

# Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment

## Biographies and register of interests of ACRE members

November 2022

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## **Professor Jim Dunwell – Chair**

**University of Reading**

**Expertise: plant biotechnology**

Jim Dunwell is Professor of Plant Biotechnology in the School of Agriculture, Policy, and Development at the University of Reading. He has expertise in plant cell biology and molecular 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. Jim was appointed as Chair in January 2020; his appointment will end January 2023.

## **Dr Kathy Bamford**

**Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust**

**Expertise: medical microbiology and human infection**

Kathy Bamford is a consultant medical microbiologist. Initially trained in Belfast she spent 8 years as academic clinician at Queen's Belfast and the Royal Hospitals with a sabbatical year in the mucosal immunology dept. of University of Texas medical branch at Galveston. She then moved to the Hammersmith Hospital and Imperial college and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust with a 3-year term as Head of Specialty for Infection and 2 years as Deputy Director of Infection prevention and control. Kathy spent a year at The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS trust and is now a consultant medical microbiologist at The Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro. Her expertise is in the aetiology, diagnosis, and management of human infection with clinical and research interests in antibiotic resistance and stewardship, the immunopathology of infection, as well as the control prevention and management of infection. She is a Fellow of The Royal College of Pathologists.

## **Professor Peter Lund**

**University of Birmingham**

**Expertise: molecular biology, genomics, systems biology, synthetic biology**

Peter Lund is Emeritus Professor of Molecular Microbiology in the School of Biosciences and Institute of Microbiology and Infection at the University of Birmingham. His research is in the area of bacterial stress responses, using methods from biophysics to large scale post-genomic data analysis to understand the ways in which organisms perceive and respond to stress. Particular areas of interest are bacterial responses to low pH, responses of pathogens to stresses in the human gut, the mechanisms and roles of molecular chaperones, and the evolution and engineering of stress resistance. Before his appointment at Birmingham, he did research in agricultural biotechnology in the USA, working on introducing traits such as fungal resistance and frost protection into plants. He has a long-standing interest in the application of molecular biology methods in agriculture and food. He was a member of the Food Ethics Council from 1999 to 2008\* and of the

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes from 2001 to 2007 and is also a member of the HSE's Safety Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification. He is an editor for Applied and Environmental Microbiology, co-author of a textbook on gene cloning, and leads an EU COST Action on low pH stress in micro-organisms. Peter was first appointed to ACRE on 1 October 2014 and this term runs until 30 September 2024.

## **Professor Andy Peters**

Andrew Peters is Professor of Tropical Veterinary Medicine at Edinburgh University and Director of SEBI-livestock, Centre for Evidence based Interventions, which focuses on improving data on livestock health and productivity in low and middle-income countries. He has long experience in development and regulation of veterinary vaccines and also works as an independent consultant in this field. He is a member of several public committees and charity trusts both in the UK and internationally. He is a veterinarian with PhD and DSc degrees in animal science. He has published some 160 scientific papers and two books.

## **Dr Ben Raymond**

**University of Exeter**

**Expertise: microbiology and entomology**

Ben Raymond is Associate Professor of Microbiology and Entomology at the University of Exeter. His research specialises in the evolution and ecology of microbes and biocontrol agents with a focus on the evolution of resistance to biopesticides and antibiotics. He is an expert on the biology and ecology of the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*, the organism that is the main source of the key active ingredients for genetically modified insect resistant crops. Following a PhD in Evolutionary Biology and Entomology at the University of York Ben moved to the Centre of Ecology and Hydrology, Oxford to work on insect pathogens before working at Imperial College and taking up a NERC fellowship at Oxford. He has been a Lecturer and Senior Lecturer posts at Royal Holloway and Imperial College.

He is member of Royal Entomological Society, the Microbiology Society, and the Society for Invertebrate Pathology. Ben has current research funding from Bayer Crop Science and a BBSRC industrial partnership award with Corteva Agriscience and PhD funding from the Agricultural and Horticultural Development Board, all these projects are exploring ways of increasing the killing power of insect pathogens via artificial selection in the laboratory. Other current research interests include exploring the biology of *B. thuringiensis* and identifying bacteriophage that can be used in antibiotic resistance management and a collaboration with social scientists that is exploring risk assessment frameworks for gene drive technologies in mosquitoes (funded by the British Academy). Ben was appointed to ACRE in on 8 March 2016 and his term runs until 7 March 2023.

## **Dr Andrew Wilcox**

**Agriculture and Environment Department, Harper Adams University, Harper Adams University**

### **Expertise: sustainable agriculture and agricultural ecology**

Andy Wilcox is head of the Agriculture and Environment Department at Harper Adams University. He originally trained as a plant ecologist and over the last 27 years has developed expertise in both sustainable agriculture and also the application of new technologies within agricultural systems. In his current role at Harper Adams University, he is responsible for directing curriculum content and delivery with specific reference to sustainable agriculture and land use. He also facilitates the Department's research and knowledge transfer within this area. Andy's personal research interests include the conservation of farmland biodiversity and the application Agri-Tech within sustainable land use systems. Andy was first appointed to ACRE on 8 March 2016 and this term runs until 7 March 2023.

## **ACRE members' interests**

ACRE members are required to declare their interests to identify areas that might conflict with the business of the Committee. ACRE has open and transparent working practices to deal with the infrequent conflicts of interest that do arise. Members' interests are outlined below. They include things such as involvement in companies, partnerships, trusts or other bodies of which the member is the paid employee, partner, or proprietor; directorships of companies; membership of local authorities, health authorities and trusts, training and enterprise councils, and the Magistrate's bench; and where they might be affected by the work and advice of the body.

## **Professor Jim Dunwell**

Commercial interests:

- Syngenta – pension

Non-commercial interests:

- University of Reading – employee
- Cocoa Research UK – funding for research
- University of Manchester – external examiner

Partner's interests:

- None.

## **Dr Kathy Bamford**

### Commercial interests:

- Pfizer, Pharmacia, Wyeth, Gilead, Baxter, Bayer, Astellas – advisory boards, expert panel, review
- Pharmacia, Baxter – research funding (investigator lead)

### Non-commercial interests:

- Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust – employee
- Royal College of Pathologists – examiner, member of national quality assurance advisory panels for microbiology
- UK-CRC, Wrexham GI Society, HHTRC – research funding
- Society for general microbiology – member, representative on national quality assurance advisory panels for microbiology
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust – employee
- Imperial College – visiting Professor
- NIHR HTA – panel member

### Partner's interests:

- None.

## **Professor Peter Lund**

### Non-commercial interests:

- University of Birmingham – employee
- Darwin Trust – funding for research
- National University of Ireland – external examiner

### Partner's interests:

- None.

## **Professor Andy Peters**

### Commercial interests:

- Pfizer inc. – pension
- Ceva – consultant
- Arpexas Ltd., Arpexas (Scotland) Ltd – director

Non-commercial interests:

- University of Edinburgh – visiting Professor

Partner's interests:

- None.

## **Dr Ben Raymond**

Non-commercial interests:

- Oxitec – Co-investigator in prior BBSRC LINK grant
- BBSRC Industrial Partnership with Corteva Agriscience (a division of DowDuPont) – funding for research
- UKRI – peer review college member
- Bayer Crop Science – funding for research
- Koppert Biological Systems – research collaboration (in kind support only)

Partner's interests:

- None.

## **Dr Andrew Willcox**

Commercial interests:

- None.

Non-commercial interests:

- Harper Adams University – employee

Partner's interests:

- None.