

Who our speakers are



Peter Melchett *Policy Director of the Soil Association*

Peter Melchett has been Policy Director of the Soil Association, the UK's main organic food and farming organisation, working on campaigns, standards and policy, since 2001. He runs an 890-acre organic farm in Norfolk, with beef cattle and arable seed crops. He is a member of the BBC's Rural Affairs Committee, and was a member of the Government's Rural Climate Change Forum and Organic Action Plan Group, and the Department of Education's School Lunches Review Panel. He received an honorary doctorate from Newcastle University in 2013, was on the Board of the EU's £12m

'Quality Low Input Food' research project, and is a Board member for two EU research projects on low input crops and livestock.

As a former member of the House of Lords, he was a Labour Government Minister 1974-79, at the Departments of Environment, Industry, and Northern Ireland (covering education and health). He has been President or Chair of several conservation NGOs, including the Ramblers and Wildlife Link, and was Director of Greenpeace UK (1985-2000), and chaired Greenpeace Japan (1995-2001). Greenpeace launched their global campaign against GM crops in 1997, and Peter was one of 28 volunteers arrested for removing GM maize in 1999; all the volunteers were found not guilty in the subsequent court case.

Presentation - Chair's introduction to the morning

Peter will open the conference and chair the morning panel discussion.



Professor Rosalind Smyth *Director of the Institute of Child Health*

Rosalind Smyth is Director of the UCL Institute of Child Health and Honorary Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician and non-executive director of Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. She graduated in medicine from Clare College, Cambridge and Westminster Medical School and trained in paediatrics in London, Cambridge and Liverpool. Until September 2012, she was Professor of Paediatric Medicine at the University of Liverpool and was Director of the NIHR Medicines for Children Research

Network, which supported all clinical research with children in England from 2005-2012. Her research interests include viral/host interactions in the airways, drug safety and efficacy in children. She is a fellow and recent council member of the Academy of Medical Sciences and was awarded CBE in 2015 for services to the regulation of medicines for children.

Presentation

Rosalind will give a short address and welcome.



John Blackwell BVSc MRCVS *Senior Vice President at the British Veterinary Association*

John Blackwell was born and brought up in Wrexham, North Wales. Following graduation from Liverpool University in 1985 he spent the first two years in a busy mixed practice in Penwortham, Lancashire. Following this he moved closer to home joining the Brownlow Veterinary Centre in Ellesmere, Shropshire which has since grown. John is one of three directors of the company which has four veterinary surgeons, including John, working with farm and equine clients and five full time veterinary surgeons dedicated to working with companion animals. The practice also undertakes an increasingly significant amount of expert witness work covering a range of veterinary related issues.

John was President of the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA), a specialist division of the BVA, in 2008/2009 having served as a BCVA council member for 12 years. During that time John also chaired the BCVA medicines committee seeing it through the Independent Dispensing Review (Marsh Report) and the subsequent Competition Commission Inquiry. This interest in medicines prescribing and dispensing led to his becoming the BVA nominated director on the Animal Medicines Training and Regulatory Authority (AMTRA) since 2008. John became President in September 2014 and Senior Vice President in September 2015.

Presentation

John will give an overview of current efforts to reduce veterinary antibiotic use within the UK, focusing on where this has been successful, and where challenges remain. He will consider what responsible use looks like in practice, and how this will be achieved.



C oil n Nunan *Principal Scientific Adviser for Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics*

C oil n is a scientific adviser to the Soil Association and to the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics. He has campaigned against the overuse of antibiotics in farming for over 15 years, and has co-authored a series of reports on antibiotic resistance and antibiotic residues that highlight the human-health impact of excessive antibiotic use in intensive livestock farming. This work aims to encourage a move to more responsible use of antibiotics in farming, through better regulation and improvements in production

systems, which would also improve animal welfare. He has an interest in all aspects of sustainability, and is a trustee of Feasta, the Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability. He studied mathematics and physics at the Universities of Brussels and Cambridge.

Presentation

C oil n will give a general overview of veterinary antibiotic use, including historical context, current usage and resistance trends. His presentation will cover the lack of sufficient action by industry and some EU governments, and present the evidence which shows that reduced antibiotic usage in animal medicine can reverse resistance trends in humans and animals.



Professor Timothy Rutland Walsh *Professor of Medical Microbiology and Antibiotic Resistance at Cardiff University*

Timothy Walsh is currently Professor of Medical Microbiology and Antibiotic Resistance at Cardiff University and leads an active research in antibiotic resistance. Professor Walsh is a member of the Australian Society of Microbiology, the Society for General Microbiology (UK), the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, the

American Society of Microbiology and the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. His research is focused on unusual mechanisms of antimicrobial resistance and how they are mobilized into the clinical sector and spread once established. He has published/presented over 400 papers in particular on the characterization of β -lactamases within Gram-negative bacteria.

