

WPSA UK BRANCH
SUMMER 2018
NEWSLETTER
www.wpsa-uk.com



**Hello and
Goodbye!**

Sadly, this will be my last Newsletter as your Secretary. I have come to the end of my 8 year stint and the time is right to hand over to a new member. I am delighted to announce that your new Secretary, elected at the Spring AGM in Dublin is Jackie Linden. Most of you will recognise her as an excellent journalist over many years for a wide variety of publications related to the poultry and pig industries. I welcome her to the post and feel happy to be leaving the Association in such capable hands. The AGM in Dublin was certainly a watershed as you will see later in this Newsletter. We elected a new President, Junior Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and for the first time all posts have been female candidates, all of whom are known to you and will be moving the Association forward in a number of exciting directions. I wish them all well.

It has been a real pleasure to act as your Secretary and I look forward to participating in meetings from the other side of the fence!

So I take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish the WPSA UK Branch best wishes and good luck in the future.

Stephen Lister
Ex Branch Secretary, WPSA UK

**WPSA Spring
Meeting update**

The **2018 UK Branch WPSA annual meeting** was held outside of the UK for the first time this year, hosted in the impressive venue of the Croke Park Stadium, Dublin. The meeting began with a satellite session on Rapeseed Meal, which kicked off the meeting with a stimulating discussion on the nutritional quality of rapeseed meal and it's potential for use in non-ruminant diets.

The main sessions were then led by invited speakers, **Teun van de Braak (Hendrix)** and **Jason Gittens (ADAS)**, who, respectively, provided an insight on the considerations of a breeding programme for prolonging laying cycles in laying hens, and

what impact UK buyers' purchasing non-cage eggs from 2025 might have on the industry. In order to prolong the laying period of our hens, Tuen highlighted how the breeding programme needs to reflect the change in the industry demands and housing systems, especially given Jason's estimation of an increase in free range egg sales (by the major 6 retailers who have recently committed to going cage-free by 2025), requiring an additional 1.8m to 3.8m hens to meet the demands of a growing population.

The high quality of presentations was continued over the rest of the meeting, covering topics in nutrition, physiology and husbandry, followed by short oral introductions to the poster presentations, which included the participation of students. Special recognition was given to **Rizwan Azhar** for his presentation on how the growing site can influence the AME value of wheat for broilers; and to **Hana Hayton** for her poster on bio-available and total silicon in broilers as evaluated in the digesta. The President's prize was awarded to **Allison Craig** for her presentation on xylanase on broiler growth and flow of carbohydrate fractions; and to Sarah Woods for her poster on selenium sources on broiler antioxidant status. All recipients were awarded with a cheque, and the prize winners also presented

with a book voucher, courtesy of Burleigh Dodds.

The **Gordon Memorial Lecture** was given by **Dr Mike Bedford**, research director of AB Vista, who gave an entertaining and thought-provoking lecture on the evolution and application of enzymes in the animal feed industry, focussing on opportunities and misunderstandings in research. Described by a member of the audience as a "roller coaster of emotions", Dr Bedford's presentation highlighted some of the findings of his experience and career, referencing caution to scientific literature and for the need to accept when enough is enough, or indeed when to accept that what you want to believe is right is in fact wrong! Finishing with presenting a 94.7% correlation with "per capita cheese consumption and number of people who died by becoming tangled in their bedsheets between 2000 and 2009", it's probably fair to say that Dr Bedford's presentation both worried and inspired the next generation of scientists in the room, and was deserving of the award.

Finally, the industry session covered the technological innovations to improve husbandry and welfare of poultry. **Dr David Williams (University of Cambridge)** tried to show us the world from a "birds' eye view" (from a human perspective, asking how can we ever really know?), leaving delegates with an even longer list of questions; whilst **Dr Vicky Sandilands (SRUC)** demonstrated the pro's and con's to the different housing systems on

laying bird welfare, being ever-more important as the industry is forced to change.

Ending the meeting, the reigning President Dr Vicky Sandilands awarded the President's prizes before handing over the new presidency to Dr Emily Burton. The 2018 meeting ended an era for a number of the council members, who after a number of years of hard work and dedication to the branch, handed over to their successors for the roles of secretary, treasurer, council member, with Dr Helen Masey O'Neill stepping into the vice-president position. Looking forward, members can look forward to the 2019 meeting, which again will be alongside BSAS, this time held in the city of Edinburgh.

