chemistry and Biochemistry of the KU Leuven under the supervision of Professor Christophe Courtin. His research focuses on the structure of wheat grain fructans, their prebiotic potential and their degradation during bread making. He recently published a manuscript on the changes in storage and cell wall carbohydrates in developing wheat grains.

Dr. Maria Francesch

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Dr. Maria Francesch gained her B.Sc. in Biological Sciences from the University of Barcelona in 1982. She went on to study for a Ph.D. in Veterinary Sciences from the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 1991. From 1983 to 1984 she held a pre-doctoral fellowship position in IRTA Monogastric Nutrition, Spain, after which she held a pre-doctoral fellowship in Station de Recherches Avicoles del INRA, Tours, France from 1985 to 1986. Since October 1986, Maria has been working as a Research Scientist in IRTA-Monogastric Nutrition Subprogram. During 1997, she took a sabbatical year at the Roslin Institute, Edinburgh, Scotland. Maria is a specialist in poultry nutrition, with extensive experience in running nutritional research, safety and efficacy studies for feed additives, especially carbohydrases and phytases, and other test substances in broiler chickens, laying hens and turkeys (over 168 research contracts with feed additives companies). She has participated in over 18 competitive public funding projects at national and EU level. Maria is author or co-author of over 27 scientific papers and over 74 scientific presentations at national and international level.

Professor Mingan Choct
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Professor Mingan Choct completed a B.Sc at the Inner Mongolia Agricultural University in China in 1983, an M.Sc at the University of New South Wales in 1987, and a Ph.D. at the University of Sydney in 1991.

Mingan worked as a Research Scientist at the CSIRO Division of Human Nutrition from 1991 to 1995, and then moved to the University of New England as a lecturer in 1995. Mingan's research and study focuses on carbohydrate chemistry, feed enzymes and monogastric nutrition; he has supervised more than 40 postgraduate students and published over 270 papers in journals and conference proceedings. Mingan established the Australian Poultry Cooperative Research Centre (Poultry CRC) in 2003 with a total resource of \$78M and then successfully renewed it in 2010 with a total resource of \$89M. He currently holds the position of CEO. Mingan is on the editorial board of several international journals (British Poultry Science, Poultry Science, Chinese Journal of Animal Nutrition, and Asian-Australasian Journal of Animal Sciences) and has been an invited keynote speaker at many national and international conferences. Mingan is also a scientific advisor to the International Foundation for Science and the winner of WPSA Syd Wilkin's Prize (1990), the Australian Animal Production Society's Young Scientist Award (1991), the Australian Poultry Award (2004), the Alltech Biotechnology Global Medal of Excellence (2005) and the British Animal Science Society's Gordon Memorial Prize (2008).

Professor Per Åman
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Professor Per Åman was head of the Division of Plant Product Science at the Department of Food Science at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science between 1990 and 2013. His research includes analytical and nutritional studies on the dietary fibre complex including bioactive compounds like alkylresorcinols. He has supervised 30 Ph.D. students and published 300 original scientific articles in refereed journals. Per is a highly cited researcher within agriculture.

Dr. Stanley Cauvain

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Dr. Stanley Cauvain has been the Director of BakeTran, an independent consulting organisation supporting millers, bakers and allied traders, for eight years. Stanley is a scientist, miller and baker with extensive practical experience and an international reputation as a leading authority in the technical, commercial and scientific aspects of the application of baking and milling. He is co-editor and co-author of 13 books and has contributed to over 30 book chapters and many scientific and technical articles.

From 1994 to 2004 Stanley was Director of the Cereals and Cereal Processing Division within the Campden and Chorleywood Food Research Association, and was responsible for 45 scientist and technologists. Before 1994 he worked for 25 years at the Flour Milling and Baking Research Association (FMBRA) based in Chorleywood and before joining FMBRA he had commercial experience in flour milling, bread bakery production and product development.

Stanley was the 1998 recipient of the UK British Baker Special Award for achievements in the baking industry, in 2004 he was awarded the Friedrich Schweitzer medal for 'distinguished services in the furtherance and aims of the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology' and in 2010 was the first UK recipient of an Eberhard Paech award from the German baking industry.

