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CC/2022/02

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Follow up to horizon scanning – March 2022

Introduction

1. This paper presents the regular follow up to the last full horizon scanning held in November 2021 outlining the topics identified during that discussion and an update on topics being considered by IARC and the EU Scientific Committees.

Topics from COC horizon scanning 2021

2. Below are the topics already on the list and discussed at the horizon scan in November 2021:

- Maintain a watching brief on factors affecting cancer susceptibility including shift work, stress and other lifestyle factors and how that might affect assessment of chemicals and carcinogenicity
  - This will be discussed at the joint COC-COM meeting on 2nd March 2022
- Consider an update to guidance on assessment of nanomaterials, possibly as a joint activity across COC, COM and COT
  - Recent COM guidance on nanomaterials is on the agenda for the joint COC-COM meeting on 2nd March
- Gain awareness of the potential effects of antibiotics and antivirals on the microbiome
- Consider a joint discussion with COM on thresholds for in vivo mutagens and whether there is new information subsequent to the 2010 COM opinion
- Endocrine disruption and the link with carcinogenicity, acknowledging that endocrine disruption is also a COT remit
- Impact of chemicals on potential for metastasis or progression of cancer, in particular with respect to the Hallmarks of Cancer and linking to the tumour microenvironment topic

- Communication of cancer risk and how COC should be involved with this, especially with the move away from a yes/no decision on whether a substance is a carcinogen, and ensuring consistency in describing risks, possibly starting with a landscape review of terminology across a number of Committees (FSA and UKHSA) and led by Lay Members
- Ensuring appropriate considerations are made to acknowledging diversity in the population especially where there might be differences in risk between different groups

Joint horizon scanning topics

3. On 24th -25th November 2020, the COC and COM held a joint meeting to which COT members were also invited, and one of the discussion items was joint horizon scanning. From this discussion, the following topics were agreed and the Secretariats will consider how to progress these either as joint topics or which Committee might lead on these:

- Use of toxicogenomics/omics technologies in toxicity testing
- PBPK modelling – a COT workshop was held in December 2020.
- Next generation sequencing
- Further exploration of microplastics/microparticles and their composition – also linking with COMEAP
- Development of a dynamic cancer risk model, including consideration that pre-cancer effects are assessed as 'general' toxicity pathways, and other influencers on cancer/toxicity risk (e.g. shift work)
- Knowledge sharing across the three Committees, including impacts of EU Exit
- Consideration of uncertainty, use of uncertainty factors and margins of exposure – noting this also links with other activities.

COM and COT horizon scanning topics

4. The Committee has previously requested sight of the COM and COT horizon scanning activities. COT discussed horizon scanning in February 2022 and the paper is attached in Annex A (the minutes are not yet available).

Work following EU Exit and Transition

5. The Committee has asked to be kept up to date on relevant activities following EU Exit and the end of the transition period. An update on these aspects will be given at the joint COC-COM workshop on 2nd March 2022.

Update on activities of UK Scientific Committees and Groups

6. An update on work undertaken by the FSA Joint Expert Groups and the OPSS Scientific Advisory Group for Chemical Safety of Non-Food and Non-Medicinal Consumer Products has been prepared for the joint COC-COM meeting on 2nd March. In addition, an update on other FSA Scientific Advisory Committees is provided to COT. All these papers are attached in Annex B.

Upcoming IARC meetings

7. IARC have three upcoming meetings on their website with respect to the Monograph series (https://monographs.iarc.who.int/iarc-monographs-meetings/):

- Meeting 131 (8-15 March 2022) is on:
  - Cobalt Metal (CAS No. 7440-48-4) (without Tungsten Carbide or other metal alloys) and Cobalt (II) Salts
  - Trivalent and Pentavalent Antimony
  - Weapons-Grade Tungsten (with Nickel and Cobalt) Alloy (CAS No. None)
- Meeting 132 (7-14 June 2022) is on:
  - Occupational Exposure as a Firefighter
- Meeting 133 (28 February-7 March 2023) is on:
  - Anthracene (CAS No. 120-12-7)
  - 2-Bromopropane (CAS No. 75-26-3)
  - Butyl methacrylate (CAS No. 97-88-1)
  - Dimethyl hydrogen phosphite (CAS No. 868-85-9)

8. IARC also have a workshop jointly with the National Cancer Institute on "Epidemiological bias assessment in cancer hazard identification" on 17-22 October 2022.

