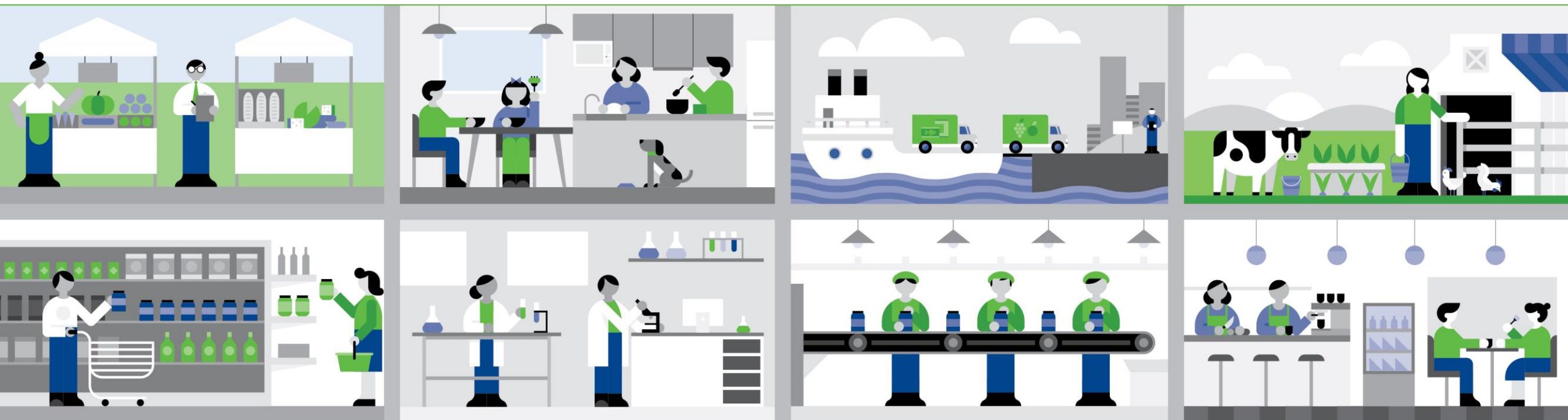


Identifying, prioritising and reporting food safety competent authority research needs.

Presented by Dr Wayne Anderson

EFSA Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA) 2022



Identifying Research Needs: Scientific Networks



Participants in the video call include: Judith Giles, Mark Fenelon, Martin Cormican, shéa fanning, Kevin Cashman, Montserrat C..., Geraldine Duffy, Dolores O'Riordan, Martin Wilkinon, Oonagh Lyons, Tim Camon, Anne Mol..., Andrew Flanagan, Ita Kinahan, Pamela Byrne, Wayne Anderson, Dagmar Stengel, Alan Ke..., Lisa O'Connor (FSAI), Micheál O'Mahony, and Patrick J...



Food Safety
AUTHORITY OF IRELAND
2011
Scientific Recommendations
for a National Infant Feeding Policy,
2nd Edition

CHAPTER 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

Ireland has a successful monitoring system which can provide predictions of toxin increases and a limited forecasting, but faces many challenges due to the high number of factors and variables involved. The Committee recommends the implementation of the following measures to further strengthen the existing monitoring and control systems.

Research

1. In production areas where more than one species of shellfish is produced, the most susceptible shellfish may be chosen as an indicator species. Assessments to identify appropriate indicator species for Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning, Diarrhetic Shellfish Poisoning, Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning and Azaspiracid Shellfish Poisoning toxins should be carried out.
2. The potential impacts of a changing environment (via climate change or ballast water) leading to range expansion or alien introduction of non-native Harmful Algal Blooms should be assessed.
3. Because of the general lack of chronic and sub-chronic toxicity data for shellfish toxins, further studies are warranted.
4. The need for harmonisation of sample pre-treatment practices, i.e. cooking versus non-cooking, before the actual analysis of lipophilic marine biotoxins, as recommended by EFSA (EFSA, 2009e), should be further explored.
5. A targeted survey of shellfish consumption in Ireland should be undertaken to verify the exposure to shellfish toxins derived in this report, which was conducted on a very limited number of consumers. Such a survey would also further support the indication that portion sizes in Ireland are considerably lower than the large portion size of 400 g used by EFSA (EFSA, 2009).

