Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment

Biographies and register of interests of ACRE members

April 2025

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Professor Jim Dunwell – chair

University of Reading

Expertise: plant biotechnology

Jim Dunwell is Emeritus 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 reappointed as Chair on 2 March 2023 and this appointment will end on 1 March 2027.

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. Kathy was reappointed to ACRE on 8 March 2023 and this term runs until 7 March 2026.

Professor Huw D Jones

Aberystwyth University

Expertise: plant molecular genetics, biotechnology, risk assessment

Huw D Jones is Professor of Translational Genomics for Plant Breeding at IBERS / DLS Aberystwyth University. His research applies biotechnology approaches to study functional genomics in plants with a current focus on gene editing. He also has interests in plant tissue culture, chloroplast transformation, RNAi and in validating promoters for targeting expression to pre-defined tissues. As a university academic he collaborates widely and has published over 120 research papers, books and other articles in plant molecular genetics and biotechnology.

In addition to his research and teaching interests he has expertise in risk assessment and food safety. He is a member of the FSA, Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, the Aberystwyth University GM safety committee from 1019-2024 and served on the GMO panel of European Food Safety Authority from 2009-2018, the last two years as vice-chair. He has also co-authored over 150 scientific risk assessment opinions and guidance documents for EFSA.

Professor Jones has an BSc (Ecology) Loughborough University, MSc (Biotechnology) and a PhD (Molecular Biology and Intracellular Signalling) from Bristol University. He worked at Long Ashton Research Station from 1992 to 1998 and Rothamsted Research from 1998 to 2016. Huw was appointed to ACRE on 17 July 2023 and this term will end on 16 July 2026.

Dr Huw E Jones

Expertise: genetics and genomic applied to livestock production; research, development and commercialisation applied to agriculture

Huw E. Jones is and independent consultant who specialises in providing advice and support in relation to innovation and commercialisation applied to animal bioscience and the wider agri-food industry. Huw has over 25 years of experience in research, development, and commercialisation across the agriculture sector, with particular specialism in genetics and genomics applied to livestock production. He has a PhD in genetics from the University of Edinburgh and has previously worked in a range of roles across academic research, industry, and intermediate public funded organisations, including as Head of Agriculture for the Knowledge Transfer Network, Chief Technology Officer for Roslin Technologies and Head of Industry Impact and Partnerships at Scotland's Rural College.

He has published several papers on livestock genetics and genomics in scientific journals and has played a leading role in three large EU Framework Program funded R&D projects applied to genetics and genomics across a range of livestock species. Huw was a Board member of the EU-Farm Animal Breeding Technology Platform (FABRE-TP) for seven years. He is also a member of the UK Expert Committee on Genetics applied to Livestock and Equines (UKGLE). Huw was appointed to ACRE on 17 July 2023 and this term will end on 16 July 2026.

Professor Peter Lund

University of Birmingham

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

Peter Lund is Emeritus Professor of Molecular Microbiology at the University of Birmingham. Before his retirement he worked in the School of Biosciences and Institute of Microbiology and Infection. His research was 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. His work was funded by a variety of sources including BBSRC, the Leverhulme Trust, COST, and the Darwin Trust of Edinburgh. Particular areas of interest were 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. He continues to publish papers in these areas, but no longer receives any research funding.

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 (ACNFP from 2001 to

2007. He is currently a member of the HSE's Safety Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification and is a co-opted *ex officio* member of ACNFP. Peter was appointed to ACRE on 20 February 2025 and this term will end on 19 February 2028.

Professor Jacob Malone

John Innes Centre

Expertise: molecular and environmental microbiology, biochemistry, plant-microbe interactions, bacterial bioactives in agriculture

Jake Malone is a Group Leader in the Molecular Microbiology Dept. of the John Innes Centre in Norwich. His research focusses on the regulatory pathways that control bacterial plant colonisation and the selective pressures that shape microbiomes in complex environments. Jake has published >55 papers in the scientific literature in the fields of bacterial signalling, host-microbe interactions, rhizosphere microbiology and bacterial biocontrol of plant diseases. His research is funded by a range of sources, including BBSRC, InnovateUK and industry, with past and present commercial partners including Branston Ltd., Zespri and Folium Science. In April 2022 Jake co-founded PfBIO, a JIC spin-out company that seeks to exploit JIC research to discover effective bioactive microbes for agriculture.

Before starting his lab in 2011, Jake completed his PhD in the Plant Sciences Dept. of Oxford University and worked as a post-doctoral scientist in Basel, Switzerland. Between 2011 and 2020, Jake was employed on a joint contract with the University of East Anglia (based full-time at JIC). He is an editor for the journal *Microbiology*, a member of the BBSRC pool of experts and steering group chair for the Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development. Jake was appointed to ACRE on 20 February 2025 and this term will end on 19 February 2028.