Upcoming EU Scientific Committee topics

9. There have been no EU Scientific Committee on Consumer Safety (SCCS) meetings since November 2021; the next meeting will be on 15-16/03/2022. SCCS has working groups on:

- Cosmetic Ingredients (last meeting 08-09/02/2022), and
- Nanomaterials in Cosmetic Products (last meeting 04/02/2022)

10. There have been no EU Scientific Committee on Health, Environmental and Emerging Risks (SCHEER) Plenary meetings since November 2021; the next meeting will be on 25/03/2022. SCHEER has working groups on:

- Electromagnetic fields (EMF) (last meeting 18/01/2022)

11. The European Food Safety Authority has a substantial body of work across its Scientific Committee and Panels. More detail is available here: https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/science/scientific-committee-and-panels. EFSA currently has open consultations on a number of substances, and also on methodological questions. The full list of open consultations is here: https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation and expected upcoming consultations are here: https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation?PublicConsultation2__c-filterId=00B1v000009eNnNEAU.

12. EFSA currently has a consultation on use of the benchmark dose approach in risk assessment: https://connect.efsa.europa.eu/RM/s/publicconsultation2/a0l7U0000011Q1H/pc0135 that is likely to be of interest to the COC.

Balance of expertise and membership of COM and COT

13. The balance of expertise required by the Committee, as confirmed and amended at the last horizon scan in 2021, is provided in Annex C. It is not anticipated that individual members are required for each aspect of expertise as some people would have a combination of the required skills. Additional key experts can also be invited to attend meetings for specific topics to supplement missing knowledge within the Committee.

14. At the last COC meeting, a request was also made for the membership lists for COM and COC. These are attached in Annex D.

Questions for the Committee

15. Members are asked to consider the list of topics from 2021 and other aspects summarised and in particular:

    a. Are there any additional topics of interest or importance which the COC should consider for future horizon scanning?

Secretariat
February 2022

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CC/2022/02 Annex A

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Follow up to horizon scanning – March 2022

COT Horizon Scanning paper 2022 (TOX/2022/07)

Available: https://cot.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-01/TOX-2022-07.pdf

This paper is attached. It is not being made publicly available for copyright reasons but can be accessed via the link provided.

Secretariat
February 2022

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CC/2022/02 Annex B

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Follow up to horizon scanning – March 2022

Updates on activities of other Scientific Advisory Groups
FSA Joint Expert Groups (CC/MUT/2022/05)
OPSS Scientific Advisory Group (CC/MUT/2022/06)
Other FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (TOX/2022/09)

Secretariat
February 2022

2nd March 2022 – Joint COC and COM Meeting

Paper CC/MUT/2022/05

COMMITTEES ON CARCINOGENICITY AND MUTAGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COC and COM)

Update on the work of the FSA Joint Expert Groups – for information.

Introduction

1. Now that the UK has left the European Union, the authorisation of regulated products that would previously have been done by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is being done in the UK. Three Joint Expert Groups (JEGs) have been established by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to cover the authorisation of regulated products and these will be over seen by the COT and, where applicable, the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) who will provide challenge, comment and assurance of their work.

2. The three JEGs are

- AFFA JEG – the Joint Expert Group on Animal Feed and Feed Additives
- FCM JEG - the Joint Expert Group on Food Contact Materials
- AE JEG - the Joint Expert Group on Additives, Enzymes and other Regulated Products.

3. JEG Members are independent experts and have the range of expertise necessary to cover the scientific aspects of the dossiers. One of the aims was to ensure that the expertise was such that COC and COM would only need to become involved in regulated products where an issue was complex and specialist advice was required.

4. The FSA does not have the policy lead for all regulated products. Food supplements, infant formula and follow-on formula, and foods for special medical purposes are the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in England, FSA NI, Food Standards Scotland and the Welsh Government. The Nutrition Composition, Labelling and Standards Group represents the four nations in this area and may seek the advice of the COT, COC, COM or the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) on individual topics as needed.