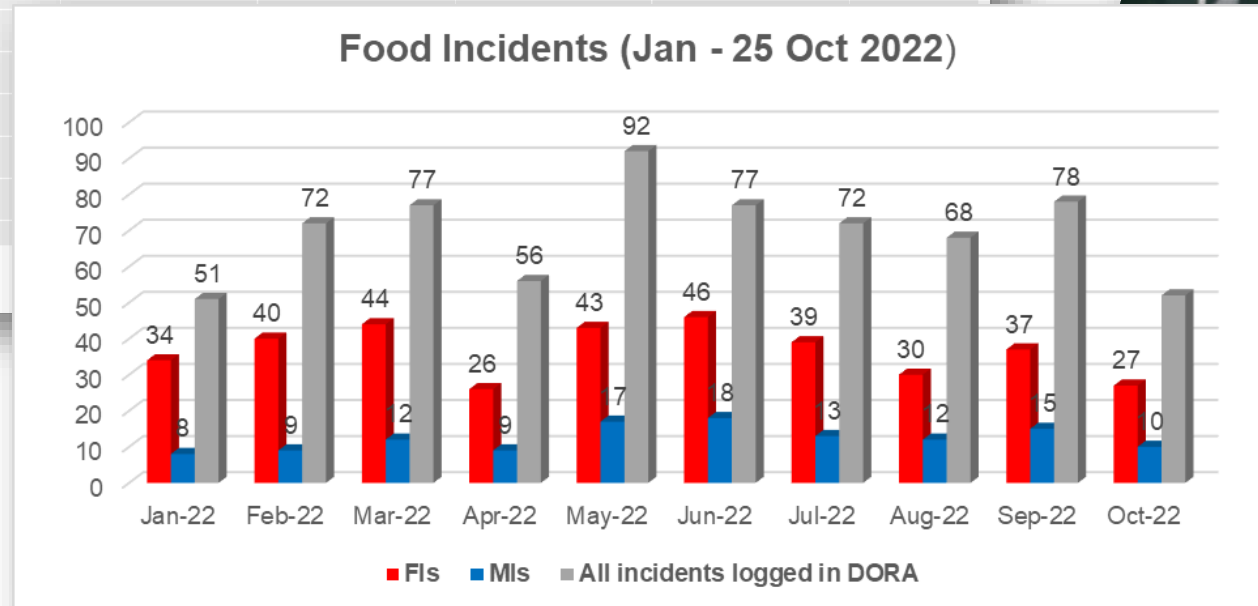
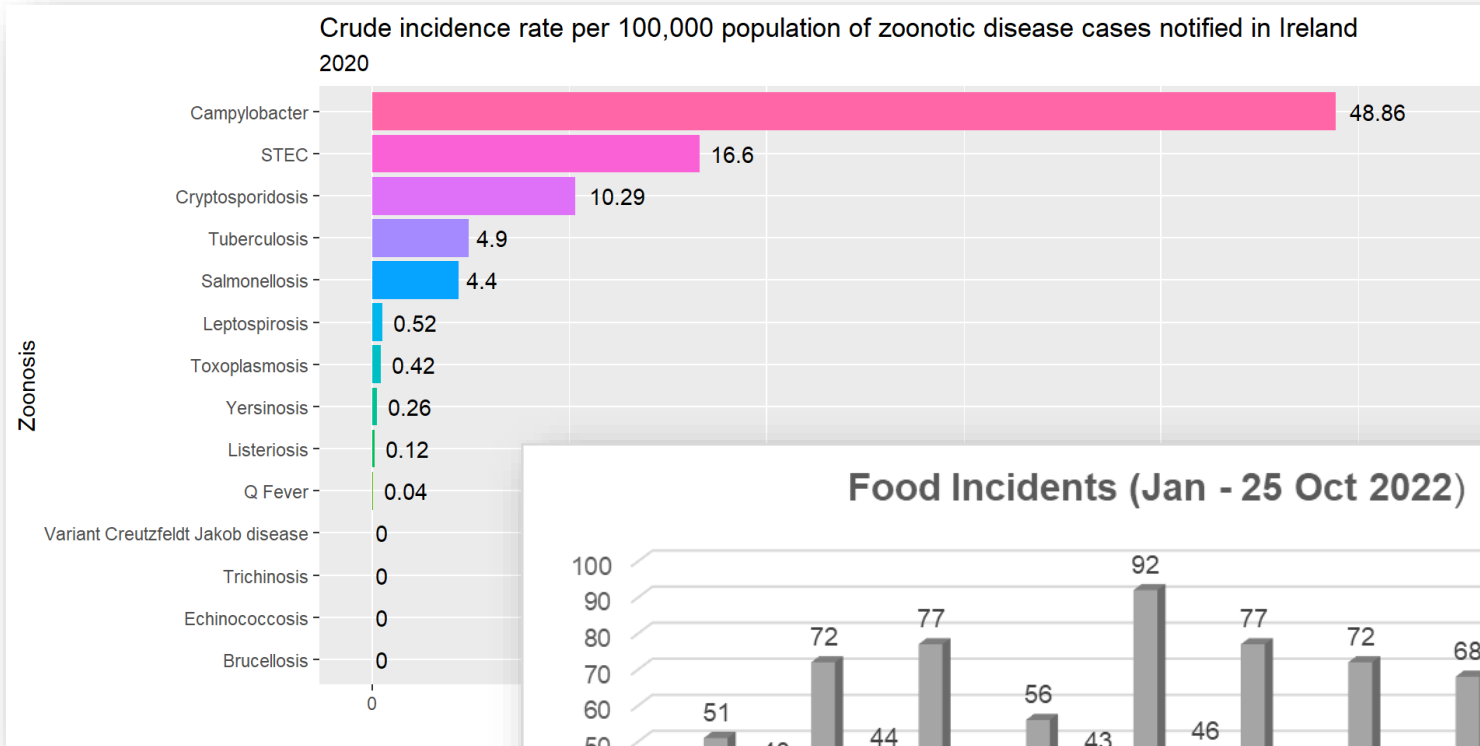


