

Dr. Pamela A. Byrne

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Current Position March 2015 – to date: Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety Authority of Ireland

Responsibilities:

- Leading, in consultation with the FSAI (non-executive) Board, the FSAI Senior Leadership Team, the Executive and key external stakeholders, the development of the overall vision and strategic direction of the Authority in line with the FSAI Act 1998 and EU Food Law, the Code of Practice of Governance in State Bodies, and development of and compliance with the oversight agreement/performance delivery agreement with the Irish Ministry of Health and implementation of the annual business plan.
- Advising the FSAI Board on policy formulation and strategies to achieve corporate objectives and highlight areas of concern for their attention.
- Advising the Minister and Ministry of Health officials on technical and scientific matters related to food regulations and food safety policy.
- As accounting officer, overseeing the deployment and management of circa. 120 staff, with 9 direct reports (including five Directors), and the financial accountability for a current budget of circa €20m and a capital budget of €2m.
- Overseeing the Authority's risk management policy; risk register; and internal audits.
- Ensuring the team in FSAI is working in a cohesive and effective manner committed to consumer protection and food safety, overseeing the delivery and evaluation of an effective and efficient food safety control system. The FSAI oversees a control system with over 1400 food inspectors working under service contract in 31 Official Agencies designated by the State for food safety controls. Other public sector entities work in partnership with FSAI to support the food control system.
- Identifying opportunities for improvement and delivering change programs in line with Ireland's Public Sector Reform Programme and the OECD Best Practice in Regulation.

Previous Positions:

Director, Regulatory Policy & Intelligence in Abbott Nutrition: July 2013 – February 2015

Responsibilities:

- Leadership of a cross functional team focusing on the development of Abbott Nutrition's strategy and regulatory policies for adult nutritional products;
- Identifying opportunities for Abbott Nutrition to collaborate with external research organisations including research performing organisations in Ireland;
- Developing and optimizing Abbott Nutrition's understanding of, response to and influence on the global nutrition regulatory environment;
- Development of new and strengthening of existing key relationships, internal and external, to maximize opportunities for the business;
- Abbott lead for Regulatory Affairs and R&D in Brussels on engagement on regulatory innovation
- Member of ILSI Europe Taskforce on Functional Foods & Global Abbott lead for Medical Nutrition International;
- Abbott lead in discussions on Foods for Special Medical Purposes in the Industry Association Specialised Nutrition Europe.

Cabinet of EU Commissioner Maire Geoghegan-Quinn: October 2012 – March 2013:

(Salary: Aligned to the highest point of Assistant Principal scale as of March 2013)

Responsibilities:

- National Expert on secondment for six months working on research and innovation policy related to Strategic Programming in the context of Horizon 2020,

- Cabinet advisor on Joint Programming and Public-Private Partnerships;
- Provided support to the Transatlantic Marine and Maritime Co-operation Agreement and implementation of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy.

Agricultural Inspector, Research Division, Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine: July 2005 – July 2013:

Responsibilities:

(1) Manager of the Irish National Food Research Funding Programme – the Food Institutional Research Measure (FIRM) from July 2007 – March 2012;

(2) EU and National Funding Programmes and Policy in the Bioeconomy including role of National Contact Point for FP7 Theme 2; Food, Agriculture, Fisheries & Biotechnology from July 2010 – July 2013

- Leadership, management and development of the FIRM Research Funding Programme, aligned with national research and innovation policy; and delivered through active engagement with the Universities (North and South) and the Institutes of Technology;
- Utilising knowledge, data and experience to support the development of DAFM's research and innovation policy and funding frameworks;
- Leading Ireland's technical and policy input into the development of EU Bioeconomy Research Funding Programmes and Policy;
- Leading Ireland's input on food related matters in the development of Horizon 2020;

November 1999 – July 2005: *Assistant Agriculture Inspector (Regulatory Environmental Scientist) in the Pesticide Control Service, Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food.*

Responsibilities:

- Ecotoxicological evaluation and risk assessment of the impact of pesticidal compounds on non-target organisms inhabiting terrestrial, aquatic and soil environments;
- Preparation of Plant Protection Product Monographs for the EU detailing the potential ecological effects of pesticides on the wider environment;
- Providing appropriate indicators and labelling advice in regard to safety standards;
- Active participation in meetings and workshops of the European Commission as well as servicing meetings of Council Working Groups, Commission Working Groups and ECCO Meetings.
- Provide policy advice on EU and national technical guidance documents and communications.
- Co-supervising a MSc thesis in the area of environmental risk assessment

September 1996 – November 1999: *(1) PhD Researcher & (2) Undergraduate demonstrator & lecturer on all aspects of zoology to undergraduate students in the Dept. of Zoology & Animal Ecology, UCC.*

November 1998 – December 1998: *Environmental Consultant for private company performing environmental assessments of estuarine sediments in Cork Harbour.*

CURRENT / PAST ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

National:

- Adjunct Full Professor in the Institute of Food and Health in University College Dublin Oct 2021
- Chair of the Governance Committee of the Science Foundation Ireland [Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre](#) (APC) in University College Cork (from 2019)
- Director of the [Institute of Public Administration](#) (IPA) in Ireland (from 2019 – March 2023)
- Director and Chair of the Board of the Irish [Association of Chief Executives of State Agencies](#) (ACESA) (from 2018 to March 2023)
- Director and Chair of the Board of the [Irish Management Institute](#) (from September 2022)
- Chair of the [Institute of Health Strategic Advisory Board](#), University College Dublin (from 2013)

