

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

### ACMSF MEMBERSHIP : PEN PORTRAITS

#### ACMSF Chair

##### Professor William Reilly

Professor Reilly is currently the Head of the Gastrointestinal and Zoonoses Section and Consultant in Veterinary Public Health, at Health Protection Scotland. He has served on many Government Committees and Bodies including as Chair of the *E.coli* O157 Task Force, and as Chair of the Review Panel for the appraisal of the three Defra Fellowships on Foodborne Infection at the Universities of Cambridge, Liverpool and Edinburgh.

He has a wide experience in the surveillance of zoonotic (including foodborne) disease and the identification and management of incidents of foodborne disease and risk assessment. He has a considerable research background and publications record and has been involved in many collaborative research projects.

#### Members

##### Mr John Bassett

Mr Bassett is currently a Microbiological risk assessor at the Unilever Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre. He has a wide experience of developing risk assessments/risk management strategies and managing research having previously worked for the Food Assurance and the Biosecurity Authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in New Zealand. A qualified veterinarian, Mr Bassett also spent seven years as a practising vet.

##### Dr David Brown

Dr David Brown was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. He is currently Director of the Virus Reference Department, HPA Centre for infections. He is a trained medical virologist with some 20 years experience in diagnostic and public health virology. He has specific expertise in human gastroenteritis infections, focusing on human epidemiology and the population biology of viruses.

### **Ms Vivianne Buller**

Ms Buller was appointed to the ACMSF in 2005. She operates a Business Improvement Catering Consultancy advising Local Authority Caterers and Schools on issues such as Nutrition Strategies, Food Safety, Sustainable Food Procurement and Customer Service Developments. She was previously employed by Northumberland County Council as General Manager of Catering Services, Outdoor Education and Business Improvement Teams. Prior to this she held senior posts with Newcastle City Council and Suffolk County Council. She was elected Regional Chairman (North and Scotland) and National Councillor of the Local Authority Caterers Association (LACA) and served as National Chairman 2003-2004.

### **Ms Susan Davies MBE**

Susan Davies was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. She is Chief Policy Adviser at Which? (formerly Consumers' Association). She began her career as an Environmental Health Technical Officer with Milton Keynes Environmental Health Department and has a degree in Home Economics. She has represented consumer interests on a range of panels, including the European Commission's Diet, Physical Activity and Health Platform, DG Research's Food Safety and Quality Advisory Group, the EU-US Consultative Forum on Biotechnology, the School Meals Review Panel and at the Codex Alimentarius Commission. She is also the EU co-chair of the Trans-Atlantic Consumer Dialogue (TACD). She was awarded the MBE in 2003 for services to food safety.

### **Professor Michael Gasson**

Professor Michael Gasson was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. He is Head of Food Safety Science Division at the Institute of Food Research (IFR). Professor Gasson held posts at the John Innes Institute and the National Institute for Research in Dairying before joining the IFR in 1986. As Head of Food Safety Sciences at IFR, he has had responsibility for the rebuilding of research in the microbiological safety of food following a major rationalisation of the Institute. Professor Gasson has been a member and, latterly, Deputy Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes.

### **Dr Katherine Hadley**

Dr Katherine Hadley was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. She is Senior Lecturer in Immunology and Bacteriology at the University of Glasgow and Honorary Consultant Medical Microbiologist, North Glasgow Hospitals University NHS Trust. She has clinical responsibility for provision of day-to-day emergency and out-of-hours medical microbiology and control of infection services to hospitals and general practices served by the Trust and academic responsibility for the teaching of medical microbiology to medical and science students at the University of Glasgow.

### **Professor Thomas Humphrey**

Professor Tom Humphrey was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. He was appointed Professor of Veterinary Bacterial Zoonoses at the University of Bristol in 2001. Following an early career in the food industry and in related research, he joined the Public Health Laboratory Service in 1981 and from 1990 was Head of the Food Microbiology Research Unit at Exeter Public Health Laboratory. Professor Humphrey is a member of the Food Standards Agency's Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group and was a member of the ACMSF's second Working Groups on *Salmonella* in Eggs and *Campylobacter*.

### **Professor Paul Hunter**

Professor Paul Hunter was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. Also in 2001 he was appointed Professor of Health Protection at the University of East Anglia, School of Medicine Health Policy and Practice. Prior to his move to UEA he was Director, Consultant in Medical Microbiology and Consultant in Communicable Disease Control at the Cheshire Public Health Laboratory. Professor Hunter's primary research interest is diarrhoeal disease and especially waterborne disease.

### **Mr Alec Kyriakides**

Alec Kyriakides was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. He is Head of Product Safety at Sainsbury's Supermarkets. His responsibilities cover the microbiological safety assessment of a diverse range of foods, auditing food processes world-wide, the management of food product safety assurance programmes for retail foods, the development and implementation of strategic plans for the management of emerging hazards, and the management of serious microbiological incidents. Before joining Sainsbury's in 1992, he held positions with Grand Metropolitan Brewing, Truman's Brewery, Express Foods Group and Grand Metropolitan Foods.

