

APPENDIX 1

Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)

The Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI) was created on 1st April 2006 as an amalgamation of the DARD Science Service and the Agricultural Research Institute of Northern Ireland (ARINI). AFBI is a DARD Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB) responsible for undertaking research and development, statutory, analytical, and diagnostic testing functions for DARD and other Government departments, public bodies and commercial companies.

Staff Attending

Professor Seamus Kennedy, AFBI CEO

Professor Seamus Kennedy was appointed Chief Executive Officer of AFBI in January 2011 after having acted in that role since December 2009. Previously he was Deputy Chief Executive Officer of AFBI and Head of its Veterinary Sciences Division (VSD) since formation of the Institute in April 2006. He joined VSD in 1980.

He is a graduate in veterinary medicine, has specialised in veterinary pathology, is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists, a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Pathologists.

He was President of the European Society of Veterinary Pathology from 2006 to 2009, and is author of over 130 refereed papers on animal disease. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Comparative Pathology and the Irish Veterinary Journal. He has made numerous invited presentations at national and international scientific conferences and is author of several book chapters. He was a visiting Professor of Veterinary Pathology at Purdue University, Indiana, USA in 1987.

Dr. Stanley McDowell, BVM&S MSc DLSHTM PhD MRCVS

Senior Veterinary Research Officer and Head of Bacteriology Branch AFBI

Dr Stanley McDowell graduated in veterinary medicine from the University of Edinburgh in 1987 and joined VSD as a Veterinary Research Officer in 1990.

He has an MSc in Epidemiology from the University of London, the jointly awarded post-graduate diploma of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a PhD for studies on the epidemiology of *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* in production animals. He has been responsible for leading statutory and analytical work on a number of bacterial and zoonotic infections. His research interests have included the food-zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, brucellosis and work on bovine Tuberculosis. He is the author of over 20 refereed papers, has acted as a reviewer for a number of scientific journals and served on numerous regional and national expert panels.

In October 2010 he was appointed as a Senior Veterinary Research Officer and Head of the Bacteriology Branch, with responsibility for a programme of statutory, analytical and research work on the major veterinary bacterial diseases including bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis, paratuberculosis, and the food-borne zoonoses.

Dr Sam Strain BVMS PhD MRCVS, Veterinary Research Officer AFBI

Dr Sam Strain has worked as a Veterinary Research Officer AFBI since 2004. He is currently head of the AFBI Statutory TB and Brucella Culture Laboratories which provide bacterial diagnostic support to the DARD TB and Brucellosis eradication schemes, and the AFBI TB immunology group which undertakes the laboratory testing of the blood based interferon-gamma TB test on behalf of DARD.

He qualified from the University of Glasgow Veterinary School in 1992, where he also completed a PhD in ruminant immunology in 2001. Prior to this he worked as a general practitioner in mixed mainly cattle veterinary practice for approximately ten years in Scotland and in Northern Ireland.

He is the principle investigator on a number of research projects involving bovine tuberculosis and Johne's disease. His particular interests include the immunological responses to bovine TB and Johne's disease in cattle with a recent emphasis on the effect of co-infection with liver fluke on TB diagnosis. Other areas of his work have included developing models of TB infection in wildlife as tools for the current and future evaluation of wildlife vaccines and in the evaluation of novel vaccines for the control of bovine Johne's.

Dr Robin Skuce BSc PhD, Veterinary Research Officer AFBI

Dr Skuce is a recognised specialist in the application of molecular biology to the diagnosis and tracing of infectious diseases. He has a BSc in Microbiology, a PhD in Molecular Virology and undertook post-doctoral research on the attenuation of poliovirus vaccine strains at the University of Reading.

Since his appointment as Veterinary Research Officer in 1991, Dr Skuce has become recognised internationally for developing new DNA fingerprinting tools to study the evolution and transmission of important bacterial pathogens, bovine and human TB in particular. More recently he has initiated research with collaborators in Edinburgh and Glasgow to investigate genetic predisposition to bovine TB and transmission chains in bovine TB outbreaks, respectively.

Dr Skuce has authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications, several textbook chapters and has been an invited speaker at numerous national and international scientific meetings and conferences. He acts as a reviewer for several veterinary and bio-medical journals and funding bodies and as an external PhD examiner. He has been an invited tutor on the international “TB molecular epidemiology” course at the Institut Pasteur (Paris), a scientific programme auditor at the USDA National Veterinary Diagnostics Centre and invited to lead an EU-TAIEX mission on bovine TB molecular detection and typing.