Current work of the JEGs

5. The JEGs started work in January 2021 at the end of the transition period. Since that time, they have undertaken a number of activities

AFFA JEG

6. AFFA JEG have reviewed several applications for new authorisations, and renewals of authorisation for currently permitted feed additives. They are currently working on an application for the feed additive 3-nitrooxy propanol (3-NOP), a methane reducing additive.

FCM JEG

7. FCM JEG has reviewed several applications for plastic additives and recycling processes and is currently awaiting further information from the applicants. They are continuing to review the available dossiers and are providing input to policy colleagues on requirements for dossiers and guidance.

AE JEG

8. AE JEG have reviewed a number of extensions of use for currently permitted food additives. They are currently working on an application for the use of blue microalgae as a food additive and two Opinions for the extension of use of mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids and polyglycerol polyricinoleate.

Secretariat
February 2022

This is a background paper for discussion.
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2nd March 2022 – Joint COC and COM Meeting

Paper CC/MUT/2022/06

COMMITTEES ON CARCINOGENICITY AND MUTAGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COC and COM)

Update on the work of the OPSS Scientific Advisory Group on Chemical Safety of Non-Food and Non-Medicinal Consumer Products – for information

Attached at Annex A is an update on the work of the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) Scientific Advisory Group on Chemical Safety of Non-Food and Non-Medicinal Consumer Products (SAG-CS). The Annex is reserved as it refers to unpublished information.

Secretariat
February 2022

This is a background paper for discussion.
It does not reflect the views of the Committee and should not be cited.

2nd March 2022 – Joint COC and COM Meeting

Paper CC/MUT/2022/06 Annex A

COMMITTEES ON CARCINOGENICITY AND MUTAGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COC and COM)

Update on the work of the OPSS Scientific Advisory Group on Chemical Safety of Non-Food and Non-Medicinal Consumer Products – for information

Update on the work of the SAG-CS.

This paper is attached. As it contains information that has not yet been published, it is not being made publicly available. Once published, the Opinions of the SAG-CS can be accessed via its website: https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/scientific-advisory-group-on-chemical-safety-in-consumer-products

Secretariat
February 2022

This is a background paper for discussion.
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CC/2022/02 Annex C

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Follow up to horizon scanning – March 2022

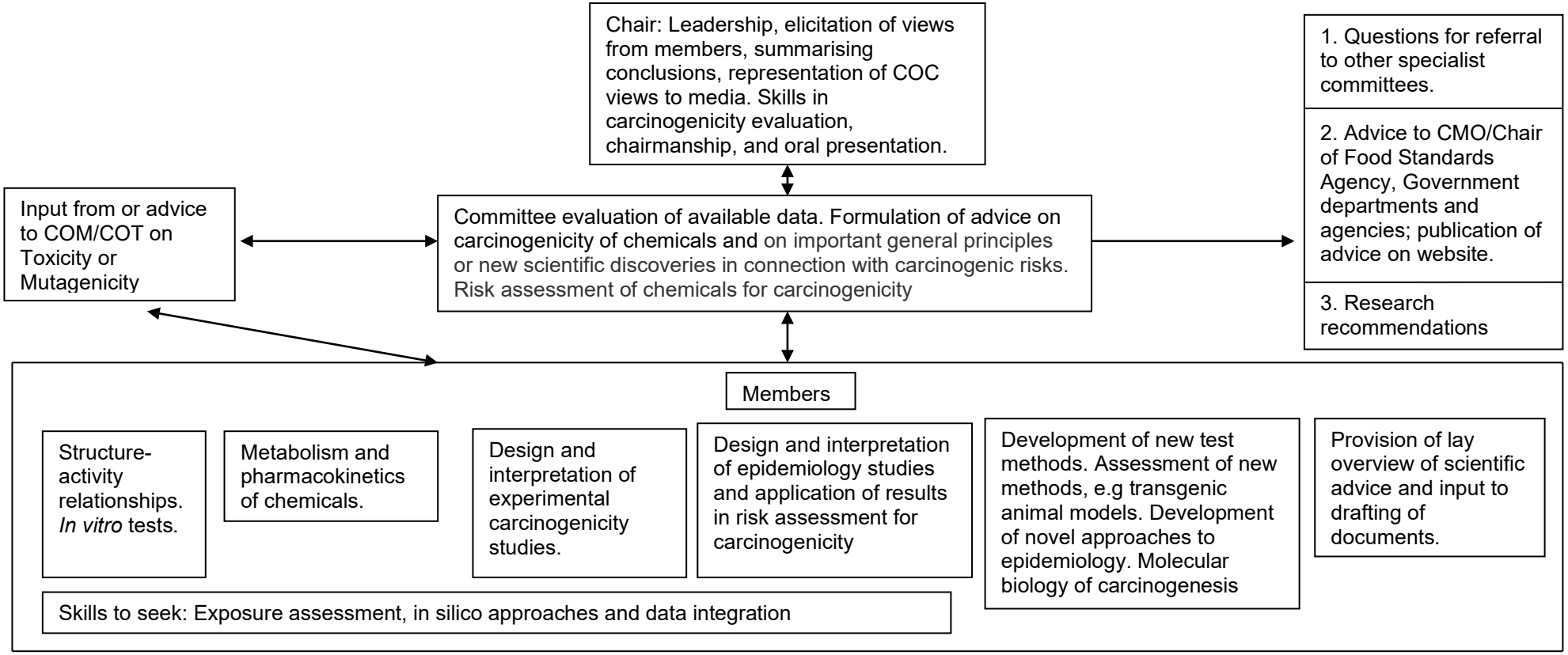
Balance of Expertise for COC – updated February 2022