Food Safety
AUTHORITY OF IRELAND
Control of *Campylobacter* species
in the food chain
Microbiology





Prioritisation of research needs: Data



Communicating Research Needs



Research Needs 2022 Project priorities		
Project priorities		
Exposure assessment		
Research area	Research need	Relevant Irish research projects in progress or completed
Generate specific food consumption and analytical data on food supplements targeted at body image and body composition	<p>Irish legislation defines food supplements as:</p> <p>"Foodstuffs the purpose of which is to supplement the normal diet and which are concentrated sources of nutrients or other substances with a nutritional or physiological effect, alone or in combination, marketed in dose form, namely forms such as capsules, pastilles, tablets, pills and other similar forms, sachets of powder, ampoules of liquids, drop dispensing bottles, and other similar forms of liquids and powders designed to be taken in measured small unit quantities."</p> <p>Consumption of food supplements is increasing globally, driven by their use in sport and also by consumers' desire for improved body image aimed at weight loss/muscle gain goals. Food supplements can contain excess nutrients, e.g. protein, vitamins, and minerals, as well as hazardous chemical constituents such as DNP (2,4-Dinitrophenol). The value and demand for these products can also act as an incentive for fraudulent activity by illegitimate operators, including the substitution of ingredients and the addition of illicit active substances.</p> <p>Food safety risk assessment requires good data on consumption and composition of these supplements. Specifically, data are required on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The frequency of consumption and intake of these supplements in those aged 9–65 years • Official/self-reported harmful effects associated with these supplements • Composition, particularly the possible presence of illicit substances 	None notified

We know what we want BUT How Do we Get it ?

Barriers to MS Food Authorities funding and conducting food safety research: **No Authority/No Budget/ No Facilities**

Research isn't the focus of most food safety competent authorities

We don't understand the system

We don't speak the language



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British Irish Agreement Act 1999

- Promotion of food safety and nutrition to consumers
- Training of food businesses
- Research

Section One of the HEA Act, 1971 (e.g., Universities & Institutes of Technology, Teagasc, The Marine Institute, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation, BirdWatch Ireland and the National Botanic Gardens)

