



UCD School of Agriculture
& Food Science

Rethinking the Food Systems

Wednesday, 9th December 2020 | 13:00 – 16:30

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Kindly supported by:



UCD Institute of
Food and Health



On behalf of the UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science, I am very pleased to welcome you to our 4th Biennial symposium titled "Rethinking the Food Systems".

Society is more aware of how food is produced and are demanding more sophisticated food and health solutions with environmental, sustainability and societal challenges becoming more and more relevant. There is a strong focus on the importance of food for health, understanding the effect of the food we eat, the link between producing food and its impact on the environment with a focus on our natural resources.

Our food systems need transformation to implement measures to improve resource efficiency, reduce our carbon footprint, limit the environmental impact of resource use and increase the health of our society while addressing the rapidly growing demand for food.

Today's symposium is an opportunity to hear from a range of experts who will present findings from their latest research and to discuss how these findings can contribute to a better understanding of the transformation needed to provide sustainable solutions for the sufficient supply of healthy foods from production through to human nutrition.

I hope you enjoy the event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Evans', is positioned above the printed name.

Prof Alex Evans
Dean of Agriculture

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PROGRAMME

1.00-1.15	Welcome	<p>Prof Alex Evans Head of School & Dean of Agriculture, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p>
1.15-2.05	Session 1: The challenge facing our food systems	<p>Chairperson: Dr Aifric O'Sullivan Assistant Professor in Human Nutrition and Associate Dean for Internationalisation, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Our Future food system – the renewed role for plants</p> <p>Prof Fiona Doohan Professor of Plant Health, School of Biology and Environmental Science, UCD</p> <p>Pragmatic production- efficient and resilient agriculture</p> <p>Prof Jonathan Rushton Professor of Animal Health and Food Systems Economics, University of Liverpool</p> <p><i>Q & A session to follow directly after each presentation</i></p>
2.05-2.55	Session 2: Potential solutions	<p>Chairperson: Dr Edel Kelly Assistant Professor in Agricultural and Food Economics, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Food systems for people and our planet</p> <p>Prof Tim Benton Research Director in Emerging Risks, Chatham House, UK</p> <p>Modelling of an Irish sustainable diet</p> <p>Dr Breige McNulty Assistant Professor in Human Nutrition, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p><i>Q & A session to follow directly after each presentation</i></p>
2.55-3.05	Break	
3.05-3.55	Session 3: State of the art	<p>Chairperson: Dr Helen Sheridan Assistant Professor in Farm Landscape Ecology and Agri-Environmental Policy, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Sustainable ruminant systems</p> <p>Dr Zoe McKay Assistant Professor of Dairy Production, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Healthy personal and planetary diets</p> <p>Prof Walter Willett Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health</p> <p><i>Q & A session to follow directly after each presentation</i></p>
4.00-4.30	Panel Discussion	<p>Chairperson: Prof Dolores O'Riordan Director, UCD Institute of Food and Health and Vice-President for Global Engagement</p> <p>Prof Tommy Boland Professor of Ruminant Nutrition and Sheep Production, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Assoc Prof Barry McMahon Associate Professor in Wildlife Conservation and Zoonotic Epidemiology, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Dr Edel Kelly Assistant Professor in Agricultural and Food Economics, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD</p> <p>Dr Michelle Collins Head of Nutrition and Sustainability Innovation, Glanbia Ireland</p>

SPEAKERS

Prof Fiona Doohan

Professor of Plant Health, School of Biology and Environmental Science, UCD

Professor Doohan has a BSc in Industrial Microbiology from UCD, Ireland and a PhD from the John Innes Centre/Open University (UK). After a postdoctoral position in John Innes Centre, Fiona moved to UCD where she joined the faculty as a plant pathologist.



Prof Doohan's recent research is focused on developing environmentally sustainable means of increasing Irish plant protein. She is also Co-Founder of the company E-Seed which focuses on developing biologicals for the enhancement of crop productivity. She is a member of the Scientific Board of the Global Wheat Initiative, a G20 initiative that promotes wheat research at an international level in both developed and developing countries.

[@Doohancropslab](#)

Prof Jonathan Rushton

Professor Animal Health and Food Systems Economics, University of Liverpool

Jonathan Rushton is an agricultural economist who specialises in the economics of animal health and food systems. His principal research interests are the: Global Burden of Animal Diseases (GBADs) where he directs a global programme with OIE; economics of antimicrobial use and resistance in livestock; and assessment of the multidimensionality of food quality and public health.



He has recently completed studies on the economics of antimicrobial use in livestock in SE Asia for FAO and the economics of new livestock vaccines for the EU funded SAPHIR project and is currently involved in research on antimicrobial use in livestock in Vietnam (VIPARC), India (DARPI) and the EU (ROADMAP).

