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Editorial: Predicative Modelling of Food Quality and Safety Special Issue

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Editorial

Predictive Modelling of Food Quality and Safety Special Issue

This special issue of *Food Control* contains selected works presented at the Seventh International Conference on Predictive Modelling of Food Quality and Safety (ICPMF7). The conference was held in Dublin, Ireland, September 12–15, 2011 and was co-organised by three major Irish Institutes: University College Dublin (UCD), Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) and Teagasc Food Research Centre. All centres have pioneering research activities in the area of Food Science while also being involved in the organization of other past major events, e.g., European Symposia–International Association for Food Protection (2010), ProSafeBeef Safety Conference (2009), FOODSIM (2008).

At ICPMF7 in Dublin, 136 contributions from 23 nationalities were presented as oral or poster presentations to more than 140 participants. All authors were invited to submit a three page conference paper to be included in the conference proceedings (E. Cummins, J.M. Frias, & V.P. Valdramidis (Eds.), *Seventh International Conference on Predictive Modelling in Foods - Conference Proceedings*. Dublin, Ireland (UCD, DIT, Teagasc), ISBN 1 900454 46 7, 504 p.) From these contributions, 21 papers were selected for this special issue of *Food Control* following a stringent international peer-review process.

The conference covered a diverse range of research topics within the food safety and quality field, including the current state of new outbreaks and the application of modern quantitative risk assessment techniques that can help food authorities in the task of risk management and communication. Additionally, studies were presented unravelling the mechanism of chemical, microbial and physical changes in food at the microscopic level. All these topics are addressed in the published articles in this issue based on either bottom up or top down modelling approaches. Other topics showcased included modelling at single cell levels, quantitative (microbial) risk assessment, predictive modelling in the food chain, quality and safety management, modelling of food processes, sampling and experimental designs/plans.

We also wish to inform the scientific community that during ICPMF7 a significant milestone was achieved by the formation of the International Committee of Predictive Modelling in Food (ICPMF) (<http://www.icpmf.org/>). The ICPMF has as its core mission to catalyse the development of predictive modelling in foods, primarily through advancing the success and sustainability of the biannual ICPMF-conferences.

At this point we would like to thank Tom McMeekin (Emeritus Professor of Microbiology, Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Research/School of Agricultural Science University of Tasmania) for accepting to be the Honorary President and the plenary speaker at ICPMF7. We also wish to thank Marta Hugas (EFSA, Italy), Shigenobu Koseki (NFRI, Japan), Isabelle Souchon (INRA, France), David Vose (Vose Software BVBA, Belgium) for delivering the keynote lectures during this conference. Minister of State Shane McEntee (Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) and Pat Wall (UCD, Ireland) are acknowledged for their stimulating opening lectures. Our gratitude also goes to all members of the International Scientific Committee and of the Organising Committee, for their active contribution to the review process and session planning, to the volunteers, very specially, for their hard work and dedication before, during and after the conference and finally to the companies and institutes who sponsored this event (Crème Software, Fáilte Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, Innovative Science, Meet in Ireland, Science Foundation Ireland, Society for Applied Microbiology, The International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene). Prof. G. Campbell, Editor-in-Chief, and the Editorial Staff of Elsevier are gratefully acknowledged for their support. Lastly, many thanks to all the authors for sharing their research and for their active participation, all of which contributed to making this a memorable and enjoyable experience for all.

Finally we wish the organizers of ICPMF8 well and look forward to seeing you at the event in Paris 16–19 September 2013.

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