FSAI ≠ Research Performing Organisation

Communicating Our Research Needs: Influencing Uptake by Funding Bodies

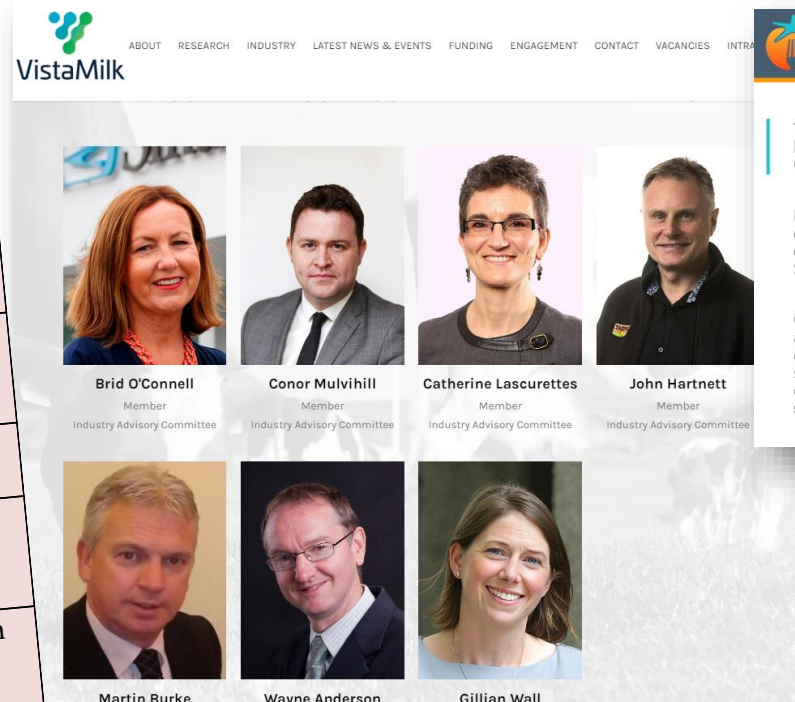
- Contributing to Research Calls
 - Department of Agriculture
 - *SafeFood*
- Input into National Research Strategies
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Department of Agriculture
- FSAI Scientists Evaluate Research projects
 - Department of Agriculture
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - Enterprise Ireland
 - *SafeFood*
- Limited Collaboration on research
 - *SafeFood*



No Level of Similar Influence at EU Level

Influencing the Direction of Food Safety Research: Limited Options

RESEARCH: Shelf-life and safety of fermented and smoked foods
TEAGASC
End date 2024
RESEARCH: CREDIT Liaison with Teagasc and DAFM on research project examining mitigating factors affecting uptake of Cd by root vegetables
End Date 2022
RESEARCH: Salt in 24 hr urine study, gold standard method for assessing salt intake and other chemical markers
End Date 2022
RESEARCH: Additives intake patterns for the Irish population
End date 2022
RESEARCH: AGRITOX: Prevention and Mitigation of the Mycotoxin Contamination of Food and Feed caused by Climate Change.
End Date 2023
RESEARCH: HORTASSURE. Mitigating microbial and chemical risks in horticultural crop production
End Date 2024
RESEARCH: Listeria challenge studies
End Date 2022
RESEARCH: The foodborne emergence and epidemiology of Clostridium difficile in Ireland Teagasc
End Date 2022



Can be achieved at EU Level but limited resource to do so

National and EU Research Funding Structure is a Minefield

- Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM): [Seafood R&D Programme](#)
- Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM):
 - [National Research Funding](#)
- Enterprise Ireland (EI):
 - [Innovation Vouchers](#)
 - [Funding for International Research Projects](#)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):
 - [EPA Research Call](#)
 - [Scholarship Funding Opportunities](#)
- Health Research Board (HRB):
 - [Summer Student Scholarships \(SS\)](#)
 - [SFI-HRB-Wellcome Research Partnership](#)
 - [Research visits – Ulysses](#)
 - [HRB Postdoctoral Fellowships – Applying Process](#)

- Marine Institute (MI):
 - [Shiptime Awards](#)
 - [Industry-led Awards](#)
 - [Project Based Awards](#)
 - [Cullen Scholarship Programme](#)



Staggeringly Complex Environment: Not Clear How to Start

QUESTION

**How can we Improve Food Safety
Competent Authority Input into
EU Research Requirements and
Ensure their Needs are Met by
the Researchers ?**



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