

## UK Nutrition and Health Claims Committee - appointment of members

Public Health England has announced the appointment of 8 independent experts to the newly-established UK Nutrition and Health Claims Committee (UKNHCC).

Following the end of the transition period (1 January 2021), the UKNHCC will replace the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Panel on Nutrition, Novel Foods and Food Allergens (NDA) in providing evidence-based scientific opinions to the UK government on any new nutrition and health claims made within England, Scotland, and Wales (Great Britain). Decisions on whether to accept or reject nutrition and health claims will lie with the UK government and Devolved Administrations, taking into account the scientific opinion from the UKNHCC. The UKNHCC will help protect the public from misleading food marketing by ensuring that the scientific basis underpinning new nutrition and health claims made in Great Britain will continue to be of the highest standard.

Read more about the [UKNHCC](#).

The members of the UKNHCC are:

**Professor Sue Fairweather-Tait (Chair)**, Professor of Human Nutrition, Norwich Medical School, the University of East Anglia.

Professor of Human Nutrition, Norwich Medical School, the University of East Anglia. Her main research interests are mineral metabolism and requirements, in particular iron, and she has published extensively in this field. She has served on a number of national and international advisory committees, including the COMA Panel on Dietary Reference Values, the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition Iron Working Group, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Panel on Nutrition (NDA), the EFSA Health Claims Working Group, and the US NAS Committee on Harmonization of Methods for Estimating Nutrient Intake References. She is currently a member of the Scientific Advisory Group for the New Nordic Nutrition Recommendations (2019 to 2022), the Technical Advisory Group for Global Anaemia Exemplars funded by the Gates Foundation (2020 to 2022), the UK Food Standards Agency Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (2020 to 2023), the Big C Research Advisory Panel, and chair of the FAO/WHO expert group on nutrient requirements for children aged zero to 36 months. She was elected a Fellow of the American Society for Nutrition in 2017.

**Dr Robert Boyle**, Clinical Reader in Paediatric Allergy at Imperial College London, and Associate Professor of Evidence-Based Dermatology at the University of Nottingham.

His clinical trial and evidence synthesis work investigates ways to prevent the development of allergic conditions, using nutritional and non-nutritional interventions during pregnancy or the first year of life, and research integrity in the field of infant nutrition. He works for

Cochrane as Senior Editor of the Children and Families Network and Joint Coordinating Editor of Cochrane Skin.

**Professor Judy Buttriss**, Director General of the British Nutrition Foundation.

She is a public health nutritionist, specialising in nutrition science communication and provision of targeted advice on the application of science to underpin nutrition strategies. She has longstanding links with several universities and in 2018 she was awarded an Honorary Fellowship by the Nutrition Society and is a Fellow and past trustee of the Association for Nutrition. Since 2019 she has been a Trustee of the Academy of Nutrition Sciences. She has contributed to the work of a number of government committees, most recently the Family Food Survey user group and committees concerning nutrient profiling, school food standards and the Eatwell Guide. She chairs BBSRC's DRINC Steering Group and is a member of MRC's UK Nutrition Research Partnership committee. She has first-hand experience of a number of food issues and their interaction with public health. She has written numerous reviews, articles and book chapters on a wide range of diet and health topics, as diverse as health claims, plant foods and health, child nutrition, healthy ageing, and environmentally sustainable diets.

**Dr Francesca Crowe**, Research Fellow at the Institute of Applied Health Research at the University of Birmingham.

Research Fellow at the Institute of Applied Health Research at the University of Birmingham. Most of her research focusses on the associations of the intake of certain foods and nutrients with the risk of developing diseases such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and digestive diseases in large prospective cohort studies. She also has an interest in the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease. She has authored over 100 peer-reviewed manuscripts to date in the field of epidemiology. Francesca also has an interest in nutrition and health claims and has spent time as a civil servant in New Zealand where her main role was to evaluate systematic reviews that have been provided by NZ food industry to make a self-substantiated health claims on foods.