Secretariat
February 2022

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Balance of Expertise on COC - 2022

The template is designed to show the skills and expertise required to deliver the business of the Committee. The complement of the COC is 11 members (9 specialists and 2 lay members), the Chair and the COM Chair in ex officio capacity.



The Committee aims to follow the guiding principles underpinning the humane use of animals in scientific research i.e. replacement, reduction and refinement (the 3Rs)

This is a background paper for discussion.
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CC/2022/02 Annex D

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Follow up to horizon scanning – March 2022

Membership lists for COM and COT

These are obtained from the COM and COT websites:
COM: https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment/about/membership
COT: https://cot.food.gov.uk/COTchair and https://cot.food.gov.uk/COTmembers

Secretariat
February 2022

Membership

Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-mutagenicity-of-chemicals-in-food-consumer-products-and-the-environment)

Current members are:

- Professor Gareth Jenkins, Chair (Professor of Molecular Carcinogenesis, Faculty of Health, Medicine and Life Science, Swansea University)
- Dr Carol Beevers (Managing Scientist, Exponent International Ltd)
- Dr Stephen Dean (Agenda Life Sciences)
- Professor Shareen Doak (Institute of Life Science, Swansea University Medical School)
- Professor David Harrison (Professor of Pathology, University of St. Andrews)
- Dr Andrew Povey (Reader in Molecular Epidemiology, University of Manchester)
- Mr Amit Bhagwat (Lay Member)
- Ms Madeleine Wang (Lay Member)
- Dr Paul Fowler (Fstox Consulting)
- Dr George Johnson (Associate Professor, Swansea University Medical School)
- Ms Julia Kenny (Scientific Director, GlaxoSmithKline)

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General

COT Chair

Last updated: 25 November 2020

Prof Alan Boobis OBE PhD CBiol FSB FBTS Emeritus Professor of Toxicology in the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London.

Professor Boobis was re-appointed chair of the Committee on Toxicity with effect from 1 April, 2018 for 3 years.

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General

Members of the COT

More information on COT members including declaration of interests.

Last updated: 24 January 2022

On this page

Dr Stella Cochrane

Dr Mac Provan

Dr Natalie Thatcher

Dr David Lovell

Dr Michael Routledge

Professor Gunter Kuhnle

Dr Cheryl Scudamore

Professor Maged Younes

Professor Gary Hutchison

Professor Mireille B. Toledano

Dr Phil Botham

Ms Jane Case

Dr. James Coulson BSc MBBCh Dip Med Tox Dip Therapeutics MD MRCP ERT

Dr Rene Crevel

Dr Caroline Harris PhD, CChem, FRSC

Dr Sarah Judge

Ms Juliet Rix

Professor Matthew Wright BSc PhD

Professor Philippe B Wilson

Emerita Professor Shirley Price

Dr Simon Wilkinson

Professor Þórhallur Ingi Halldórsson - HI

Dr Stella Cochrane

Dr Cochrane is currently Science Leader for Allergy and Immunology in Unilever's Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre and has over 20 years' experience working in academia and industry.

