



VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON
WHOLE GENOME SEQUENCING
 Whole Genome Sequencing for Better Public Health and Food Safety Outcomes
 12:30PM – 14:45PM Sydney Time (GMT +10)
 Session 1: Oct 28, 2020; Session 2: Oct 29, 2020

Speaker Biographies

	<p>Mr Dean Stockwell – Vice President of ILSI SEAR Australasia Dean is a consultant specialising in food regulation, food safety governance and risk management, based in Taupo New Zealand. Dean’s former roles include General Manager Food Standards Australia New Zealand, R&D Director New Zealand Milk and strategy, executive and technical roles in a range of food industry settings. Dean is a Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Food Science and Technology, current Vice President of ILSI Australasia, a Life Member of the NZ Nutrition Foundation, a Chartered Member of NZ Institute of Directors and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.</p>
	<p>Professor Martin Cole - Head, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine @The University of Adelaide Martin is Head of School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide and an internationally recognised food scientist with expertise in food safety, food trends and innovation, processing and nutrition, and the translation of science into community and commercial outcomes. Prior to joining the School in October 2019, Martin has held positions including Director of CSIRO Food and Nutrition, and Director of the US National Center for Food Safety and Technology, the largest and most successful centre of excellence of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)</p>
	<p>Dr Verlaine Timms – Research Fellow, Westmead Clinical School, University of Sydney Verlaine is a molecular microbiologist based at Westmead Hospital, Sydney, Australia. She has strong expertise in Microbial Genome Sequencing, Genomics, Metagenomics and Transcriptomics (RNA-seq). Her research is instrumental in the control and management of infectious disease outbreaks, in particular, whooping cough and Legionellosis. Dr Timms has over 20 years’ experience researching bacterial virulence and now uses the advances in genomics to investigate newly discovered virulence mechanisms. She is also a dedicated postgraduate supervisor and develops courses in genomics with the University of Sydney.</p>

	<p>Prof Vitali Sintchenko – Director, Centre for Infectious Diseases & Microbiology – Public Health, University of Sydney</p> <p>Vitali is an academic pathologist with Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney and Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases and Microbiology-Public Health. As a clinical microbiologist he leads NSW Public Health Pathogen Genomics service at the Institute of Clinical Pathology and Medical Research-NSW Health Pathology and supervises the NSW Enteric and Mycobacterium Reference Laboratories. He is also a member of the Marie Bashir Institute for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Biosecurity. His research has been focused on improving recognition and management of human bacterial diseases with epidemic potential. His team has led the application of whole genome sequencing to the public health surveillance and monitoring of pathogen evolution under pressure from drugs and vaccines.</p>
	<p>Prof Nigel French – Food Safety & Veterinary Public Health, Massey University</p> <p>Nigel is Chief Scientist for the New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre and Distinguished Professor of Food Safety and Veterinary Public Health at Massey University, New Zealand. He is founder and Executive Director of Massey University’s Infectious Disease Research Centre, specializing in research and training in molecular and genomic epidemiology, food safety and the control of infectious diseases. Nigel is a Fellow of the Royal Society of New Zealand and a Fellow of Food Standards Australia and New Zealand. He holds an honorary professorship at the University of Otago Medical School in New Zealand.</p>
	<p>Dr Craig Shadbolt – Principal Food Safety Scientist, New South Wales Food Authority</p> <p>Craig is the Principal Food Safety Scientist with the New South Wales Food Authority and Department of Primary Industries, Australia’s only through-chain food safety agency. Craig has been with the NSW Food Authority since 2004 and has over 15 years experience in ensuring that outbreaks of foodborne disease and other food hazards are managed effectively to prevent harm to human health and limit damage to the food industry.</p> <p>Prior to joining the Food Authority, Craig was employed in 2001 in a scientific advisory role with the Commonwealth Department of Health, Food Safety and Surveillance Unit. In this role Craig was responsible for advice and development of food policy and regulation, as well as involvement in the operation of OzFoodNet, Australia’s national surveillance system for detection and investigation of foodborne disease outbreaks.</p> <p>Craig has a BSc Hons (1998) and PhD in Food Microbiology (2004) from the University of Tasmania, specialising in survival and inactivation of E. coli under different environmental conditions.</p>
	<p>Ms Veronica Polegubic - Manager, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement, Food Standards Australia New Zealand</p> <p>Veronica is the Communication and Stakeholder Engagement Manager at Food Standards Australia New Zealand. In this role, Veronica has responsibility for driving FSANZ’s communication and engagement capability, including reputation and brand management, stakeholder engagement, digital media and corporate publications. She has over 20 years’ experience in corporate communication roles within large Federal government departments, specialising in strategic communication, public education campaigns and transformational change initiatives. Prior to joining FSANZ, Veronica worked as a communication consultant providing strategic advice on a range of community engagement projects for federal and local government.</p>



Dr Belle Yan – Scientific Affairs Manager – Industry Microbiology (ASEAN & South Asia), bioMérieux

Belle is the Scientific Affairs Manager for ASEAN and South Asia in bioMérieux Industrial Microbiology. In her current role, Belle supports the scientific education of microbiological related food safe and quality, scientific marketing of bioMérieux products & solutions, and scientific affairs of bioMérieux Industrial Microbiology in ASEAN & South Asia.