Professor Ed Moran

Auburn University, USA

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After gaining his Ph.D. from Washington State University, Edwin Moran held a Professor position at the University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada from 1965 to 1986. Ed has been at Auburn University, Alabama since 1986 working as a professor in the Poultry Science Department. His current areas of research include the influence of nutrition and management on meat bird yield and quality for further-processing, consumer preparation and nutrition and feed additives and pre-slaughter stress on carcass meat. Ed has published over 200 refereed scientific papers, was president of the Poultry Science association in 2000 and has achieved numerous awards including the American Feed Industry Poultry Nutrition Research Award.

Dr. Sanna Steinfeldt
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Dr. Sanna Steinfeldt is a Senior Scientist and Project Manager at Aarhus Universitat, Denmark and participates in many research projects dealing with different topics related to poultry nutrition, physiology and production in both layers and broilers. These include: feeding strategies for broilers, whole wheat feeding and allometric measures; nutritive value of feed ingredients for broilers and the effect of fibres on intestinal viscosity and fibre diets for broiler breeders to improve welfare, nutritional value and behaviour. Sanna has been heading the research project 'Improvements in nutrition and health on organic egg-production' (2001-2004) and 'Sustainable organic egg production through alternative feeding strategies to optimise the health, welfare and resource utilization' (2011-2014). She is the WP leader in Superb and Marketable Meat from Efficient and Robust Animal (2011-2013).

Professor Knud Erik Bach Knudsen

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Professor Knud Erik Bach Knudsen studied for both his M.Sc. degree and Ph.D. in Agronomy at the Royal Veterinary and Agricultural University, Copenhagen. He is Head of Molecular Nutrition and Cell Biology research group at the Department of Animal Health and Bioscience, Aarhus University. Knud Erik's main focus for the last 25 years has been on carbohydrates and bioactive components with emphasis on nutrition and health. His most recent works have been in the interface to human nutrition, emphasising the use of animal models for understanding the mode of actions of carbohydrates and phytochemicals. He is also actively involved in the establishment of a LC-MS/MS based metabonomic platform at his department and is currently the principal supervisor of several Ph.D. projects.

Knud Erik is a member of the Editorial Board in Archives of Animal Nutrition and Starch and has 184 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Usama Aftab

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Dr. Usama Aftab has gained over 14 years' experience working in the poultry feed industry in the Asian/Pacific region. Before joining AB Vista, he worked as a Poultry Nutritionist with Sadiq Poultry, Pakistan, and Gold Coin Feed, Malaysia, as well as a Poultry Nutrition Consultant in the Asian/Pacific region. During these roles, he remained actively involved in commercial nutritional research, focusing on energy and amino acid requirement of broilers, feedstuffs evaluation, and exogenous feed enzymes.

Dr. Staffan Persson
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Dr. Staffan Persson finished a joint Ph.D. degree between Lund University and North Carolina State University in late 2003. He then pursued postdoctoral studies at the Carnegie Institution of Washington at Stanford in the laboratory of Chris Somerville. Since 2008 he has been developing his own independent research group that focuses on elucidating how plants make cellulose at the Max-Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology in Potsdam. Since the beginning of 2013 Staffan holds a Chair in Plant Cell Biology at the University of Melbourne and is a Chang Jiang scholar associated with the HZAU agricultural University in Wuhan.

Dr. Hadden Graham

AB Vista, UK

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Dr. Hadden Graham is currently Global Technical Director for AB Vista. After obtaining a Ph.D. in Agricultural Biochemistry at The Queen's University of Belfast, he spent 10 years in teaching and research in Animal Sciences at University College Dublin, Ireland, The Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala and Montana State University, USA. His primary research interest was in dietary fibre, including the influence of fibre-degrading enzymes on animal nutrition.

Hadden has since worked for 25 years in the feed additive industry in various research and technical positions, joining AB Vista in 2004 where he is responsible for technical support for the developing feed additives business worldwide. Hadden is a past President of FEFANA (EU Association of Speciality Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures).

Dr. Mike Bedford

AB Vista, UK

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Dr. Mike Bedford currently oversees the development of enzyme and yeast products for use in ruminant and non-ruminant feeds at AB Vista. Previously Mike gained experience working in the feed additives industry in research and development teams.

Having gained his Ph.D. in Poultry Nutrition and Biochemistry at University of Guelph in Canada, Mike undertook two post doctorate posts in Canada in Molecular Biology and Poultry Nutrition. Since then, Mike has written or been involved with over 200 publications including 76 refereed full scientific papers, and 92 abstracts of material presented at conferences.

