
Speakers biographies



Connell Foley **Concern Worldwide**

Connell Foley is currently Director of Strategy, Advocacy and Learning at Concern Worldwide.

He is responsible for the key functions of programme policy and strategy, programme quality, technical support, research, learning and innovation as well as global advocacy. Concern's international advocacy is focused primarily on hunger (especially nutrition and community resilience) and humanitarian reform. Leading organisational strategy, he has spearheaded the drive for results and

evidence and led the development of an action-research portfolio of programmes.

He has visited over twenty developing countries in Africa and Asia providing technical assistance. He has been a support manager and technical adviser specialising in issues of programme quality, livelihoods, community development, partnership, capacity building, civil society and organisational learning.

Previously, he worked for six years in Cambodia with a variety of organisations: UN, Irish Government and an American NGO.



Delia Grace **International Livestock Research Institute**

Delia Grace is an epidemiologist and veterinarian with more than 20 years experience in developing countries. She graduated from several leading universities and currently leads research on zoonoses and foodborne disease at the International Livestock Research Institute based in Nairobi, Kenya. Her research interests include food safety, emerging diseases, gender studies, and animal welfare. Her career has spanned the private sector, field-level community development and aid management, as well as research. She has lived

and worked in Asia, west and east Africa and authored or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications as well as training courses, briefs, films, articles and blog posts. In 2017, she was in the top five of women scientists in Kenya, in terms of citations.

Her research program focuses on the design and promotion of risk-based approaches to food safety in livestock products in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. She is also a key player on ILRI's Ecohealth/ One health approach to the control of zoonotic emerging infectious diseases and agriculture-associated antimicrobial resistance.



Dr. Monica Gorman **School of Agriculture and Food Science**

Dr. Monica Gorman is lecturer in Agricultural Extension and Innovation in the School of Agriculture and Food Science since September 2013. From a farming background in Co Wicklow, Dr Gorman has

held senior management roles for a range of organisations in Ireland and in Africa including Oxfam, Self Help Africa, APSO, IUCN, Irish Aid and Concern Worldwide. She has done extensive consultancy work for a range of clients in the area of rural development, adult education, communications and organisational change management.



**Andrew Doyle T.D.
Minister of State at the
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**

Andrew Doyle TD was appointed as a Minister of State at Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 19 May 2016.

He was first elected to represent Wicklow-East Carlow in 1997 and was a member of Wicklow County Council from 1999-2007. During his career as a TD he has served as Fine Gael's spokesperson for Agriculture.

In 2011 he was appointed Chairman of the Oireachtas Joint Committee

on Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This role gave Andrew an invaluable insight into the many issues and challenges facing the Irish agriculture sector.

From a farming background, Andrew Doyle TD has brought practical experience to the various roles he has held and has continually highlighted the important role that the indigenous agricultural, food, marine, forestry and horticulture industries can play in Ireland's economic recovery.

He is a recipient of the Stephen Cullinane scholarship from Macra na Feirme spending a year on work experience in New Zealand.



**Dr. Kaye Burgess
Teagasc**

Dr. Kaye Burgess is a senior research officer, in the Food Safety Department at Teagasc Food Research Centre, Ashtown, Dublin. She is a molecular microbiologist whose research focuses on understanding the behaviour and virulence of foodborne bacterial pathogens along the farm to fork chain. She has a particular interest in the movement of foodborne

pathogens and antimicrobial resistance through the primary production chain and their response to the environments they encounter. She currently coordinates a number of Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Teagasc funded projects and is a work group leader on the EU FP7 project Aquavalens which aims to provide new tools to ensure and enhance the safety of drinking water and that used in the food processing industry.



**David A. Governey
Africa Rice,
Gorta-Self Help Africa**

David Governey is an internationally experienced financial and operations professional, and a Chartered Accountant . From 1989 to 2014, he served as Director of Finance /Chief Operating Officer in three CGIAR Institutes.

David was Director of Finance and Administration at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington from November 2001 to December 2014.

Between 1996 and 2001, David was Director of Finance/ Chief Operating Officer at the International

Water Management Institute (IWMI) headquartered in Sri Lanka.

From 1989 to January 1996, he was Director of Finance at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), headquartered in Nigeria.

Prior to his CGIAR career, David was with Pricewaterhouse Dublin for nine years.