After obtaining a BSc in Applied Laboratory Science and a Post Graduate Diploma of Immunology/Microbiology at the University of Tasmania in Australia, Professor Walsh earned his PhD in Molecular Microbiology at the University of Bristol. He is in the process of obtaining his MRCPATH (London) and DSc (Australia). He currently holds an honorary chair at Murdoch University Australia, is director of BARNARDS and holds several advisory positions including Chinese CDC and CAU, ECDC, WHO, BIRDY (Children's Antibiotic Resistant infections in Low-Income countries: an international cohort study) and M decins Sans Fronti res.

Presentation

Timothy will give an overview of the recent discovery of the MCR-1 gene in patients and livestock in China; including the link to overuse of the antibiotic in farming. He will discuss the implications of these findings for human health, and the need to urgently reduce veterinary use of antibiotics used in human medicine.



Dr Tara Garnett *Food Climate Research Network at Oxford University*

Tara Garnett is a researcher at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute and a fellow of the Oxford Martin School. She has worked on food issues for over 20 years within both the NGO and academic sectors. Her work centres on the interactions among food, climate, health and broader sustainability issues. She has a particular interest in livestock as an area where many of these converge. She is also interested in how knowledge is communicated to and interpreted by policy makers, civil society and industry, and in their approaches to food problems and solutions.

Tara founded the Food Climate Research Network (FCRN) in 2005, originally at the University of Surrey, before it relocated to Oxford. The FCRN is a network of thousands of individuals who share a common interest in food system sustainability, spanning diverse disciplines and sectors and drawn from over 70 countries. The FCRN provides accessible, policy-relevant and integrative knowledge on food systems, and a safe neutral space for diverse stakeholders to engage in the contested food arena - through its membership, its well used website, and through the workshops it runs.

Presentation

Tara will consider the global overuse of antibiotics in intensive farming systems within a wider context of food system challenges, showing how a combination of demand and supply side drivers are exacerbating the shift towards intensification in the livestock sector and associated antibiotics use. She will consider the implications of these trends not just for antibiotic resistance but also for other aspects of our health and for the environment.



Elizabeth Marier *AMR Team Policy and Communications Adviser for the Veterinary Medicines Directorate*

Elizabeth is an agronomist and obtained an MBA in agri-food business from Laval University, Quebec. She worked as a pig and environmental consultant for eight years in Canada before coming to the UK. Since then, she has spent ten years working in epidemiology at the Animal and Plant Health Agency investigating methods to control Salmonella on pig farms. She has recently taken a role in communication and policy in the VMD's AMR team.

Panel Member

Elizabeth will participate in the morning panel discussion



Phillip Lymbery *Chief Executive of Compassion In World Farming*

Philip Lymbery is naturalist, author and chief executive of the leading international farm animal welfare organisation, Compassion in World Farming (Compassion). His book, *Farmageddon: The true cost of cheap meat*, was published by Bloomsbury in 2014 and gained international acclaim, earning him a reputation as one of industrial farming's fiercest critics.

Visiting Professor at the University of Winchester, Lybbery has been listed by The Grocer magazine as one of the food industry's most influential people. He is a recent recipient of the 'outstanding campaigning' award by Brussels-based Eurogroup for Animals and the International Golden Dove of Peace Award in Rome. Lybbery led the growth of Compassion internationally, with offices in 10 countries across Europe, the USA, South Africa and China. He places emphasis on engaging with major food companies and achieving game-changing legislation.

Presentation - Chair's introduction to midday session

Philip will open the midday session and chair the midday panel discussion



Mr David Tisdall BVSc(hons) CertCHP FHEA MRCVS *Clinical Teaching Fellow in Farm Animal Sciences at the University of Bristol*

David Tisdall is a Clinical teaching fellow in farm animal science at the University of Bristol and a senior clinician of Langford Farm Animal Practice. He has particular interests in the management and prevention of production diseases in dairy cattle and the responsible use of medicines in farm animals; namely the use of medicines audits as an integrated part of active herd health management and practice level clinical governance. He coordinates final year farm animal rotations in clinics and teaches at all levels of the undergraduate veterinary science program, largely within the cattle medicine course, including responsible use, but also contributing to population medicine, epidemiology and nutrition. He holds the RCVS certificate in cattle health and production.

Presentation

David will give an overview of the work of the Langford Farm Animal Practice (LFAP), a clinical teaching practice of the University of Bristol. LFAP's project seeks to demonstrate how veterinary surgeons, in partnership with farmers, can minimise the risk of antimicrobial resistance development by reducing total and critically important antimicrobial use. David will explain how, through improved herd health management and systematic medicines auditing, such changes can be made without compromising animal health and welfare.



