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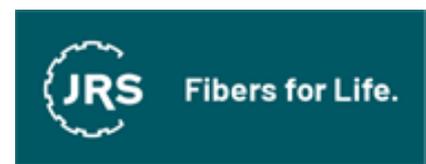
  
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# SPEAKER INFORMATION



## **Pekka Pesonen** Permanent Secretary in Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Permanent Secretary Pekka Pesonen has a strong background in administration and leadership. Throughout his career, Pesonen has led many significant projects in the field of agriculture. He strives to find and develop solutions that benefit good governance, producers, and consumers.

At the Nordic Poultry Conference, Pesonen brings his knowledge and experience in the development and modernization of public administration. His insights and leadership will help advance cooperation and development in the industry across the Nordic countries.



## **Michael Toscano**

### **Dr. Group Leader at the University of Bern's Center for Proper Housing of Poultry and Rabbits**

Dr. Toscano earned his PhD from Purdue University in the United States. Since 2013, he has led research in Switzerland, following seven years of postdoctoral work at the University of Bristol, UK. With over \$30 million in funding from Swiss, US, and EU sources, his research encompasses poultry and rabbit welfare and housing. He excels in behavior, physiology, and management studies. Dr. Toscano has played key roles in EU-COST Actions, focusing on Livestock Phenomics and coordinating keel bone fracture research. His work includes using sensor technology to understand animal behavior and improve breeding for cage-free systems. Noteworthy projects address feeder space, hen depopulation, and behaviors like piling and toe pecking. He received the Poultry Welfare Research Award from the Poultry Science Association in 2016. Dr. Toscano collaborates with industry partners and actively teaches, edits for Poultry Science, and engages with animal science and welfare societies worldwide.



## **Birthe Steenberg**

### **AVEC, Secretary General**

Since 2017, Birthe Steenberg has been Secretary General of AVEC, The Association of Poultry Processors and Poultry Trade in the EU countries. The 19 members of AVEC are national organisations for the production of poultry meat in 17 different European countries. Birthe has a degree in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Copenhagen, and she is a member of The Executive Committee of the International Poultry Council as well as a series of committees arranged by the EU Commission.



## **Anna Silvera**

### **PhD in Ethology and Animal welfare MSc Animal Science**

Anna Silvera works as sustainability strategist and expert on animal welfare at the Swedish Poultry Meat Association. She has previous experience from practical poultry production, working with both traditional and organic broilers, and on-farm inspections with regards to animal welfare. Anna did her PhD in the field of Precision Livestock Farming (PLF), investigating automatic tools to assess broiler welfare at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, where she also worked as a post doc-researcher at the department of Animal breeding and genetics.



## Tarja Sironen

**Vice-Dean, Associate Professor of Emerging Infectious Diseases  
Helsinki University**

Sironen is an associate professor of emerging infectious diseases working at faculties of veterinary medicine and medicine at the University of Helsinki. My research focuses on outbreaks of infectious diseases, and I use One Health approach to study the drivers of disease emergence and finding ways to eventually prevent outbreaks.



## Csaba Jansik

**Ph.D. Senior Researcher**

**Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)**

Csaba Jansik has 25 years of research history in food markets. He has investigated various food supply chains, such as meat, dairy, grain, oilseeds and analysed competitiveness and export performance of the agri-food sector among several countries in Northern Europe. Lately, he has also been involved in research on food security and future changes in the food markets.



## Leon Marchal

**PhD, Innovation Director, IFF-Health and Bioscience**

A bioprocess engineer by education, Leon Marchal obtained his PhD in enzymology from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. For almost 30 years, he has been active in research and product development in different parts of the food and feed industry. For 10 years, he was director Nutrition & Innovation at ForFarmers, the largest feed producer in Europe. In 2013, he was appointed associate assistant professor with the Animal Nutrition Group of Wageningen University. A Ted speaker on raising awareness with the wider audience for the need of antibiotic reduction. Since 2018 Leon Marchal is working for Danisco Animal Nutrition & Health business as global innovation director, where he and his team are working on new solutions for sustainable and antibiotic-free animal production.



## **Ilkka Leinonen**

**PhD: Agriculture and Forestry,**

Leinonen works as a Research Professor at the Bioeconomy and Environment research unit of the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) and has earlier carried out research work at several high-quality research institutes in the UK, USA and the Netherlands. Prof. Leinonen has a long experience in applying and further developing systems modelling-based Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methods for quantifying the environmental impacts and resource use of bio-based production chains, including livestock production, and investigating options for improving their environmental sustainability. His work has resulted in numerous high-impact scientific articles and book chapters, as well as development of various LCA tools in collaboration with industry partners. Prof. Leinonen has a strong background in ecology and environmental sciences, and his earlier work includes development of process-based models for carbon cycles, as well as mechanistic models for energy balance and nutrient dynamics.