David was a nonexecutive Director of the Association of International Agricultural Research Centers (AIARC) from 2007 to 2014. He is currently a Trustee of Africa Rice, and the Gorta-Self Help Africa Group.



Paul Wagstaff
Gorta-Self Help Africa

Paul Wagstaff is the Senior Agricultural Advisor for Gorta-Self Help Africa where he is responsible for supporting agriculture and livestock development projects in 8 countries in Africa. Paul's current work includes maximising the nutritional benefits of animal husbandry while minimising the risks of zoonosis transmission in G-SHA's nutrition-sensitive agriculture projects.

Before joining G-SHA Paul was an agriculture advisor with Concern Worldwide, working on Climate Smart Agriculture, Conservation

Agriculture, agriculture and nutrition, crop protection, soil and water conservation, and rodent control in 25 countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean. While working for Concern he provided technical support to the CRAM project in Chad on the interactions between agriculture, livestock, climate change and child nutrition, which triggered his interest in the One Health debate.

Paul has a MSc in Tropical Agroforestry, lived in East Africa and Nepal and has worked for a range of National Governments, the EU and development NGOs.



Prof. Charles Spillane
NUI Galway
IFIAD Vice Chair

Prof. Charles Spillane is Established Professor (Chair) of Plant Science and Head of the multi-disciplinary Plant & AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) at the National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland. Prof. Spillane holds a degree from Dublin City University and a PhD in crop genetics from Trinity College Dublin. Following his PhD, Prof Spillane subsequently worked on genetics of potatoes, tobacco and crop viruses in the Sainsbury Laboratory at the John Innes Center, Norwich, UK. Prof Spillane has over 30 years of experience in the agricultural research for development arena, having worked at the at the scientific/technical level and also at the international policy level. During the 1990s, Prof Spillane was based in Rome working on agricultural research for development for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and also for members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR: IPGRI & CIAT). During this period Prof. Spillane worked extensively on provision of technical and policy advice for the inter-governmental political negotiations leading to the 2001 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. From 1998 onwards

Prof Spillane worked on crop genetics in leading-edge crop and agricultural research centres globally such as Cold Spring Harbor Labs (CSHL), New York; The Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, Switzerland and the Institute of Plant Biology, University of Zurich, Switzerland. Prof Spillane returned to Ireland (to University College Cork) in 2003 as an SFI Principal Investigator, and moved his research team to NUI Galway in 2010. In NUI Galway, Prof. Spillane has spearheaded the establishment of the multi-disciplinary Plant & AgriBiosciences Research Centre (PABC) which has over 30 inter-disciplinary research teams comprising over 100 full time researchers and PhD students conducting advanced agri-research. The inter-disciplinary PABC collaborates closely with a range of CGIAR institutes (e.g. CIAT, ICRISAT, IITA, CIP etc) and other development partners with research on crops, livestock, nutrition, soils, climate change, gender and policy analysis underway in a range of developing countries. Prof. Spillane is the Director of the MSc in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (MScCCAFS) program established by the NUI Galway PABC in close collaboration with the CGIAR's global CCAFS program. Prof. Spillane is the Vice-Chair of the Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development (IFIAD). Website: www.plantagbiosciences.org



Prof. Stephen Gordon
UCD School of Veterinary
Medicine

Prof. Stephen Gordon obtained a B.Sc. (Hons.) Microbiology degree in 1990 from University College Galway, and his Ph.D. from the University of Leicester, UK in 1995 on mycobacterial genetics. He undertook postdoctoral studies at the Institute Pasteur, France (1995-99) as a Wellcome Trust Travelling Fellow before moving to the Veterinary Laboratories Agency Weybridge, UK in 1999 to lead the TB Molecular Microbiology team. He took up the position of Professor of Infection Biology at UCD in Jan 2008, and he is currently the Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Impact in the UCD

School of Veterinary Medicine. Prof. Gordon's research focus is tuberculosis (TB) in animals and humans and Paratuberculosis in cattle. This research involves a range of "omics" technologies, including pathogen genome sequencing, transcriptomics, and proteomics. Current research includes describing the molecular basis for the differential virulence of the human TB pathogen *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and the animal tubercle bacillus *Mycobacterium bovis*; defining the bovine alveolar macrophage response to infection; characterising pathogen effector molecules as immune modulators; and developing new diagnostic approaches for mycobacterial infection.