Helen Browning *Chief Executive of the Soil Association*

Helen Browning runs a tenanted 1,350 acre organic livestock and arable farm in Wiltshire, which supplies branded pork products to multiple retailers, independent outlets and export, and runs the village pub too! Helen became Chief Executive of the Soil Association in March 2011, having been its Chair in the late 90s, and prior to that was Director of External Affairs at the National Trust.

Helen is also Chair of the Food Ethics Council and has been a member of several influential commissions around agriculture and food, including the Curry Commission on the Future of Farming and Food; the Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission; the Meat and Livestock Commission, and was Chair of the England Implementation Group for the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. She was awarded an OBE in 1998 for services to organic farming.

Presentation

Drawing from her experience running organically certified Eastbrook Farm in Wiltshire with a breeding herd of 200 British Saddleback sows, plus dairy, beef, sheep and arable crops, Helen will provide insights into how organic systems can maximise animal health and welfare, and reduce the need for antibiotic use.



Hetty Van Beers Schreurs DVM, PhD, SDa *Managing Director of the Veterinary Medicine Authority*

Hetty van Beers graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Utrecht in 1988. In 1996 she completed her PhD. She worked until July 2012 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in Utrecht, at the Animal Health Service in Deventer and in a veterinary practice near Utrecht. She had been the managing director of the Netherlands Veterinary Medicine Authority since July 2012.

The Netherlands Veterinary Medicines Authority (SDa) is an independent agency established in 2010 to promote responsible drug use in Dutch animal husbandries in general and especially usage of antibiotics.

Presentation

Hetty will share successful interventions that have taken place in The Netherlands to reduce farm antibiotic use. She will outline the challenges and discuss the lessons learnt.



Dr Jenny Lundström *Guest Researcher at ReAct*

Jenny Lundström has studied veterinary medicine at the Swedish University of Agriculture. She holds a PhD in veterinary pathology and has worked with animal disease surveillance and preventive veterinary medicine in the livestock sector at the Swedish Animal Health Service. In recent years she has been active in veterinary policy questions (regulation of VMP, AMR, Animal Health Law) and communication on antibiotic use, antimicrobial resistance, animal health and animal welfare to farmers, politicians and the public. She has also been involved in developing procurement criteria for the retail sector in Sweden that includes prudent use of antibiotics, which recently have been adopted. At present she has a position as Guest Researcher at ReAct.

Presentation

Jenny will provide an overview of the successful interventions that have taken place in Sweden to reduce farm antibiotic use. Since Sweden banned the use of antibiotics as animal growth promoters in 1986, veterinarians, farmers and governmental bodies have cooperated to improve animal husbandry and promote the prudent use of antibiotics in the veterinary sector. Jenny will highlight the key lessons learnt during this period.



Dr Osman A Dar *Consultant Research Fellow at the Chatham House Centre on Global Health Security.*

Osman Dar is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh) and a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health at the Royal College of Physicians (London). He divides his time equally between his role as the Director of the One Health programme at the Chatham House Centre on Global Health Security and as a Consultant in International Public Health at Public Health England. At Chatham House he has helped build the IDRAM initiative which aims to strengthen weak health systems by creating partnerships between the extractives industries and public authorities to improve the prevention, preparedness for, and response to emerging infectious diseases.

He also leads a project to support the Livestock Global Alliance, a collection of international agencies and institutions including the World Bank, WHO, OIE, FAO, the B&M Gates Foundation and ILRI amongst others, in operationalising its One Health collaborations. These include developing One Health approaches to antimicrobial resistance, exploring the links between sustainable livestock, nutrition and climate change and the development of vaccines. At Public Health England (PHE) he leads a programme of work that helps selected low income countries build core capacities and implement their commitments under the International Health Regulations. His work at PHE also involves developing a portfolio of collaborations in partnership with the International Association of National Public Health Institutes to help strengthen national public health institutes in low-income settings.

Presentation - Chair's introduction to the afternoon

Osman will introduce the afternoon session and chair the afternoon panel discussion



Kerry McCarthy MP. *Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.*

Kerry McCarthy was first elected Labour MP for Bristol East in 2005, and is Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. She previously served as Shadow Foreign Office Minister (covering issues including human rights and international climate change) and before that, shadow Treasury minister. She has had a longstanding interest in environmental issues and food policy, introducing a Food Waste (Reduction) Bill in this Parliament. She is a patron of FoodCycle, as well as former Chair of the Agroecology APPG and Vice-Chair of the Agriculture & Food for Development APPG.