Jonathan is based at the Institute of Infection and Global Health, University of Liverpool, leads a University Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Food Systems and is part of the N8 Agri-food programme.

He is also adjunct Professor in the School of Behavioural, Cognitive & Social Sciences at the University of New England, Australia and president of the International Society for Economics and Social Sciences of Animal Health.

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Dr Breige McNulty

Assistant Professor in Human Nutrition, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD

Over the last twelve years, Breige has managed the National food consumption surveys in Ireland, collecting detail dietary and lifestyle data from the Irish population. Breige's main research interests are using food consumption data to gain an understanding of the impact of nutrients, food ingredients and chemicals on health with a view to underpinning food safety and policy and she has published over 70 papers within this area.



[@breigemcnulty](#)

Prof Tim Benton

Research Director in Emerging Risks, Chatham House, UK

Professor Tim Benton leads the Energy, Environment and Resources programme at Chatham House. He joined Chatham House in 2016 as a distinguished visiting fellow, when he was also Dean of Strategic Research Initiatives at the University of Leeds.



From 2011-2016 he was the "champion" of the UK's Global Food Security programme which was a multi-agency partnership of the UK's public bodies (government departments, devolved governments and research councils) with an interest in the challenges around food.

He has worked with UK governments, the EU and G20. He has been a global agenda steward of the World Economic Forum, and is an author of the IPCC's Special Report on Food, Land and Climate (2019), and the UK's Climate Change Risk Assessment.

He has published more than 150 academic papers, many tackling how systems respond to environmental change. His work on sustainability leadership has been recognised with an honorary fellowship of the UK's Society for the Environment, and a doctorate honoris causa from the Université catholique de Louvain, Belgium.

[@timgbenton](#)

Dr Zoe McKay

Assistant Professor of Dairy Production, School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD

Dr Zoe McKay is assistant professor of dairy production and Programme Director of the dairy business programme in the School of Agriculture and Food Science, UCD. She completed a degree in Animal Science and a PhD in dairy cow nutrition in UCD. Following time spent in industry as a Ruminant Technical Specialist, Zoe returned to UCD. In her current position, Zoe is continuing her focus on the role of nutrition on improving dairy production, milk quality and sustainability. Zoe has published internationally and is actively involved in the Systems Research Herd at UCD Lyons Farm which is focusing on the development of a sustainable profitable high-output grass-based spring milk production system.

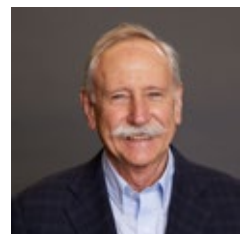


[@Zoe_C_McKay](#)

Prof Walter Willett

Professor of Epidemiology and Nutrition, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School.

Prof Willett served as Chair of the Department of Nutrition at Harvard for 25 years. His work has focused on development of methods, using both questionnaire and biochemical approaches, to study the effects of diet on the occurrence of major diseases. He has applied these methods to large cohort studies, including nearly 300,000 men and women, that are providing the most detailed information on the long-term health consequences of diets. Dr. Willett has published over 2,000 articles, primarily on lifestyle risk factors for cardiometabolic disease and cancer, and has written the textbook, Nutritional Epidemiology. He is a member of the National Academy of Medicine.



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UCD AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SCIENCE

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Top 1%

UCD is ranked in the top 1% of Higher education institutions world-wide



Only University in Ireland with a dedicated School of Agriculture and Food Science.



Agri-Food is one of 6 strategic research themes in UCD



Academic staff in the top 1% of most cited researchers in the world



1st Ireland, 5th Europe & 24th World for the study of Agricultural Sciences

(US News and World 2020)

76

Principal Investigators



€59.7m

Research Funding including 10.2% directly from industry. 2015-2020

PUBLICATIONS



1016 Scholarly output with 18.7 citations per publication and a fielded weight citation impact of **2.41** *Scopus 2015-2019

COLLABORATIONS



915 collaborations across **98** countries

*Scopus 2014-2018



52% of publications co-authored with international collaboration

* Scopus 2015 - 2019

INNOVATION



15 Invention Disclosures

10 Licence Agreements

8 Patent Applications

*2015 - 2018

UCD Lyon Farm
250 hectare teaching and research facility

AgTech Connector
Innovation Hub at UCD Lyons Farm led by NovaUCD

EVENTS



Biennial Symposium

Annual Research Seminar Series

EDUCATION

13

Undergraduate Programmes

9

Graduate Taught Programmes

159

Research Masters and PhD Students



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