

The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) is made up of independent experts appointed by ministers. Members are appointed to ensure that a broad spectrum of relevant eminent scientific expertise and knowledge is represented on the committee. This ensures that when an application to assess the safety of a novel food (including genetically modified foods) is presented to the ACNFP, a requirement under the EC Novel Foods Regulation 1997, all aspects of food safety are examined by acknowledged experts and each case is considered strictly on its merits.

Members have expertise in a wide range of areas including genetic modification, nutrition, microbiology, toxicology and food technology. There are also two lay members: a consumer representative, who provides a valuable insight into consumer concerns; and an ethicist, who advises on ethical issues relating to new foods and processes, including genetically modified foods.

Members do not represent any organisations or commercial interests on the ACNFP. They are required to provide details of any personal or non-personal interests and to declare these before discussion begins on any item to which they might relate. The Chairperson can then decide whether they should be allowed to participate in consideration of that item. Members interests are also listed in the ACNFP Annual Report, a copy of which is available from the ACNFP secretariat or the MAFF website (addresses given overleaf).



Chairperson: *Professor Janet Bainbridge BSc PhD MIBiol CBiol Grad Cert Ed (Tech) SOFHT FRSA*

The Committee is currently chaired by Professor Janet Bainbridge, Director of Science and Technology at the University of Teesside, who took up the appointment on 1 September 1997.

As a graduate in bacteriology and botany, Janet Bainbridge has held a number of academic posts. She joined the University of Teesside, formerly Teesside Polytechnic, in 1980 where her particular research interests include nutrition, biotechnology and ethics. Her posts at the University of Teesside have included Divisional Leader of Chemical and Biotechnological Sciences and Principal Lecturer in biochemical engineering. She lectures regularly to lay audiences on scientific issues and frequently broadcasts on local radio and television.

Deputy Chairperson: *Dr Mike J Gasson BSc PhD*

Dr Mike J Gasson BSc PhD is the Deputy Chairperson of the ACNFP. He is Head of the Genetics and Microbiology Department of the Institute of Food Research. His research work has been directed to the genetics and molecular biology of lactic acid bacteria, areas prominent in biotechnological issues relevant to food.

Consumer representative: *Mrs Elizabeth Russell BSc*

Mrs Elizabeth Russell is the consumer representative on the ACNFP. As a graduate in microbiology and chemistry and member of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, she joined the Food Additives Working Party at the Royal Society of Chemistry in 1989.

Ethicist: *Revd Dr Michael Reiss BA PhD MA FIBiol*

Revd Dr Michael Reiss is the ethicist on the ACNFP who advises on the ethical dimension of novel, including genetically modified, foods and processes. He is Reader in Education and Bioethics at Homerton College, Cambridge. His research, teaching and writing specialisms are in the fields of science education, bioethics and health education.

Scientific members

Professor Peter J Aggett MSc MB ChB FRCP(L)(E)(G) DCH

Professor Peter Aggett is Head of the Lancashire Postgraduate School of Medicine and Health. His research interests include human nutrition, metabolism and food related activities.

Dr Philip Dale BSc PhD

Dr Philip Dale is Research Group Leader of Genetic Modification and Risk Assessment at the John Innes Centre. He has also been a member of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) since 1993.

Dr John Heritage BA DPhil MIBiol

Dr John Heritage is Senior Lecturer in Microbiology at the University of Leeds. His research is focused on factors affecting the evolution of clinically important bacteria and the movement of genes through bacterial populations. A major part of his work is factors which determine antibiotic resistance and methods for characterising resistance determinance.

Professor David A Ledward MSc PhD FIFST

Professor David Ledward is Professor of Food Science at the University of Reading. His research interests are food science and technology, particularly, the fundamental chemistry of mixed biopolymer systems.

Professor Ian Rowland BSc PhD

Professor Ian Rowland is Professor of Human Nutrition at the University of Ulster and Head of the Northern Ireland Centre for Diet and Health. His research interests include the role of chemicals in food on cancer, mainly colon cancer, and in the role of gut microflora. He has a particular interest in the potential for DNA transfer in the gut.

Professor Tom Sanders BSc PhD

Professor Tom Sanders is Head of Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, Kings College, London. His research interests are diet and health in general, including cholesterol lowering strategies, dietary fats and cardiovascular disease.

Professor Herbert Sewell MB ChB BDS MSc PhD FRCP (L) (G) FRCPath

Professor Herbert Sewell is Head of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University Hospital Medicine School, QMC, Nottingham. He is currently a member of the Medicines Commission, and of committees of the Medical Research Council and Medical Royal Colleges. His research interests are in allergy and novel vaccine strategies.

Dr Norman Simmons FRC Path FIFST

Dr Norman Simmons is Emeritus Consultant in Microbiology, Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital Trust, and Honourable Senior Lecturer in Microbiology, St Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry. He is a Consultant Microbiologist whose main areas of interest relate to medical and food microbiology and infection control.

Professor Ronald Walker PhD CChem FRSC FIFST

Professor Ronald Walker is Emeritus Professor of Food Science at the University of Surrey. He has a wide range of food safety research interests and has served on various UK and international food safety committees.

Professor John Warner MB, ChB, MRCP (UK), MD, FRCP, MRCPC, FRCPC.

Professor John Warner is Professor of Child Health at the University of Southampton School of Medicine. His main interests lie in the areas of food allergy and Paediatric Medicine. He has served on a range of committees including the Working Group of the Scientific Committee for Food and Food Allergy.

Professor Frank Woods BSc BM BCh DPhil FFPM FRCP (Lon) (Edin) FIFST

Professor Frank Woods is the Sir George Franklin Professor of Medicine at the University of Sheffield and Chairman of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment. Professor Woods has wide medical research experience and has served on a range of committees and councils including the Sheffield Health Authority and the General Medical Council.

Further information on the work of the ACNFP can be obtained by contacting the ACNFP Secretariat at the address below.

ACNFP Secretariat

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Information on the ACNFP is also available in the Food pages of the MAFF website
(<http://www.maff.gov.uk/food/novel/acnfp.htm>).