Her appointment expires in March 2022.

Dr Mac Provan

Dr Provan has over 30 years' experience in chemistry, biochemistry and toxicology with major companies (ICI, Zeneca and Syngenta) and is currently a Director of a "Safety Science Consultancy".

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Dr Natalie Thatcher

Dr Thatcher is currently works for Mondelēz International, where she provides risk assessment advice and guidance acute risk from contamination of, and safety for Mondelēz products.

Her appointment expires in March 2022.

Dr David Lovell

Dr Lovell is a Reader in Medical Statistics at St George's Medical School, University of London.

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Dr Michael Routledge

Dr Routledge is an Associate Professor of Environmental Toxicology in the School of Medicine at Leeds.

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Professor Gunter Kuhnle

Professor Kuhnle is an Associate Professor in Nutrition and Health at the University of Reading.

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Dr Cheryl Scudamore

Dr Scudamore is a RCVS Specialist in Veterinary Pathology (laboratory animals) working as independent consultant in experimental and toxicological pathology.

Her appointment expires in March 2022.

Professor Maged Younes

Prof Younes is has an MSc and PhD in Biochemistry and Physiological Chemistry from the University of Tübingen, and a DSc in Toxicology and Biochemical Pharmacology from the Medical University of Lübeck, both Germany.

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Professor Gary Hutchison

Professor Hutchison is Dean of Applied Sciences and Professor of Toxicology at Edinburgh Napier University.

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Professor Mireille B. Toledano

Prof Toledano is the Marit Mohn Chair in Perinatal & Paediatric Environmental Epidemiology Imperial College London.

Her appointment expires in March 2021.

Dr Phil Botham

Dr Botham is a Principal Science Advisor (part time), also acts as an independent consultant (part time).

His appointment expires in March 2023.

Ms Jane Case

Ms Case is a Lay Member.

Her appointment expires in March 2023.

Dr. James Coulson BSc MBBCh Dip Med Tox Dip Therapeutics MD MRCP ERT

Dr Coulson Clinical Senior Lecturer at Cardiff University.

His appointment expires in March 2021.

Dr Rene Crevel

Dr Crevel Science Leader - Allergy & Immunology, Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre, Unilever.

His appointment expires in March 2022.

Dr Caroline Harris PhD, CChem, FRSC

Dr Harris is a Corporate vice president, Principal scientist and the Co-Director of the Centre for Chemical Regulation and Food Safety at Exponent International Ltd.

Dr Sarah Judge

Dr Judge is a Lecturer in Pharmacology in the School of Biomedical, Nutritional and Sport Sciences at Newcastle University

Ms Juliet Rix

Ms Rix is a Lay Member.

Her appointment expires in March 2023.

Professor Matthew Wright BSc PhD

Prof Wright is a Professor of Toxicology, Institute of Cellular Medicine, Newcastle University.

His appointment expires in March 2023.

Professor Philippe B Wilson

Professor Wilson is a Professor of Animal Science and Bioinformatics at Nottingham Trent University, and Head of Conservation at the Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST).

His appointment expires in March 2023.

Emerita Professor Shirley Price

Professor Price is currently Emerita Professor of Toxicology at the University of Surrey having held several senior posts at the University and is Visiting Professor of Toxicology at the University of Hertfordshire.

Her appointment expires in May 2024.

Dr Simon Wilkinson

Dr Wilkinson has been a Senior Lecturer in Pharmacology in the School of Biomedical, Nutritional and Sports Sciences at Newcastle University since November 2018, where he is Chair of the Pharmacology Curriculum at Newcastle as well as module leader on the Pharmacology degree program.

His appointment expires in May 2024.

Professor Þórhallur Ingi Halldórsson - HI

Professor Thorhallur I. Halldorsson is a professor at the Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition at the University of Iceland.

His appointment expires in May 2024.

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