Before joining bioMérieux, Belle worked at Cargill as the Asia Pacific Regional Microbiologist, where she oversaw internal and external microbiology laboratories, supported the microbiological safety and quality of manufacturing processes and finish products in the Asia Pacific region.

Belle holds a PhD in Food Microbiology from University College Dublin in Ireland. She has over 10 years of academic and industry experiences in food microbiology. During her academic years, her research focus was on the adaptation of *Cronobacter* species in low moisture environments, such as the powdered infant formula production environments. She used many sequence technologies to conduct her research projects, including Sanger sequencing, short-gun genome sequencing, DNA microarray, wgMLST, RNA sequencing and transposon directed insertion site sequencing (also known as TraDIS).

With her food industry experiences, Belle is able to think from a different perspective on the application of next generation sequence technology and how it can bring values to food industry.



Mr Glen Neal – General Manager, Risk Management & Intelligence, Food Standards Australia New Zealand

Glen is responsible for the risk management and intelligence functions associated with developing food standards. This includes labelling, contaminants, composition, additives and foods requiring preapproval such as novel foods, public health nutrition standards, and the economics and social science inputs to standards development.

Glen's background is in public health; he has held a range of leadership positions within New Zealand's central government food and biosecurity authorities, such as Ministry for Primary Industries, and project managed the establishment of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZSFA).

Glen is the senior FSANZ representative in New Zealand and is responsible for managing its relationships with consumers, industry, government (MPI in particular) and other stakeholders in New Zealand.

Glen thinks that the mega trends of increasing integration of global food supplies, emerging risks, increased attention on foods role in public health and tightening public sector budgets are strong forces that drive the need for increased collaboration, agility and creativity.



Mr Joe Lederman – Co-Principal & Exec Chair, FoodLegal (Lawyers & Compliance Risk Advisors)

Joe is the founder and Managing Principal of **FOODLEGAL**, which is a well-known law firm specialising in food regulatory standards. Joe was a co-founder of the global Food Lawyers' Network inaugurated in 2005. He and his FOODLEGAL team now advise many of the world's leading food brands and supermarkets; he has presented numerous papers on important food law issues, including : areas of food regulatory and therapeutic regulatory interface; regulatory issues pertaining to food traceability and other supply chain issues; and development of new IT platforms and applications, and developing suitable legal policy frameworks for new food industry technologies and for improving food quality and product integrity.



Dr Steve Musser – Deputy Center Director – Scientific Operations, Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, US FDA

Steve is the Deputy Center Director for Scientific Operations at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN). In addition to managing the Center's scientific operations, he oversees the Center's activities in cosmetics safety, color certification, pre-market review of food additives, food contact notifications and foods derived from bioengineered plants. He has directed the Center's research in precedent setting areas of food and cosmetic safety research, which include food allergen detection, methods for detecting chemical contaminants, dietary supplement analysis, and the use of whole genome sequencing during foodborne illness outbreak investigations. He has authored or co-authored more than 90 articles in the peer reviewed scientific literature and regularly speaks on CFSAN's research at national and international scientific meetings. Dr. Musser received his B.S. degree in Biology from Millersville University, his Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from the University of Maryland-Baltimore, and completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute. He started his career at FDA in 1991 as a research chemist, moving into regulatory science management six years later as the Chief of the Instrumentation and Biophysics Branch. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Musser was the Director of the Office of Regulatory Science at CFSAN.



Dr Philip Wescombe - R&D Manager, Yili Innovation Centre Oceania, NZ

Philip is the Manager of the Yili Innovation Centre Oceania in New Zealand which is located on the Lincoln University Campus. He obtained his PhD in Microbiology from the University of Otago and joined BLIS Technologies Limited for 14 years focusing on the development and commercialisation of bacteriocin-producing probiotics specifically for application in the oral cavity. During his time at BLIS Technologies he was involved at various times across all the scientific, manufacturing and regulatory activities of the Company required to bring the probiotics to market. While much of his work has been industry related he has published a number of peer-reviewed publications relating to safety and efficacy of probiotics highlighting a willingness to collaborate closely with the academic community and share results.

Since joining Yili Group and their subsidiary Company Oceania Dairy Limited in 2015, he has managed the Yili Innovation Centre Oceania as part of the global strategy of Yili to access international expertise and continually improve both the Science behind Yili's product offerings and the internal capability that has underpinned the Company's success to date.