



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN

Rowett Institute of Nutrition & Health

**Rowett-INRA 2010
Gut Microbiology: New Insights into
Gut Ecosystems**

22nd-25th June 2010
AECC Aberdeen



Meeting Report from

**The 7th Joint Rowett-INRA Symposium on Gut Microbiology: New Insights into Gut
Microbial Ecosystems**

The meeting (held from 23-25 June 2010) in Aberdeen attracted 235 delegates from 31 different countries and was a great success. All comments from delegates attending the meeting praised the organisation and content of the meeting. In this meeting, each of the four main sessions started with a plenary talk of 40 minutes given by a renowned invited speaker focussing on the specific topic of that session. These were followed by 4 – 6 offered talks (25 minute duration) chosen from the submitted abstracts following the session theme. In addition we obtained funding from Scotland Food and Drink, to support a themed session focussing on dietary modulation of the gut microbiota. The two talks included in this session were chosen from the offered abstracts. The final presentation in the meeting was given by the world-famous local microbiologist, Professor Hugh Pennington.

Thus the scientific sessions within the meeting were:-

Session I – Gut Microbial Communities – phylogeny, genomics and function

Session II – Microbes and the Environment

Session III – Microbial activities in the Gut

Session IV – Impact of Microbial Colonisation on the Host

Of the short talks (20min talks followed by 5 min questions), 14 (out of 24) were presented by young scientists (under 35 years of age). On two days there were also long poster sessions (1.5 hr) enabling delegates to view the 233 posters and talk with the presenting authors, who were requested to attend their poster for 1 hour on a designated day. Thus the posters attended on Day 1 corresponded to sessions I and II while those on day 2 were on topics related to sessions III and IV. Many of these posters were presented by young scientists.

As has become accepted practice at this conference, a workshop session took place during one afternoon, during which four workshops run in parallel. These included short ‘provocative’ presentations designed to generate further discussion by all participants on the workshop topics: ‘omics technologies; Bacteria and the mucosal surface; The mechanisms of action of Probiotics and Prebiotics; and Mechanisms for microbial survival in the gut. The short contributions were selected from the offered abstracts for the meeting. The chairman of each workshop then summarised the main conclusions to all conference delegates during the final conference session.

We were fortunate to obtain sponsorship from a number of other sources for this meeting, and each sponsor was acknowledged on a slide displayed between talks and during breaks between the oral sessions, and the logos of each were prominently displayed inside the front cover of the conference abstracts booklet (enclosed). This sponsorship enabled us pay full costs of the invited speakers, and the costs for the speaker from the USA (Les Dethlefsen) were fully supported by ISAPP. The Award of the grant from FEMS enabled us to assist 18 young



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scientists from diverse countries to attend the conference by paying proportions of their registration and travel costs depending on the distances they were travelling.

There were several social events organised in conjunction with the conference presenting opportunities for delegates to relax and continue net-working, hopefully fostering future collaborations. These events included a Civic Reception hosted by Aberdeen City Council, the conference dinner and a wrap-up Ceilidh, a traditional Scottish dance. This year the Ceilidh was held in a marquee on the lawn at the Rowett Institute, providing delegates with the opportunity to visit the site where the organising committee perform their scientific research. Since many of the delegates had themselves visited and worked in our institute in the past this evoked fond memories for many of them. The Ceilidh was enjoyed by all and signalled the end of a very successful conference.