

The Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) is made up of independent experts. Members are appointed to ensure that a broad spectrum of relevant eminent scientific expertise and knowledge is represented on the Committee in order that issues can be examined thoroughly and individual applications can be considered on their merits.

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

Members do not represent any organisation or commercial interests on the ACNFP. They are required to provide details of any personal or non-personal interests and to declare these before discussions begin on any item to which they might relate. The Chairman can then decide whether they should be allowed to participate in the consideration of that item. Members' interests are listed each year in the ACNFP Annual Report and a copy can be obtained from the Secretariat or from the FSA website (details are given at the end of this factsheet).



Chairman: *Professor Mike Gasson BSc PhD*

The Committee is currently chaired by Professor Mike Gasson, Head of the Food Safety Science Division and Deputy Director (Science) at the Institute of Food Research.

Professor Gasson has been involved in gene technology research for more than twenty-five years with a particular interest in the genetics of food-relevant micro-organisms.

He previously served on the ACNFP for nine years from 1992 to 2001, acting as vice-chair for four of these, and is currently a Member of the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF). In addition, he is a member of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Panel on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Consumer Members

Miss Jill Brand MPhil FICSc

Jill Brand is a home economist with over 20 years of experience in product design, consumer issues and teaching. She holds qualifications in home economics, teaching, consumer sciences, chemistry, and food hygiene. She has written several recipe books and regularly writes for magazines and contributes to radio programmes.

Dr Hilary Close BSc PhD PG Dip

Hilary Close is a Member of the Science and Technology Committee of the National Council of Women of Great Britain and is qualified in the areas of botany and aerobiology. She also holds a PG Dip in legal studies.

Ethicist

Professor Ruth Chadwick BA BPhil DPhil

Ruth Chadwick is Director of the ESRC Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics at Lancaster University. Ruth is trained in philosophy and law. She has chaired the Food Ethics Council's Working Party on Novel Foods and is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics.

Scientific Members

Mr Neville Craddock MA CSci FIFST

Neville Craddock was formerly Head of Regulatory and Environmental Affairs with Nestle UK Ltd and now runs his own food law consultancy, advising on National and EU food safety-related legal and consumer issues. Neville is a qualified chemist with extensive experience in the food supply chain and was a member of the MAFF Food Advisory Committee from 1995-2001.

Professor James Dunwell BA MA PhD

Professor Dunwell is Professor of plant biotechnology in the School of Plant Sciences at the University of Reading. He has extensive experience in plant cell biology, and the production and utilisation of transgenic crops. His present research interests include studies of plant gene expression and the evolution of plant proteins. Professor Dunwell also sits on the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) as an *ex-officio* member.

Professor Gary Foster BSc PhD

Professor Gary Foster is Professor in Molecular Plant Pathology in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of Bristol. He leads an internationally recognised research group with interests in plant pathogens (viral and fungal) and the development of transgenic tools for application in projects to study both biological function and crop improvement.

Dr John Fowler BVM&S PhD FATS CBiol FIBiol DipRCPath (Toxicol) FRCPath FRCVS

John Fowler is an experienced risk assessor in the non-clinical area. Trained in veterinary pharmacology, toxicology, pathology and ecotoxicology, he works as an independent veterinary pathologist. Dr Fowler is also Secretary-General of the Association of European Toxicologists & European Societies of Toxicology (EUROTOX).

Professor Stephen Holgate BSc MBBS MD DSc FRCP FRCPath FIBiol FMed Sci

Stephen Holgate is Medical Research Council Clinical Professor of Immunopharmacology at the University of Southampton. He was trained in respiratory medicine and allergy and has extensive clinical and research interests in these fields. He has been co-editor of Clinical and Experimental Allergy since 1984 and is currently co-Chairman of the National Allergy Strategy group.

Dr Peter Lund BA MA DPhil

Peter Lund is Senior Lecturer at the School of Biosciences at the University of Birmingham. Peter has over 20 years of experience in academia and industry as a molecular biologist and geneticist, working with bacteria and plants. Peter is also a founding member of the Food Ethics Council.

Professor Alan Malcolm MA DPhil FIFST FIBiol CBiol FRSC

Alan Malcolm has been Chief Executive of the Institute of Biology since June 1998. He is a previous Chairman of the British Nutrition Foundation and served for many years on the Food Advisory Committee (FAC). He has also been an expert advisor to both the House of Commons and the House of Lords on issues related to GM food and crops.

Dr Clive Meredith BA MA MSc PhD

Clive Meredith is Head of Immunology at BIBRA International Ltd. Clive is a toxicologist whose research interests lie in the development of models for hazard identification and the assessment of risk, particularly relating to immunotoxicology, food allergy and the safety of GM foods.

Professor Ian Rowland BSc PhD

Ian Rowland is Professor of Human Nutrition at the University of Ulster and Head of the Northern Ireland Centre for Food and Health. Ian's research interests include the effect of dietary components on the risk of colon, breast and prostate cancer and on the role of gut microflora in cancer risk. Professor Rowland's membership of the ACNFP is *ex-officio* and he provides a valuable link with the Committee on Toxicity (COT).

Professor Peter Shewry BSc PhD DSc

Peter Shewry is Associate Director of Rothamsted Research where he leads a research programme on structure, composition and end use properties of cereal seeds. He is currently a member of the BBSRC Agri-Food Committee and of the Rank Prize Nutrition Committee.

Dr Anthony Williams BSc MB BS DPhil FRCP FRCPCH

Anthony Williams is a Consultant Neonatal Paediatrician and Senior Lecturer at St George's Hospital Medical School, London. He has a longstanding interest in lactation and infant nutrition. Dr Williams' membership of the ACNFP is *ex-officio* and he provides a valuable link with the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN).

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 at:
www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/novelfood/

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