Presentation

Kerry will consider how we move towards a genuinely sustainable, thriving farming system which serves both people and animals. She will discuss the role of effective policy in optimising human, animal environmental health.



Peter Stevenson *Chief Policy Adviser at Compassion in World Farming*

Peter Stevenson studied economics and law at Trinity College Cambridge. He played a leading role in winning the EU bans on veal crates, battery cages and sow stalls as well as a new status for animals in EU law as sentient beings. He has written comprehensive legal analyses of EU legislation on farm animals and of the impact of the WTO rules on animal welfare. Peter is lead author of the recent study by the FAO reviewing animal welfare legislation in the beef, pork and poultry industries. He has written well-received reports on the economics of livestock production and on the detrimental impact of industrial farming on the resources on which our future ability to feed ourselves depends.

Presentation

Peter will give an evidence-based overview of how better welfare, husbandry and housing can reduce the need for antibiotic use. He will provide insights into the correlation between higher welfare systems and less antibiotic use, and outline the need to shift to health oriented systems of rearing animals.



Professor Barry Cookson, BDS, MBBS, MSc, HonDipHIC, FRSPH, FRCP, FFPH, FRCPath *Hon Professor University College London (UCL) and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)*

Barry Cookson is medically and dentally qualified and is a medical microbiologist. He was Director of the Laboratory of Healthcare Associated Infection of the Health Protection Agency for over 22 years where his laboratory was responsible, amongst many other functions, for supporting UK diagnostic and infection control activities. He retired in June 2012 but remains very active in visiting Professorships at University College where he teaches and holds research grants including one examining the cost-effectiveness of *Clostridium difficile* prevention and control measures at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Barry chairs a UCL examination committee and is an external consultant to the WHO and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. He is also chair of the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (ESCMID) Study Group on Nosocomial Infection, examines and is a referee for grants to many bodies including the Innovation Medicines Initiative. He chaired the DH Antimicrobial Prescribing Competencies committee and is currently leading a similar initiative for the European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease and involved in UK research into behaviour change in infection control, and Long Term Care Surveillance and Training in Europe.

Presentation

Barry will take a look at successes from the human antimicrobial resistance reduction strategies in Europe, commenting on how we might be able to apply learnings from the medical side to veterinary prescribing.



Dawn Howard *Chief Executive of the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH)*

Dawn joined NOAH as Chief Executive in 2014. Prior to this she was based in Brussels representing UK agriculture with the National Farmers Union where her responsibilities included animal health and welfare. She later headed up the European body for farm animal breeders, EFFAB, in Brussels.

Dawn previously worked in Defra's Animal Health and Welfare policy unit in Westminster and also spent a number of years in policy development for both plant health and crop protection products. Originally from North Wales, she studied Botany at the University of Nottingham, has lived in Belgium and Spain but is now based near London. She is passionate about improving animal health and welfare standards. Dawn is married with two sons.

Panel Member

Dawn will participate in the afternoon panel discussion



Nigel Gibbens *Chief Veterinary Officer UK and Director General of DEFRA*

Nigel Gibbens is the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer. He was appointed in May 2008 following previous experience in the State Veterinary Service and in policy roles on international trade, BSE controls, animal welfare and international relations co-ordination for Defra's Food and Farming Group.

Prior to joining the UK government services in 1990, Nigel worked in private practice in his early career and in Government veterinary services in Belize and Yemen. Nigel enjoys cycling, walking at home and abroad, gardening and DIY. Nigel holds an Honorary Professorship from the Royal Veterinary College. He was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to the veterinary profession and animal welfare in the New Year's Honours list for 2016.

Panel Member

Nigel will participate in the afternoon panel discussion



Dr David McCoy *Director of Medact*

Dr David McCoy is a public health physician and academic. He spent his first fifteen years working in clinical medicine and health systems development, mostly in South Africa. Since then he has been based in London, working on various aspects of global health, and as a public health specialist in the NHS where he was a Director of Public Health in London. He is currently split between a post at Queen Mary's University London and his position as Director of Medact. David was co-Managing Editor of the first two alternative world health reports (Global Health Watch), is a member of the Board of Trustees of the New Economic Foundation, and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Peoples Health Movement.

David is responsible for all aspects of Medact's work and, working closely with the Board of Trustees, sets the overall strategic direction of the organisation. He is an active and well-respected member of both the UK and international health community, and supports constructive and positive working relationships between Medact and many of the key health institutions, e.g. Royal Colleges, the British Medical Association. He provides a public face for Medact in the media, and speaks on Medact's behalf at a range of public events.

Presentation - Closing remarks

David will provide closing remarks and a brief round-up of the day