



Irish scientists seek eco-friendly fluke solutions

Irish scientists have been awarded substantial funding from the European Commission to lead the fight against liver fluke. Just under €3.6 million has gone to 'Develop Effective and sustainable control strategies for LIVER fluke' (DELIVER), a consortium that brings together University College Dublin's Conway Institute and School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, Queen's University Belfast and the Agri-food and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland.

Recently, the EU has seen a dramatic, twelve-fold increase in the incidence of liver fluke which current pesticides and anti-parasitic drugs are failing to tackle. DELIVER aims, over three years, to develop new environmentally-friendly methods to control the parasite, which is estimated to cost the Irish food industry and livestock producers around €60 million a year.

At UCD, scientists Professor Grace Mulcahy, Dr Theo de Waal and Dr Jane Irwin, aim to develop vaccines against fluke, improve