Professor Andrew Millar

University of Edinburgh

Expertise: plant molecular genetics, research data management and science policy

Andrew Millar has a background in plant molecular genetics and is currently the Chair of Systems Biology at the School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh. His main research has studied how plant cells build their 24-hour clock, how the clock is adjusted and how it affects plant growth. His research group used genetic techniques including mutation and transgenesis, along with mathematical modelling, to understand the dynamic regulation of the plant clockwork. He started this programme at the Rockefeller University, New York, and moved to the Universities of Virginia (USA) and Warwick (UK), spanning thirty years to his current position. His group currently works on data management, helping biologists to adopt the FAIR principles for sharing research data. Andrew previously served as the Chief Scientific Advisor for the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture to the Scottish Government, and served on the Council of UKRI-BBSRC until

2024. Andrew was appointed to ACRE on 17 July 2023 and this term will end on 16 July 2026.

Dr Andrew Prentis

Grantham Institute, Imperial College London

Expertise: animal health, veterinary medicine and environmental impact

Andrew Prentis is a veterinary surgeon and Visiting Fellow at the Grantham Institute – Climate Change and Environment at Imperial College London, where he is a member of the PREPP group (Producing Rational Evidence for Parasiticide Prescription). His current research focuses on parasites and parasitic disease incidence in companion animals in the UK, and the ecological impact of environmental residues of parasiticide medication.

His background is in veterinary medicine, having been an active clinician in UK private and charity clinics, overseas development in North Africa, a director of the first opinion teaching hospital at the Royal Veterinary College and for 20 years he ran his own multi-disciplinary veterinary clinic in central London.

At the British Veterinary Association he sat on the Ethics and Welfare Advisory Panel and the working groups for sustainable aquaculture and companion animal feeding. He is a member of the Vet Sustain Greener Veterinary Practice working group and the Parasiticides subgroup.

He has published papers on serological responses to canine vaccines, welfare issues for working equids, sustainability in veterinary practice and the environmental impact of release into the environment of residues of medicines used as veterinary parasiticides. Andrew was appointed to ACRE on 20 February 2025 and this term will end on 19 February 2028.

Professor Ben Raymond

University of Exeter

Expertise: biological control, microbiology, entomology, evolutionary biology

Ben Raymond Professor of Ecology and Evolution 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 received research funding from Bayer Crop Science in the past as well as 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. He currently co-supervises a China Scholarship funded student that is working jointly with Certis to explore ways of improving the efficacy of fungal biopesticices. Other current research interests include exploring the biology of B. thuringiensis and identifying bacteriophage that can be used in antibiotic resistance management. Ben was reappointed to ACRE in on 8 March 2023 and this term runs until 7 March 2026.

Professor Andrew Wilcox

Agriculture and Environment Department, 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 30 years has developed expertise in both sustainable agriculture and 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 of agri-tech and precision farming within sustainable land use systems. Andy was reappointed to ACRE on 8 March 2023 and this term runs until 7 March 2026.

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 (USS) – pension
- University of the West Indies – external examiner

Partner's interests:

- None

Dr Kathy Bamford

Commercial interests:

- Pfizer, Pharmacia, Wyeth, Gillead, 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 Huw D Jones

Commercial interests:

- None

Non-commercial interests:

Employment:

- Long Ashton Research Station 1992 – 1998. Rothamsted Research 1998 – 2016. Aberystwyth University 2016- current.

Consultancies and other fee-paid work:

- Member; Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes, and PGT sub-committee FSA. 2019 – current.
- BBSRC grant review panels 2000 – 2022.
- Expert, GMO panel, European Food Safety Authority 2009 – 2018.
- Honorary Professor, School of Biosciences, Nottingham University 2009 - 2018
- As external examiner of the university PhD viva process, I have sometimes received a small honorarium in addition to travel and accommodation costs from the university hosting the examination (in the last 5 years I have been external examiner for six PhD examinations in UK and abroad).
- I have received small payments of royalties from publishers for academic books written or edited.
- Clubs, other organisations and advocacy groups.
- Member of Royal Soc Biology 2002 - current.
- Member of the EPSO Plants for the Future. Gene editing working group 2019 – current
- Member of the Plants for the Future, European Technology Platform. 2020 – current.
- Honorary researcher, Rothamsted Research UK, 2016-2019
- Chair, UK Plant Sciences Federation Working Group on Regulatory Frameworks 2014-2015.
- Monogram steering committee, 2011 – 2015
- Honorary Professor, School of Biosciences, Nottingham University 2009 – 2018.
- Scientific Advisory Board Member China-UK, Huazhong University Science & Technology, Wuhan Joint Research Lab, 2001 – 2009.
- Editorial Board member: aBIOTECH journal, GM Crops and Food journal, Plant Cell Reports (Handling Editor) 2007- 2014.