Mike has worked with NSP targeting enzymes in monogastric nutrition from 1988 onwards, firstly as a post-doctoral fellow working with Professor Henry Classen at the University of Saskatchewan and then in three subsequent industry positions as R&D director at Finnfeeds, Syngenta and currently at AB Vista. Whilst he has worked with most species, his focus has primarily been in poultry and in this regard he has maintained a steady publication record.

Dr. Nell Masey O'Neill

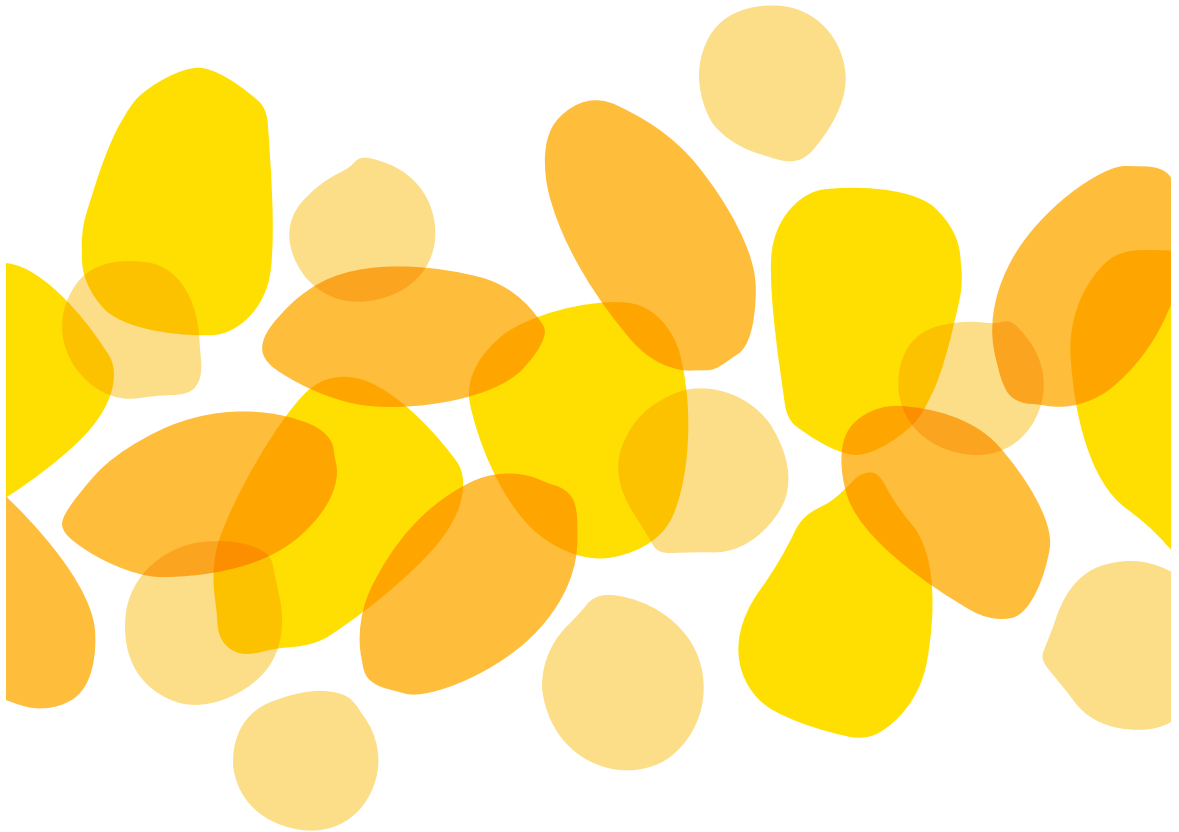
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Dr. Helen Masey O'Neill, known as Nell, graduated from the University of Nottingham with a B.Sc. in Nutritional Biochemistry before going on to do her Ph.D. researching the influence of storage and temperature treatment on nutritional value of wheat for broilers. She progressed to postdoctoral research along with undergraduate teaching in Equine Science and Animal Nutrition at Hartpury College and later the University of Nottingham where she still holds an Honorary Lectureship. Nell's postdoctoral research at Nottingham involved feedstuff evaluation for both pigs and poultry, particularly wheat and legumes. Nell joined AB Vista in June 2010 as Research Manager where she was involved in development and application research into NSP enzymes and particularly xylanase. Nell became interested in investigating and developing understanding of the mechanisms of action of Econase XT and how the products of xylanase may work as prebiotics. In February 2014 Nell joined Aunir, the Near Infra-Red specialists at AB Agri, as Senior Manager, Science and Analytics.

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