

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

69th Meeting of ACAF on 17 February 2016

Information Paper

Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees

**Secretariat
February 2016**

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to ACAF.

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

2. The ACMSF met on 29 January 2016 in Norwich. On the day before the meeting the committee met at Norwich Research Park for a horizon scanning workshop on the microbiome.
3. At the meeting on 29 January the following items were discussed:
 - the Ad Hoc Group on Eggs' draft report: an update on the microbiological risk from shell eggs and their products;
 - the FSA's work in relation to rare burgers;
 - the Food safety risk of recycled manure solids used as bedding for dairy cattle;
 - the outcome of the 7 December 2015 meeting of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group;
 - changes to plant protection product Maximum Residue Levels: potential impact on food safety; and
 - the Committee were also updated on the work of the Antimicrobial Resistance Working Group, and the proposal for a new working group on *Campylobacter*.
4. The next meeting will be held at Aviation House on 30 June 2016.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

5. The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to be held on 3 February. The Agenda includes various novel food applications.
6. The ACNFP is holding an open meeting on 4 February. Presentations are planned to be given on:
 - the new Novel Food Regulations; and

- novel food applications – what makes a good application.

This will be followed by smaller break out group discussions on:

- food and medicines continuum;
- alternative protein sources; and
- engineered nanotechnology with an emphasis on how they may contribute to a healthy diet.

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

7. The COC met on 12 November 2015, items discussed included:

- G09: Assessing the risk of acute and short-term exposure to carcinogens
- Alcohol and cancer
- Horizon Scanning

8. COC have now published its statement on alcohol and cancer risk – please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consumption-of-alcoholic-beverages-and-risk-of-cancer>

9. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 17 March 2016 and discussion topics are likely to include:

- IGF-I and cancer risk;
- Guidance Statement G09 – assessing the risk of less-than-lifetime exposure to carcinogens;
- Scoping paper on alternative approaches for carcinogen risk assessment;
- CMOs' consultation on new alcohol guidelines; and
- Annual Report 2015.

The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

10. The COM met on 15 October 2015, items discussed included:

- COM Triennial Review;
- Germ cell mutagenesis; and
- OECD updates.

11. The next meeting will be on 25 February 2016 and discussion topics are likely to include:

- human germ cell mutagens;

- UK input to OECD guidelines on genotoxicity test methods;
- annual horizon scanning; and
- annual report.

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

12. The COT met on 2 February 2016, items discussed at the meeting included:

- potential future discussion items – horizon scanning;
- third draft statement on the role of hydrolysed cow's milk formulae in influencing the development of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease. RESERVED BUSINESS;
- review of risks arising from the infant diet and the development of atopic and autoimmune disease: Systematic review C Part II – Dietary Exposures during Pregnancy, Lactation and/or Infancy for Reducing Risk of Allergic or Autoimmune Outcomes: a systematic review and meta-analysis. RESERVED BUSINESS;
- enquiring About Tolerance (EAT) Study- A randomized trial of the early introduction of allergenic foods in breastfed infants RESERVED BUSINESS; and
- review of potential risks from arsenic in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years.

13. The next COT meeting is scheduled to take place on 5 April 2016.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

14. GACS met on 1 October 2015.

15. This was the first meeting for Professor Alan Boobis as a GACS member. Professor Boobis attends the GACS meetings as Chair of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemical in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment.

16. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- the regular FSA Science Report to the Committee;
- crosscutting issues in Science in the Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs), which included a presentation by the Chair of the Committee on Mutagenicity, Dr David Lovell, on the work of his committee;
- an update on the FSAs Science, Evidence and Information (SEI) Strategy 2015-2020 and its Delivery Plan;
- a presentation on the UK Agri-Tech Strategy Skills Analysis by Professor Robert Webb;

- a presentation on the FSA work on Data Science by Robin Linacre; and
 - an update on the Review of the SACs by Susan Pryde.
17. The next GACS meeting will be held on 24 March 2016, where reports from two new GACS Working Groups on risks and on skills and capabilities (which were held in November 2015) will be given.
18. Details of GACS meetings, including agendas and meeting papers can be found on the GACS website.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

Horizon scanning workshop

19. An SSRC horizon scanning workshop was held on 15 September 2015 in Aviation House. At this workshop SSRC members were asked to respond to the following questions, which had been circulated to members in advance:
- Can you identify any emerging issues that might present a risk to the public?
 - Is there any information that needs to be brought to the FSA's attention to help consumers make choices based upon current evidence?
 - Are there any risks or opportunities associated with new food technologies?
 - Are there any risks or opportunities arising for consumers as a result of the changing landscape of food production?
 - Is there anything else to bring to the FSA's attention?
20. A report on outputs from the horizon scanning process will soon be circulated to members, and will be presented at the next Committee meeting.

Bi-annual meeting

21. The last Committee meeting of the SSRC was held on 28 September 2015 in Aviation House. The following items were discussed:
- SSRC horizon scanning outputs;
 - SACs Review;
 - FSA SEI Strategy 2015-2020;
 - FSA Regulatory Strategy;
 - FSA Consumer Engagement;
 - FSA NI, FSA Wales and FSS update;
 - ACMSF update; and
 - Sub-Groups, Working Groups and Advisory Groups updates.
22. The next SSRC meeting will be held on 15 April 2016.

Appointments and Recruitments exercises

ACNFP

The ACNFP is recruiting 5 expert members:

- 2 experts in allergy, 1 specialising in clinical allergy and 1 in plant science;
- 1 expert in microbiology specialising in the gut;
- 1 expert in toxicology; and
- 1 expert in molecular biology (GM).

Recruitment began during the week of 22 January 2016 and interviews are expected to be held in mid-March 2016.

**ACAF Secretariat
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