**Professor Alison Gallagher**, Professor of Public Health Nutrition and Head of Doctoral College at Ulster University.

Professor of Public Health Nutrition and Head of Doctoral College at Ulster University. Her research interests resonate within the area of obesity and include development of risk factors for disease, low-energy/non-nutritive sweeteners and their potential impact on health, physical activity and health (including implementation of lifestyle interventions at key stages across the lifecycle). She also has a long-standing research interest in the effects of plants and plant components, particularly relating to glycaemic control and health. A Registered Nutritionist (Public Health) and the first Fellow of the Association of Nutrition (FAfN) on the island of Ireland, she is an active member of the UK/Ireland Nutrition Society and was Honorary Programmes Secretary for UK Nutrition Society from 2010-2017. She co-Chaired the Scientific Committee for the Federation of Nutritional Sciences (FENS) 13th European Nutrition Conference ([www.fens2019.org](http://www.fens2019.org)) held in Dublin, 15 to 18 October 2019. She is co-editor of the Nutrition Society text book Introduction to Human Nutrition (3rd

edition). She is a passionate advocate for the European Nutrition Leadership Platform (ENLP), having first participated in the ENLP seminars in 1997 and being involved with this international leadership programme ever since, being the current Chair/President of the ENLP Board and co-Director of the ENLP Essentials seminar ([www.enlp.eu.com](http://www.enlp.eu.com)).

**Professor Marina Heinonen**, Professor of Food Safety (Chemical Food Safety) at the University of Helsinki, Finland and Head of the Department of Food and Nutrition.

Previously she has held a position as Professor of Functional Foods (2002 to 2007). Her main interests involve reactions in foods such as oxidation, food compositional analyses, and functional properties of plant phenolics. In 2007 to 2012 she has been a member of the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment at the Academy of Finland. She is serving as an evaluator for research grants at the European Research Council since 2017 and earlier also in 2010-2015. She is a scientific expert member at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) since 2004 including past membership of the ANS Panel (2004 to 2006) and NDA Panel (2006 to 2009, 2012 to 2018) and its working group on health claims (2007 to 2018). At present she is a member of the EFSA working group of novel foods (since 2006) currently also including evaluation of safety of nutrient sources.

**Emeritus Professor Harry McArdle**, Deputy Director of the Rowett Research Institute, University of Aberdeen, until his recent retirement.

He is now emeritus professor of Biomedical Sciences, University of Aberdeen, and Honorary Professor, University of Nottingham. He is a Registered Nutritionist (Nutritional Sciences) and a Fellow of the Royal Societies of Biology and of Medicine. He is a Member and Vice-Chair of the EFSA NDA Panel and the Novel Foods Working Group and has served on other committees and working groups including EFSA DRV panel, EFSA Health Claims working group, SACN, BBSRC and ACNFP. He is also currently Chair of Trustees of the Academy of Nutrition Sciences.

**Emeritus Professor Anders Sjödén**, Medical doctor and emeritus professor of obesity research, Department of Nutrition, Exercise, and Sports, Copenhagen University, Denmark.

His main research interests are related to prevention and treatment of obesity. This includes control of appetite and regulation of body weight, energy and substrate metabolism. He has also a background in sport nutrition and exercise physiology. Between 2012 and 2018 he served as a member of the Panel on Dietetic products, Nutrition and Allergies (NDA) as well as in several working groups, including the Working Group on Health Claims, for the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

### **Note to Editors**

The recruitment process for membership of the UKNHCC was open and transparent and the role was advertised on GOV.UK from 8th November to 31st December 2018. Members are required to have a strong understanding of the public health aspects of their area of expertise as well as a track record of significant achievement and personal effectiveness in one or more of the specialist areas.

Four of the experts appointed to the UKNHCC have previous experience of evaluating health claim applications on EFSA's NDA claims working groups.

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