## **Ida Thøfner**

**Associate Professor**  
**DVM, PhD**

Ida Thøfner is an associate professor in poultry diseases at the University of Copenhagen. She has a specific interest in the pathology of production diseases, such as E. coli infections and keel bone fractures in egg-laying hens. She is trained as a veterinarian, followed by a Ph.D. in Poultry Diseases from University of Copenhagen. Her research on keel bone fractures in egg-laying hens has shed light on the prevalence, causes, and consequences of this welfare issue in commercial poultry production. Her work has been published in reputable scientific journals and has received international recognition for its significant contribution for improving the welfare of laying hens.



## **Veronika Nagl**

**Dr.med.vet.**

Veronika Nagl is a Senior Scientist at the dsm-firmenich, Animal Nutrition and Health R&D Center, Tulln (Austria). Veronika studied Veterinary Medicine at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna. Thereafter, she did her PhD in the Christian Doppler Laboratory for Mycotoxin Metabolism at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. In 2014, Veronika joined BIOMIN, which is now part of dsm-firmenich. There, her main research topic is the investigation of molecular effects of Fusarium mycotoxins in livestock species. Special emphasis is put on employing -omics technologies and utilization of results for biomarker discovery. So far, Veronika has authored and co-authored more than 30 articles, book chapters and patents.



## Laura Blomvall Veterinarian

Laura Blomvall is a veterinarian and is doing her dissertation on Finnish turkey slaughter, the topic of which is e.g. the most common zoonotic pathogens and their occurrence in slaughter turkeys and meat inspection findings. Laura Blomvall has completed a veterinary specialist's degree in food production hygiene at the University of Helsinki. In her official job, Laura Blomvall first worked as an official veterinarian in slaughterhouses and now works as a regional manager at the Finnish Food Authority Agency.



## Riikka Tanhua Licentiate in veterinary medicine, doctoral researcher

Tanhua is a doctoral researcher in the University of Helsinki in the faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the department of Pathology and Parasitology. I work my thesis under the WB2go project. The WB2go project is a collaboration with the University of Helsinki faculty of veterinary medicine, faculty of Food and nutrition and the Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).



## Pasi Saarnivaara Client Director Kantar Agri, doctoral student University of Eastern Finland

Pasi Saarnivaara is a former basketball player and a lifelong researcher. He has 16 years of experience at Kantar Agri in research related to agriculture, food and Finnish consumers. He has experience in the implementation of more than 500 successful research projects. His areas of special responsibility are the egg, milk and garden markets; forecasting, reporting and communication with industry players. In addition, Pasi has 18 years of experience as a business analyst, specializing in the analysis of business indicators."





## Pia Vennerström

Phd, Veterinarian, Specialist in infectious animal diseases  
Head of Section, Production- and Companion animal pathology  
Koordinator of diagnostics of poultrydiseases  
Finnish Food Safety Authority  
Worked as poultry veterinarian since 1998 in Food safety authority  
and its previous organizations.



## Stefan Gunnarsson

Stefan Gunnarsson is a veterinarian and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Applied Animal Science and Welfare at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Skara. He works with research and teaching on how the health and welfare of farm animals is affected by housing systems and management. Stefan has led Swedish and European research projects on animal health and animal welfare in pigs, laying hens and broiler chickens. Currently, he coordinates BroilerNet, an EU funded project with 25 partners from 13 countries.



## Inger Helene Kravik

Inger is a veterinary researcher at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute. She has a background from small animal clinical work, diagnostic pathology and a PhD on Avian Pathogenic E. coli causing high first week mortality in broilers. At present Inger is taking part in an ongoing study on "Improved gizzard health in Turkeys: More research-based knowledge of gizzard erosion and ulceration syndrome (GEU) with the short title "GizMo".



## Jyrki Virtanen

PhD

**Associate professor of nutrition  
and public health (tenure track)**

Jyrki Virtanen is a licensed nutritionist and an associate professor of nutrition and public health at the University of Eastern Finland in Kuopio. His main topics of interest involve the role of dietary factors in development of chronic diseases, mainly cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, and memory disorders. The role of egg intake in human health has been of the main research topics during the recent years.