### **Ms Eva Lewis**

Eva Lewis was appointed as a lay/consumer member of the ACMSF in 1998. She was, for 5 years, a member of the MAFF Consumer Panel. She lectured part-time on information technology at Kensington and Chelsea College and has written a complete course on Teaching Computers On-Line, for the Internet. For 15 years she was an actress working in films and television and on commercials. She is currently opening a Beauty Retail Shop and Salon in Kings Road, Chelsea.

### **Mr Paul McMullin**

Mr McMullin is currently the Senior Veterinarian and Managing Director of Poultry Health Services. Prior to joining Poultry Health Services as a company veterinarian in 1992, he was the Technical Services Manager at

MSD Agvet and before that was the Veterinarian in charge of Diagnostic Lab at MSD Brazil. Mr McMullin has published research focusing on the areas of poultry disease, pathology and veterinary product development (pigs, poultry and cattle).

Mr McMullin is an RCVS-recognised specialist and Diplomate in Poultry Medicine and Production and holds an MSc in livestock Health and Production (University of London).

### **Mr Philip Mepham**

Mr Mepham was appointed to the ACMSF in 2003. He is currently an independent Management Consultant and Interim Manager and was until recently Environmental Health Manager (Policy) with Leeds City Council. He trained as an Environmental Health Officer in London. Since moving to Leeds in 1974, he specialised in food safety inspection and the investigation and management of outbreaks of food poisoning and other infectious diseases. He revived the Leeds Applied Food Microbiology course and enjoyed a consultancy appointment in Thailand training eight large food manufacturers in quality management. Until recently he was responsible for teams dealing with food poisoning, health promotion, food and water sampling and animal health, as well as the development of services and public health initiatives in Leeds. He is now working with local authorities and others helping to develop and improve their services.

### **Professor Sarah O'Brien**

Professor Sarah O'Brien was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. A Consultant in Public Health Medicine, she is currently Professor of Health Sciences and Epidemiology at the University of Manchester. Her research interests include foodborne zoonoses. Previously she was Head of Gastrointestinal Diseases Division at the Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections where she was responsible for assessing data and generating, through surveillance and research, the evidence base for the origins and spread of gastrointestinal infection. She has published widely on these subjects. Professor O'Brien held a number of hospital and health authority appointments, and also lectured, in public health medicine, between 1986 and 1995. She was Consultant in Public Health Medicine at the Scottish Centre for infection and Environmental Health between 1995 and 1998 before joining the Health Protection Agency. She is a member of the Food Standards Agency's Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group

### **Professor Laura Piddock**

Professor Piddock is Professor of Microbiology at the Division of Immunity and Infection, University of Birmingham. She directs a research team investigating the mechanism of action of antibacterial agents and bacterial resistance to them. She also teaches undergraduates and postgraduates on Medical Sciences, Medicine and Immunity and Infection courses. After five years working as a research scientist in an NHS hospital, Professor Piddock went to

Birmingham University in 1987, first as a Research Fellow and Group Leader, than as a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer. She has published a large volume of research and has been involved in a number of national and international collaborations. Her main area of research is antibiotic-resistance in foodborne bacteria.

Professor Piddock was a member of the ACMSF Working Group on Microbial Antibiotic Resistance in Relation to Food Safety, which published its report in 1999.

### **Mr Rob Rees**

Mr Rob Rees was appointed to the ACMSF in 2005. He is an International Food Consultant, Chef and former restaurateur. Formerly a Board Member of the Food Standards Agency he is currently General Governor and Trustee for the British Nutrition Foundation, Director of Stroud and Mid Gloucestershire Education Business Partnership, Member of the Interim Board of School Food Trust. He is also a Trustee for Gloucestershire County Association for the blind, a Member of the Cotswold AONB Conservation Board, Chairman of Health4Schools Project, and a Member of the Gloucestershire Food Vision Team with a role as the County Ambassador for Food.

Mr Rees is a passionate advocate for good quality, safe, nutritious and affordable food. With 21 years experience of the catering sector and 10 within the area of food education he has been able to share such knowledge with others in the private and public sector. He has been part of a number of projects promoting the assets of British Food around the world on behalf of a number of stakeholders and is focussed to continually raise the profile of Gloucestershire and The Cotswolds.

### **Dr Quentin Sandifer**

Dr Quentin Sandifer was appointed to the ACMSF in 2001. He is Executive Director of Public Health and Medical Director with the Kent and Medway Strategic Health Authority and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Kent. After graduation from the University of Wales college of Medicine he trained initially as a general practitioner. Between 1990 and 1992 he worked as a family physician in Canada before returning to the UK to retrain as a public health physician. In 1997 he was appointed as a consultant in public health medicine in Swansea and promoted to Director of Public Health in 2000, remaining in that role until 2004 when he took up this current position.

### **Professor Peter Williams**

Professor Williams was appointed to the ACMSF in 2003. He is Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Genetics at the University of Leicester. He has held a number of posts within the University, including Head of the Department of Genetics, Chairman of the School of Biological Sciences, and Head of the Department of Microbiology & Immunology. The focus of his

research throughout his career has been the molecular genetic analysis of the bacterial pathogenicity, particularly in relation to diarrhoeal diseases. His major interest is in the role that iron plays in the persistence and survival of bacterial pathogens and in the pathogenesis of infection. He has a number of international collaborations, including researchers in developing countries, and has published extensively in this field.

**Secretariat**  
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