

MEET THE SPEAKERS

About the speakers

**Prof. Georg von Samson-Himmelstjerna**

Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

Georg is Full Professor of Parasitology and Managing Director at the Institute of Parasitology and Tropical Veterinary Medicine at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany. Prior to his current position, he was Professor of Molecular Parasitology at the University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover (TiHo), where he also obtained his degree in veterinary medicine, his doctorate, and his habilitation in veterinary parasitology. From 1996 to 2000, he worked at Bayer AG as head of the Laboratory for Molecular Helminthology and was involved in the development of several new antiparasitic drugs. His research focuses on the molecular investigation of the mode of action of anthelmintics and the mechanisms of resistance to antiparasitic drugs. In particular, he has conducted numerous basic research and field studies on the issue of anthelmintic resistance in gastrointestinal parasites of grazing animals.

**Brigitte MISONNE**

AGRI E 'Markets' and AGRI E3 'Animal Products' European Commission

Brigitte is Acting Director for Markets and Head of Unit for Animal Products in DG AGRI, European Commission. She has the overall responsibility for monitoring agricultural market developments, analysing economic trends, building-up market knowledge and designing EU market support measures in agricultural sectors, as well as keeping EU market policy fit for purpose. She is responsible for the livestock workstream to provide a diagnosis of the sector's challenges, propose appropriate tools to accompany the sector, seek ways to address its climate/environment footprint, foster investments, technological development and innovation, and enhance the development of sustainable production models. This has led to the Commission's EU Strategy on Livestock.

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Prof. Laura Rinaldi

University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Professor Rinaldi is a veterinary parasitologist with broad interests in the epidemiology (using geospatial tools), diagnosis (improving traditional and using innovative techniques) and control of protozoa, helminths and arthropoda of veterinary and medical importance. Her main research areas are focused on helminths (e.g. gastrointestinal nematodes and flukes) and anthelmintic resistance in ruminants. She also studies the cestode *Echinococcus granulosus*, as well as diagnosis, mapping and control of human soil-transmitted helminths, inclusive of zoonotic parasites.



Johannes Charlier

Kreavet, Belgium

Johannes is a veterinary scientist, entrepreneur and internationally recognised expert in veterinary parasitology and epidemiology. Following 13 years as a researcher at Ghent University and two years as Scientific Director at Avia-GIS, he founded Kreavet in 2017 to bridge the gap between scientific innovation and practical livestock health solutions. An EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist in Parasitology, Johannes has received several scientific awards for his contributions to parasite control and animal health management. Through his research, publications and international collaborations, he has helped shape the current thinking on sustainable parasite management in livestock systems. As Coordinator of the SPARC project, he works closely with researchers, industry partners, policymakers and livestock stakeholders across Europe to advance sustainable approaches to parasite control and improve the resilience of livestock farming.

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**Marieke De Louw**

De Louw Veterinair Advies, the Netherlands

Marieke is a veterinarian and founder of De Louw Veterinair Advies in the Netherlands. With extensive experience working alongside livestock farmers, she focuses on practical and sustainable approaches to animal health management. As a SPARC Ambassador, she has been actively involved in promoting sustainable worm control, helping farmers translate research and innovation into effective solutions on the farm

**Bruce Thompson**

Dairy farmer, Ireland

Bruce is a dairy farmer from Ireland and a SPARC Ambassador. Passionate about sustainable livestock farming, he works to improve animal health through practical, evidence-based management approaches. Through SPARC, he shares his experiences of implementing sustainable worm control practices at farm level and encourages knowledge exchange among farmers across Europe.

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**Leen Lietaer**

ILVO, Belgium

Leen is a researcher at the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), where her work focuses on sustainable livestock production, animal health and knowledge exchange between research and practice. Through her involvement in national and European projects, she works closely with farmers, veterinarians, researchers and policymakers to support the adoption of innovative and sustainable farming solutions. As Coordinator of the SPARC project, Leen has played a key role in building a European Community of Practice on sustainable worm control and strengthening collaboration between stakeholders across Europe.

**Kevin Harrison**

Farm manager and Deputy Chair of SCOPS, UK

Kevin farms sheep and beef in Northumberland, UK, and serves as Deputy Chair of SCOPS (Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep). Having dealt with the day-to-day challenges of livestock farming throughout his career, he has a strong interest in practical and sustainable approaches to parasite control. Through his work with SCOPS, Kevin helps ensure that farmers' experiences and concerns are reflected in the guidance provided to the industry. He is particularly passionate about protecting the effectiveness of worm treatments for future generations while maintaining healthy, productive flocks and sustainable farming businesses.

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**Gustavo Sabatini**

Boehringer Ingelheim

Gustavo is a veterinarian and animal health executive at Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health. He combines a strong technical background in antiparasitic solutions with expertise in research, development and business strategy. Throughout his career, he has worked closely with researchers, veterinarians and livestock producers to develop practical solutions that improve animal health and farm performance. He is particularly interested in turning scientific innovation into real-world impact and fostering collaboration across the animal health sector.

**Suzanne Keeling**

Beef + Lamb Limited, New Zealand

Suzanne is Head of Science and Research at Beef + Lamb New Zealand, where she leads research across animal health, forages, farm systems, sustainability and productivity. With more than 20 years of experience spanning animal, environmental and human health, she is passionate about translating science into practical, farmer-ready solutions. Sustainable parasite management is a key research priority for New Zealand sheep and beef farmers, and Suzi serves on the SPARC External Advisory Board, providing scientific leadership and strategic guidance on sustainable parasite control in grazing ruminants. She strongly believes that research delivers the greatest value when it is developed with farmers and adopted on-farm. Before joining Beef + Lamb New Zealand, she held senior scientific and biosecurity roles with the New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries.