

# Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

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**Paper for Information:**

**Briefing on the FSA Advisory  
Committee on Research (ACR)**

**Agenda Item 4**

Please see attached paper for information.

**Members are requested to note. Comments are welcome.**

# Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

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## Advisory Committee on Research (ACR)

1. The Advisory Committee on Research (ACR) is a Committee of independent experts established by the Food Standards Agency. It was formed directly in response to Recommendation 2 of the Arbuthnott Report, “to oversee [the Agency’s] research strategy and to advise on and help it direct and co-ordinate its research effort.” The Committee has also since been charged with helping the Board in implementing other recommendations arising from the Report. The Committee held its first meeting on 30 April 2002 in London and plans to meet every six months thereafter.

2. The ACR’s Terms of Reference\* are as follows (please note that these are subject to some minor amendments in light of discussions by the Committee at its first meeting:

- to keep under review and advise the Board on the Agency’s research and survey strategy;
- to advise the Board on research and survey priorities within the overall strategy of the Agency;
- to help the Agency to identify the best sources of research and survey expertise;
- to advise the Board on the Agency’s research and science policy in relation to the EU and other collaborators;
- to advise the Agency on potential new research areas which the Agency should consider either funding itself or encouraging other organisations to fund; and
- to advise on any other matters relating to research, surveys or science policy remitted to the Committee by the Agency’s Board.

3. In order to fulfil these important roles a number of key issues have been agreed for consideration by the Committee under its Terms of Reference. These issues will broadly form its programme of work for its first and second years and are listed below:

### **Programme of work for the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in autumn 2002**

- i. Quality assurance of research
- ii. Horizon-scanning for emerging issues
- iii. Mapping of the Agency’s research activities at programme level to its strategic and policy priorities
- iv. Prioritisation of the Agency’s research at theme level
- v. The balance of the Agency’s research programme – draft ROAME As
- vi. The Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme
- vii. Update on joint working and co-funding initiatives including a report on the work of joint-funders groups
- viii. Update on implementation of the recommendations of the Arbuthnott Report
- ix. Update on Members’ interests

### **Programme of work for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting in spring 2003**

- i. The ROAME As for the Agency’s research programmes

\*Note: Subject to revision in light of comments from the ACR at its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

- ii. Procedures for handling interim results
- iii. Centres of excellence
- iv. Alternative research management systems
- v. Benchmarking the Agency's research
- vi. Update on joint working and co-funding initiatives
- vii. Update on implementation of the recommendations of the Arbuthnott Report
- viii. Update on emerging issues
- ix. Update on Members' interests

#### **Appointment of the ACR**

4. The appointment of the Committee members took place under the Nolan rules. Advertisements were placed in the national, regional and scientific press in September 2001 and electronic media were used to highlight the advertisements to key institutes and researchers. Over 300 enquires were received in response to the advertisement and 92 completed applications were returned. From these applicants, 24 were short-listed for interview.

5. Interviews took place over three days in December 2001 by an Appointment Panel comprising Sir John Arbuthnott (an Agency Board Member), Dr Jon Bell (Deputy Chief Executive of the Agency), and Fiona McConnell (an independent member). Following the interviews, details of the Panel's recommendations for membership of the committee, which were agreed by Sir John Krebs, were circulated to Health Ministers for comment (in accordance with schedule 2 of the Food Standards Act 1999). Constructive comments were received from all Ministers and taken into account. The recommended appointees were contacted and all agreed to serve on the Committee.

6. Appointments to the ACR were made for terms varying from 2 to 4 years so that Members need not be replaced or re-appointed at the same time, thereby ensuring that all the expertise from the Committee would not be lost simultaneously. Initial terms are not indicative of the relative expertise of the members all of whom are held in equal regard by the Agency.

7. The ACR members were appointed from a wide range of disciplines and experiences, e.g. experts in the fields of consumer research, agri-businesses, food technology, nutrition and public health. Although some other Government departments have research committees that include some stakeholder participation, the FSA's Advisory Committee on Research is the only one that is made up entirely of independent experts. Further details of the members of the ACR are given in Annex 1.

8. Further information on the ACR, including papers, agendas and minutes from the Committee's meetings is available from the ACR website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/science/ouradvisors/ACR>, or from the FSA Secretariat - details as follows:

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## Annex 1      Details of the members of the ACR

1. The new members of the ACR and the areas of expertise they bring to the Committee are as follows. Brief biographical details are also given below.

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Professor Michael Lean</b> , Professor in Human Nutrition at the University of Glasgow
<b>Life Scientists (2)</b>	<b>Professor Duncan Maskell</b> , Marks and Spencer Professor of Farm Animal Health, Food Science and Food Safety at the University of Cambridge <b>Professor William Donachie</b> , Deputy Director of Moredun Research Institute
<b>Physical/Chemical Scientists (2)</b>	<b>Professor Alastair Robertson</b> , Director of the Institute of Food Research <b>Professor Stuart Alexander Slorach</b> , Deputy Director-General of the Swedish National Food Administration
<b>Social Scientist</b>	<b>Professor Anne Murcott</b> , Professor Emerita (Sociology), South Bank University, London, with honorary professorships at City University and the University of Nottingham at City University and the University of Nottingham
<b>Consumer Scientist</b>	<b>Ms Diane McCrea</b> , consultant on consumer affairs and food with Consumers International
<b>Economist</b>	<b>Professor Christopher Ritson</b> , Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at the University of Newcastle
<b>Industry</b>	<b>Dr Peter John McClure</b> , Head of Unilever's Consumer Safety Department
<b>Enforcement</b>	<b>Professor Richard Charles Moody</b> , Head of the Department of Food and Consumer Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University
<b>Lay members (2)</b>	<b>Dr Sati Ariyanayagam</b> , consultant physician <b>Ms Tanya Anne Heasman</b> , consultant on health and safety issues

## **Biographies of ACR Members**

### **Professor Michael Lean (Chairman)**

Professor Lean is Professor of Human Nutrition at the University of Glasgow. He has been Head of Department for 10 years, and is an honorary consultant physician at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary with research, teaching and clinical responsibilities. Professor Lean has been heavily involved in researching and writing evidence based guidelines for both Clinical and Public Health/Preventative Practice. His current public appointments include non-executive director of the Health Education Board for Scotland, Trustee for the Boyd Orr Trust and joint Health Claims Initiative Expert Committee member. He has also formed part of the DTI Food Chain and Crops for Industry Foresight Panel and the MRC-BBSRC Foresight Associate Panel of Nutrition.

### **Professor Duncan Maskell**

Professor Maskell is a molecular microbiologist with a wide range of experience both in academia and industry. He is the Marks and Spencer Professor of Farm Animal Health, Food Science and Food Safety at the University of Cambridge and also a Founder of, and Consultant to, Arrow Therapeutics Limited. Professor Maskell has been member of several committees including the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) Agri-Food Committee and the BBSRC Strategy Board. He is currently Chair of the BBSRC Agri-Food Committee. He was a member of the Research Review Group for the Food Standards Agency, and has been a member of various other Committees reviewing publicly funded research.

### **Professor William Donachie**

Professor Donachie is a veterinary microbiologist and the Deputy Director of Moredun Research Institute. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Division of Veterinary Microbiology and Public Health at the University of Glasgow and a member of the Scottish Veterinary and Medical Consortium on Food Safety. He is a former President of the Association of Veterinary Teachers and Research Workers. His Government appointments have included acting as a member of Steering Committees for Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department as well as a member of a small working group in the Food Standards Agency (Scotland).

### **Professor Alastair Robertson**

Professor Robertson is a chartered Chemist and is the Director of the Institute of Food Research. He has both academic and commercial experience in scientific research. He has been Director of Food Science at the then Campden Food and Drink Research Association as well as the Head of Research and Development at Safeway Stores plc. Professor Robertson has had extensive committee experience, e.g. as Chairman of the Foresight FCCI (Food Chain & Crops for Industry) Panel, Chairman of the British Retail Consortium Food Technical Committee, Chairman of the Institute of Grocery Distribution Food Production Strategy Group, and as a member of the Food and Drink Federation Food Research Policy Group. He is a member of the Council of the Consumers Association and has held several Government appointments, as both a Chairman and member, from the Scottish Office and the Office of Science and Technology.

### **Professor Stuart Alexander Slorach**

Dr Slorach is a chemist, pharmacologist and toxicologist and is the Deputy Director-General of the Swedish National Food Administration (NFA), where he has worked for almost 30

years. He has held various prominent positions there, including Associate Professor of Toxicology and Professor and Head of the Food Research Department. His work includes chairing scientific advisory groups both within and outside the NFA. Dr Slorach has extensive committee experience, including serving on the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives and he was Chairman of the FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Risk Management and Food Safety in 1998. He was also a member of the Food Standards Agency's Research Review Group in 2000/2001 and has represented Sweden for several years on the European Commission's Working Group on Scientific Co-operation (SCOOP). He is a vice-chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

### **Professor Anne Murcott**

Professor Anne Murcott has degrees in both social anthropology and sociology, is Professor Emerita (Sociology), South Bank University, London, with honorary professorships at City University and the University of Nottingham. Her previous work includes visiting positions in Australian universities and service as editor or editorial board member of international academic journals. She has authored and co-authored many academic papers and books, and served as Director of the Economic and Social Research Council's six year Research Programme "The Nation's Diet."

### **Ms Diane McCrea**

Ms McCrea has extensive knowledge of key food and consumer policy issues within the UK, EU and beyond. She is a consultant on consumer affairs and food. She works with Consumers International mainly in its representation work at Codex and has also worked as a technical editor with the Food and Agriculture Organisation for its Pan European Food Safety Conference. She participates in European funded research projects particularly on consumer liaison and dissemination. She has been Head of Food and Health Research for the Consumers' Association. Ms McCrea has a M.Sc. in nutrition and has lectured at various educational establishments including Middlesex University where she was Course Head in Science and Technology Policy. She served on the then Research Working Party for the Food Standards Agency in 2000-2001. She has public appointments as United Kingdom Register of Organic Food Standards (UKROFS) Board Member, Chair of the UKROFS Genetic Modification Working Group and is an independent member of the Meat and Livestock Commission Board.

### **Professor Christopher Ritson**

Professor Ritson is Dean of Faculty of Agriculture and Biological Sciences at the University of Newcastle. He has over 30 years of experience in agricultural economics coupled with extensive committee experience and is currently Deputy Chairman of the Home Grown Cereals Authority. He has also been a member of the Agency's former Food Advisory Committee, the then MAFF National Food Survey Committee and a member of the MAFF Research Studentship Panel. Much of his research experience has been directed towards agricultural policy and has increasingly focused on consumer attitudes to food safety and risk communication. He has an extensive publication record and has carried out short-term project work for organisations such as the FAO, the United Nations and the Government of Cyprus.

### **Dr Peter John McClure**

Dr McClure is a food microbiologist and is the Head of the Human Safety Department in Unilever's Safety and Environmental Assurance Centre. His work in the area of food safety began at the Institute of Food Research focusing on the Predictive Microbiology Programme.

Dr McClure has experience of representing trade organisations and the food industry on a number of committees, for example the BBSRC Research Grant Assessment Panel for Biology of Foodborne Pathogens Initiative and the MAFF programme on Detection and Separation of Pathogens and their Toxins. He has lectured in food safety at the University of Leeds and is currently editing a book on foodborne pathogens.

**Professor Richard Charles Moody**

Professor Moody is Head of the Department of Food and Consumer Technology at Manchester Metropolitan University and is responsible for a range of food based courses and research as well as the education of Environmental Health Officers and Trading Standards Officers. With 14 years as a Head at various academic institutions, he has experience in both operational and strategic research management. He has particular experience in food law, consumer protection and food safety. Professor Moody is a consumer representative on the Food Standards Agency Working Party on Food Additives. In addition, he is an independent Commissioner with the Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) and has been Chairman of the MLC Consumer's Committee since 1998.

**Dr Sati Ariyanayagam**

Dr Ariyanayagam is a lay member of the Committee on Toxicology and is a consultant physician. He is the Vice-Chairman of a Local Research Ethics Committee as well as an Independent Research Assessor to the Community Fund. Dr Ariyanayagam is also a Management Governor at the King Edward VI Grammar School in Essex and is a Justice of the Peace. His previous responsibilities include acting as Chairman of the Havering Division of the British Medical Association and he has served on the Publicity and Communications Committee for the Faculty of Family Planning for the Royal College of Obstetricians.

**Ms Tanya Anne Heasman**

Ms Heasman is an MBA and has a M.Sc. in ergonomics. She is a management consultant and a director of System Concepts Ltd and Gawne-Cain Research Ltd. She has experience in research and its management from work she has carried out on behalf of the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE). She has been a speaker on health, safety and ergonomics issues at Food and Drink Federation conferences and has published several books and contract research reports of work carried out on behalf of HSE. Her voluntary activities include Trade Union safety representative work. She is an elected member of the Council of the Consumers' Association, publisher of the *Which?* family of magazines.