## Jørgen Nyberg Larsen

**CEO of Danish Egg Association  
Secretary of EEPTA (European Egg  
Packers and Traders Association)**



## Clara Hagen Secretary General, EUWEP

Clara Hagen has been involved with the poultry and egg industry for many years, both nationally in Holland as well as on a European level, which has provided her with an extensive knowledge and expertise. In 2014 she strengthened the EEPA team becoming the new Secretary General. As of 2019, when the EUWEP secretariat moved from the UK to Holland, she became the Secretary General of EUWEP; a duty which she has been fulfilling with the utmost dedication and commitment.



## **Dr. Barrie Fleming**

### **BVMS, MRCVS - MSD**

### **Technical Director Poultry EURAM**

A 1993 graduate in Veterinary Medicine from Glasgow University, Barrie has cultivated a distinguished career. Barrie's expertise spans global poultry production systems, with a focus on intestinal health and respiratory challenges. His influence extends to Pharmacovigilance and Legislative facets of Animal Health, contributing to the industry's understanding of global challenges. His advisory roles in esteemed groups such as ACAF (Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs), FSA (Food Standards Agency), NOAH (National Office of Animal Health), and AIC (Agricultural Industries Confederation) underscore his commitment to advancing the avian industry.



## **Nathaniel Nutsugah**

### **PhD student in SLU, Sweden**

Nutsugah is working mainly with poultry and looking at how to reduce ammonia emission and improve welfare. He had his Master's degree from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. His background is in animal nutrition and he has worked in the poultry sector in West Africa for over 8 years.



## **Muhammad Adnan Aslam**

### **PhD student in SLU, Sweden**

Muhammad Adnan Aslam is a PhD student in Poultry Nutrition at the Department of Applied Animal Science and Welfare, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, where he also completed his master's degree. With eight years of experience in poultry nutrition, focusing on research, development, and advisory services, his current research centers on sustainable poultry nutrition practices to reduce environmental impact.



## **Gabriel Viana**

**senior scientist  
Natural Resources Institute  
Finland, Luke**

Animal scientist working with poultry research in the following topics: poultry amino acid and mineral requirements, poultry responses to feed additives, digestibility of amino acids, calcium and phosphorus in ingredients and feeds in poultry. Currently working in Natural Resources Institute Finland, Luke, as senior scientist.



## **Reija Hietala**

**PhD Docent**

PhD, Docent Reija Hietala at the Pyhäjärvi Institute is an agricultural geographer with a long career as the specialist of the environmental sustainability of the food production systems. Hietala has lead and involved in numerous national and international research and development projects regarding food security and management of agricultural environments.



## **Arja Seppälä**

**PhD, Application Development  
Technical Service Manager (Farming)**

Arja Seppälä has worked 15 years with challenges related to on farm feed preservation including all crop types. She has studied at Helsinki University and did research work in Luke, Natural Resources Institute Finland. Since 2015 she has worked in Eastman supporting use and development of formic acid and propionic acid-based silage additives and feed preservatives. Successful feed preservation supports profitable and sustainable animal husbandry as well as animal welfare.



## Pertti Marnila

Researcher in Natural Resources  
Institute Finland (Luke)

Main areas of interest are health effects of feed and food.  
Specialized in animal and physiology and immunology.



## Hannele Kettunen

Development Manager ,  
Hankkija Oy

Hannele Kettunen works as a Development Manager at Hankkija Oy. She made her PhD on the effects of betaine in the nutrition and physiology of broiler chicken. She has over 25 years of experience in the R&D of feed supplements and additives for improved intestinal wellbeing and disease resistance of farm animals.



## Magnus Swalander

Global Vice President, Products,  
Aviagen

Magnus has a more than 25 years' experience working in the poultry breeding industry, covering R&D management, including global product development, optimization of breeding programs and implementation of new technology to maximize bird performance. He started his career at British United Turkeys (BUT) in 1997 after achieving a Master of Science Degree in Genetics from the University of Edinburgh and University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden. In 2002, he joined Aviagen as a project manager developing new selection technology for both chickens and turkeys. In 2005, Magnus became R&D Director of Aviagen Turkeys. In 2014 he moved back to the chicken side of the business, and held the dual role of General Manager for Aviagen Ltd and R&D Director of Europe. Since July 2022 Magnus has held the role of Global Vice President of Products (Aviagen Group), responsible for breed/product development for Aviagen worldwide. Since 2023 he also is Managing Director for Aviagen Swechick AB.



## Riikka Kaarto

Veterinarian

Senior Researcher, Production- and  
Companion Animal Pathology Section  
Finnish Food Authority

Worked with diagnostics of poultry  
diseases since 2020 in Finnish Food  
Authority.