**WPSA UK
Branch
Administration
2018/2019**

The 2018 AGM saw a complete shake up for the Branch administration with several key members coming to the end of their tenure on Council. The end result was a milestone in the development of the Branch with a clean sweep of female offices as follows:

President
Dr Emily Burton

Vice President
Dr Helen (Nell) Masey O'Neill

Treasurer/Membership Secretary
Dr Farina Khattak

Secretary
Ms Jackie Linden

**WPSA UK 33rd Poultry
Science Symposium**

33rd Poultry Science Symposium

The proposal for the 33rd Poultry Science Symposium is to discuss the topic of prebiotics, probiotics and the poultry microbiome, against the background of a post-antibiotic era. The tentative date for the 33rd PSS would be August 2020, with the preferred venue of Cambridge. As further planning progresses more details will appear on the WPSA UK website at www.wpsa-uk.com

**GDPR – General Data
Protection
Regulations
May 2018**

Your inbox has almost certainly been inundated in announcements about GDPR. We have forwarded you a copy of our actions and Privacy Policy and these are available to view on our website. If you have any concerns about how we store or handle your data then please contact the Secretariat.

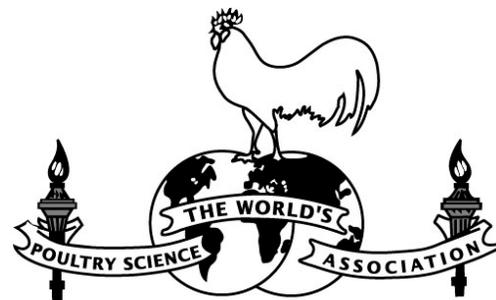
Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS) gains EU approval!

*Contributed by Dorothy
McKeegan and Jessica Martin*

New high welfare method of stunning becomes legal in the EU

Ground-breaking animal welfare research led by the University of Glasgow and in collaboration with the University of Edinburgh has directly led to the decision to make it legal in the European Union to use Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS) for pre-slaughter stunning of broiler chickens. This work represents the most extensive welfare assessment of a stunning system for poultry. LAPS is a novel approach which irreversibly stuns animals by gradually reducing the atmospheric pressure and hence the amount of oxygen available for animals to breathe. Dr Dorothy McKeegan (Glasgow) and Dr Jessica Martin (Edinburgh) developed an innovative welfare assessment based on detailed examination of behaviour and physiology during LAPS, demonstrating that LAPS is humane. This is the first new stunning method to be added to the EU Regulation and provides a high welfare alternative to current commercial approaches. The research was carried out in

collaboration with colleagues at Mississippi State University, University of Arkansas, University of Florida and Wageningen University and Research. The decision to add LAPS to Council Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 On the Protection of Animals at the Time of Killing follows a positive opinion from the European Food Safety Authority in December 2017. LAPS has the potential to improve welfare at killing in other species, and this is being investigated in their current work. A longstanding collaboration between Drs McKeegan and Martin has generated a series of high impact studies underpinning animal welfare policy and influencing practice.



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UK Branch Administration 2018/2019

President

Dr E Burton

Vice President

Dr H Masey O'Neill

Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Dr F Khattak (2022)

Secretary

Ms J Linden (2022)

Elected Councillors

Mr S Wilson (2019)

Dr D Scholey (2019)

Prof M Bain (2020)

Dr C Donaldson (2020)

Dr J Martin (2020)

Dr O Olukosi (2020)*

Dr A Adebisi (2021)

Dr I Whiting (2022)

Dr A Leek (2022)

Dr D McKeegan (2022)

* = second term - ineligible
for re-election

Co-opted Council

Member:

None

Programme Committee

Spring Meeting:

Dr D Scholey Chair

Dr M E Ball

Dr I Dunn

Dr N Whenham

Mr P Garland

Dr V Pirgozliev

Dr S Pace

Dr V Sandilands

Dr N Sparks

Ms Sophie Lee

Mr S Wilson

Dr J Martin

Dr L Beeson

Organising Committee 33rd Poultry Science Symposium

Dr H Masey O'Neill, Chair

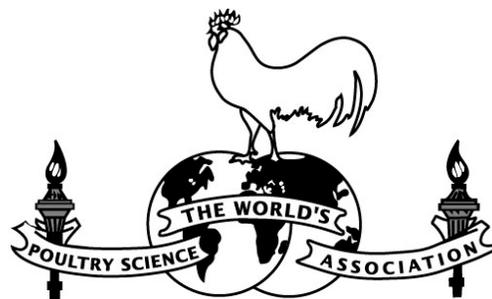
Representative on Egg and Poultry Industry Conference Committee:

Mr S A Lister

R F Gordon Memorial Trust:

Dr V Sandilands

Webmaster: Dr O Olukosi



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