Grants and Indirect support:

- I am a member of the IBERS Aberystwyth University research team in receipt of a BBSRC Core Strategic Programme Grant -current.
- I was in receipt of funding from BBSRC/ FSA. ‘Using citizen science to explore plant breeding and investigate food-chain transparency for novel breeding methods’: BB/W009013/1 2022-2022.
- I was one of four academic supervisors for an Aberystwyth University/Syngenta PhD studentship, using molecular genetics to design sentinel plants for detecting biotic stress. 2017-2024.
- I am one of two supervisors for an EU Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Fellowship. 2024- current
- I am one of four academic supervisors for a FoodBioSystems DTP that also has in-kind support from Elsoms Seeds. 2024 – current.

- I am one of three academic supervisors for a FoodBioSystems DTP that also has in-kind support from Cupid Peptide Company Ltd. 2024 – current.
- I was a UK representative of an EU COST Action PlantEd Genome editing in plants - a technology with transformative potential 2019- 2022
- I was a UK representative, working group and management committee member of an EU COST Action iPlanta CA15223. Modifying plants to produce interfering RNA 2017-2020
- I was a UK representative, working group and management committee member of an EU COST Action iPlanta CA15223. Modifying plants to produce interfering RNA 2017-2020.
- I was in receipt of research funding for a Newton Bhabha Fellowship, IBERS, May – Sept 2019
- I was in receipt of research funding for a Newton Bhabha Fellowship, IBERS, Dec 2020 – March 2021 I led a research project: Smart Labels for GMO foods. Aberystwyth University Transforming Social Science Fund. £1K Jan 2017-Dec 2017.
- Rothamsted Research was in receipt of funding from BBSRC Tools and Resources Development Fund BB/L017768/1. 2014- 2016. HD Jones & K Edwards. Development of specific TALENs for precision engineering

Partner's interests:

- None

Dr Huw E Jones

Commercial interests:

- Independent consultant
- Non-Executive Director of Mi:RNA

Non-commercial interests:

- Member of the UK Genetics for Livestock and Equines Committee (UKGLE) – who provide expert advice for Defra and the Devolved Administrations
- Member of the British Society of Animal Science
- Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute

Partner's interests:

- None

Professor Peter Lund

Commercial interests:

- None

Non-commercial interests:

- None

Partner's interests:

- None

Professor Jacob Malone

Paid Employment:

- 2011-present - Group Leader, John Innes Centre (+ UEA 2011-2020)
- 2005-2011 - Post-doc, Biozentrum, University of Basel, Switzerland

Commercial interests:

- 2022-present- Director and co-founder; PfBIO (company number 140321169)
- 2018-present - Research Collaboration; Zespri
- 2018-2021 - Scientific Advisor and Consultant; Folium Science

Non-commercial interests:

Research funding:

- Jan 2025 - BBSRC Responsive Mode [APP37189]
- Dec 2022 - BBSRC Industry-linked Research Grant [BB/X012077/1]
- Oct 2020 - BBSRC BBR UK CMCB [BB/T019808/1]
- Apr 2019 - CEPAMS Newton Fund [BB/T004363/1]
- Jan 2019 - CEPAMS/JIC Postdoctoral Research Grant
- Jan 2019 - InnovateUK Industrial Research Grant
- Mar 2018 - BBSRC Responsive Mode [BB/R018154/1]
- Jan 2018 - InnovateUK Industrial Research Grant
- Jan 2016 - BBSRC NProNet [POC021]
- Jan 2014 - BBSRC Responsive Mode [BB/M002586/1]

Research collaborations with industry (non-remunerated):

- 2024-present - Scientific Advisory Board member; Chuckling Goat Ltd.
- 2022-2023 - Research Collaboration; Branston Ltd.
- 2017-2021 - Research Collaboration; New Heritage Barley
- 2015-2020 - Research Collaboration; VCS Potatoes

Panel membership etc.

- Journal Editor – Microbiology
- Steering Group Chair – Norwich Institute for Sustainable Development
- Pool of Experts – BBSRC
- Honorary Chair, University of East Anglia School of Biosciences

Partner's interests:

- None

Professor Andrew Millar

Commercial interests:

- Unpaid scientific adviser to UK startup company LeafyColl Ltd

Non-commercial interests:

- University of Edinburgh – employee
- Funding for research – UKRI-BBSRC; UKRI-MRC; Wellcome Trust
- Member of UKRI-BBSRC Council (until April 2024)
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Partner's interests:

- Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

Dr Andrew Prentis

Commercial interests

- None

Non-commercial interests

- Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
- University of London (USS) – pension
- Imperial College – visiting Fellow

Partner's interests

- None

Professor Ben Raymond

Commercial interests:

- Raymond, B. Crickmore, N. Biopesticides (2019). International PCT patent number WO 2019/030529A1

Non-commercial interests:

- Oxitec – Co-investigator in prior BBSRC LINK grant
- BBRSC 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)
- Certis Belchim- research collaboration (in kind support only)

Partner's interests:

- None

Professor Andrew Willcox

Commercial interests:

- None

Non-commercial interests:

- Harper Adams University – employee

Partner's interests:

- None