European:

- Chair of the Board of the [Joint Programming Initiative A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life](#) (JPI HDHL) (2013 – 2017)

International:

- Fellow of the International Union of Food Science and Technology (awarded 2022)
- Vice President and founding member of [Global Food Regulatory Science Society](#) (from 2020)
- Co-founder of the [International Heads of Food Agencies Forum](#) (from 2019)

OVERVIEW OF EDUCATION TO DATE:

- 2023: Institute of Public Administration – Periodic Critical Review (March 2023)
- 2021: Professional Diploma in Change Management, University College Dublin Professional Academy (April 2021)
- 2021: Certificate in Public Policy Analysis – London School of Economics (July 2021)
- 2020: Executive Certificate in Public Leadership – *Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education*
- 2018: Leadership in Crisis - *Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education*
- 2010: Leaders for Tomorrow Programme - *Harvard Kennedy School of Executive Education*
- 2002: Higher Diploma Environmental Law & Management - *University of Aberystwyth, Wales*
- 2000: PhD Aquatic Ecotoxicology, *University College Cork*
- 1996: MSc. Aquatic Resource Management, *University College London – Kings College*
- 1994: BSc. Zoology, *University College Cork*

FURTHER INFORMATION ON ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research: January 1999 – June 1999: FP5 Project "ECODREDGE" reviewing the status of the shellfish industry in Ireland and Irish coastal waters which involved collaboration with fishermen, state and semi-state organisations as well as other European Member States.

PhD Aquatic Ecotoxicology 1996-2000: During my PhD, I developed estuarine bioassay toxicity tests using the Manila clam, *Tapes semidecussatus*. The acute and chronic effects of exposure of the clam to estuarine sediments receiving tannery, industrial, domestic and oil refinery waste were assessed. Heavy metal levels in sediment and clam tissue were also determined. This research was presented at national and international conferences in the UK, Hong Kong and South Africa. Aspects of this research were completed in Plymouth Environmental Research Center in the UK and at the Ecotoxicology Laboratory at Elf Oil in Stavanger in Norway.

MSc. Aquatic Resource Management 1994 – 1996: A taught Masters including a thesis "Toxicity of mercury, methylmercury and selenium in Harbour Porpoises from the south coast of England".

BSc. Zoology 1993-1994: 2.1 honours including a final year research project, completed at the University of Valencia in Spain, "Intestinal helminth fauna of the Striped Dolphin, *Stenella coruleoalba* in Mediterranean Waters".

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Byrne, P.A., O' Halloran, J. (1999) Aspects of Assaying Sediment Toxicity in Irish Estuarine Ecosystems, *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, Volume 39, Issues 1–12 [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0025-326X\(99\)00121-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0025-326X(99)00121-6)

Byrne, P.A., O' Halloran, J. (2000) Acute and sublethal toxicity of estuarine sediments to the Manila clam, *Tapes semidecussatus*, *Volume 15, Issue 5* <https://doi.org/10.1002/1522-7278>

Byrne, P.A., O'Halloran, J. (2001) The role of bivalve molluscs as tools in estuarine sediment toxicity testing: a review. *Hydrobiologia* 465, p. 209–217. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1014584607501>

Byrne, P.A., O'Halloran, J. (2004) The Impact of Ballast Water Effluent on the Manila Clam, *Tapes semidecussatus*. *Ecotoxicology* 13, 311–322. <https://doi.org/10.1023/B:ECTX.0000033089.17260.6f>

Frewer, L. *et al* (2008) Potential for the Adoption of Probabilistic Risk Assessments by End-Users and Decision-Makers, *Human and Ecological Risk Assessment: An International Journal*, 14:1, p. 166-178, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10807030701790355>

Feskens *et al*, (2015) FACCE JPI – JPI HDHL: Priority Joint Actions to contribute to the European Strategy on Food and Nutrition Security - Outcomes of the Grand Debate “Nutrition Security – A whole system approach” <https://library.wur.nl/WebQuery/wurpubs/fulltext/407464>

Byrne, P. (2017) JPI Healthy Diet for Healthy Life, *Impact*, Volume 2017, Number 2, p. 84-85 <https://doi.org/10.21820/23987073.2017.2.84>

Godefroy *et al*, (2020) Summary of the AOAC-Sponsored Workshop Series Related to the Global Understanding of Food Fraud (GUFF): Mobilization of Resources for Food Authenticity Assurance and Food Fraud Prevention and Mitigation, *Journal of AOAC INTERNATIONAL*, Volume 103, Issue 2, p. 470–479, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaoacint/qs035>

Lyons, O.C., Kerr, M.A., McNulty, H., Ward, F., Walton, J., Livingstone, M.B.E., McNulty, B.A., Kehoe, L., Byrne, P.A., Saul, I. and Flynn, M.A., (2022). Addressing nutrient shortfalls in 1- to 5-year-old Irish children using diet modeling: development of a protocol for use in country-specific population health. *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*, 115(1), p.105-117. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcn/nqab311>

Bronzwaer, S., Alves, F., das Neves, C.G., Byrne, P. and Url, B., (2023). EFSA's second Risk Assessment Research Assembly (RARA) delivered on its objectives. *Trends in Food Science & Technology*. Volume 134, p. 72-76 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2023.02.009>

I am also co-author on 8 scientific dossiers in the area of regulatory risk assessment of plant protection products. I have presented at numerous scientific and other conferences nationally and internationally.