

SAAFoST 3rd Expert Workshop: Speaker Profiles

Ursula Gonzales-Barron

Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron, a Peruvian-Irish national, graduated with first-class honours in the Faculty of Food Industries at the National Agricultural University La Molina, Peru (1999), and later on she obtained the title of Food Engineer. She pursued PhD studies at the Biosystems Engineering Department of University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland (2006), through the award of the prestigious Irish Walsh Fellowship. After spending few months as a postdoctoral research associate in the School of Chemical Engineering in the University of Manchester, UK (2005), she took on the positions of Lead Researcher (2005-2007) and later on Senior Researcher (2007-2012) at UCD Biosystems Engineering, Ireland. Her expertise resides in diverse areas of food safety and quality, including predictive microbiology and risk assessment of pathogens. She has integrated into food safety research and risk analysis, a series of modelling tools such as meta-analysis, zero-inflated count data models and Bayesian statistics; and has also developed new theoretical frameworks for the modelling of microbial data and subsequent derivation of sampling regimes and microbial control charts for use in food industries. She currently leads the Food Safety and Quality Analytics research team at CIMO Mountain Research Centre, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB), Portugal.

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Fernando Perez-Rodriguez

Fernando Perez Rodriguez undertook his degrees in Biological Science and in Food Science and Technology from the University of Córdoba in 1999 and 2002, respectively. He completed his PhD from the University of Córdoba (2007), which dealt with quantitative microbiological risk assessment and cross contamination in foods. He has published more than 40 articles in the most prestigious international food microbiology and nutrition journals and several books concerning predictive microbiology and nutrition in foods. He has been involved in several research projects at national and international level, conducting quantitative risk assessment studies. Due to his expertise, he has participated as a scientific advisor in several expert panels at national and international level, in the Spanish Food Safety Agency and as a Risk Assessment Expert of the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) and Food and Agriculture Organization FAO providing scientific decisions and reports. He is a member of the International Food Protection Association and the Spanish Society of Microbiology. He has also taught courses in predictive microbiology and he is professor for Food Microbiology and Hygiene at the University of Córdoba (Spain).

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Heidy den Besten

Heidy den Besten obtained a BSc in Food Technology and a BSc in Mathematics. She completed her MSc Food Technology cum laude specialising in Food Safety at Wageningen University, after which she started her PhD project entitled "Quantification of *Bacillus cereus* stress responses" in the Laboratory of Food Microbiology of Wageningen University. Her PhD research combined a mathematical modelling approach with single-cell analyses and molecular techniques for elucidating *B. cereus*' adaptive stress responses. In 2011 she started as Assistant Professor in the Laboratory of Food Microbiology of Wageningen University. In her current position as Associate Professor, her research domain focuses on quantitative pathogen ecology interlinking functional genomics and modelling of microbial behaviour. She supervises BSc, MSc and PhD projects and teaches in the MSc and BSc Food Microbiology programmes.

For more info: [dr.ir. MW \(Heidy\) den Besten - WUR](#)

Fanny Tenenhaus-Aziza

Fanny is currently the Data and Statistics Director at CNIEL, with a mathematical/statistical background. She completed a Masters in Mathematics/Statistics at Pierre and Marie Curie University, and a PhD in Biostatistics at the AgroParisTech est L'Institut des sciences et industries. She is managing projects related to Data strategy in the dairy sector (databases management, interoperability, data exploitation); promoting a data-driven approach when databases are available and can be used to assist decision-making. She provides statistical support to experts for different thematic (food safety, nutrition, food science and technology, economy, etc) -> statistical analysis supervised or not, meta-analysis, simulations. Specific application in food safety: 18 years of experience in the development and deployment of a data-driven approach for microbiological and chemical hazards based on predictive microbiology, quantitative microbiological risk assessment (QMRA) and sampling plans, for dairy operators: strategy, R&D projects (including national and European projects), development of web-based and friendly tools, scientific/technical support during food safety crisis, organization of workshops/conference (IPMF8), communication.

For more info: [\(5\) Fanny TENENHAUS-AZIZA, Ph. D | LinkedIn](#)

Vasilis P. Valdramidis

Vasilis Valdramidis graduated from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki at the Department of Food Science and Technology (Greece). Part of his studies were held at the University of Nottingham, UK and ATO-DLO, Wageningen, the Netherlands. He was awarded his PhD at Catholic University of Leuven (Department of Chemical Engineering), Belgium, for research on Predictive Modelling in Foods. He undertook post-doctoral research at the Agricultural University of Athens (Greece) in Predictive Modelling, the Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute (Northern Ireland) in non-thermal technologies and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (France) in food equipment Hygiene. He was also a research and teaching fellow at the Dublin Institute of Technology (Ireland), the University College Dublin (Ireland) and Associate Prof at University of Malta at the Department of Food Sciences and Nutrition. He is currently Associate Prof at National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Prof. Valdramidis is leading a strong group in the area of food safety and processing.

For more info: [Professor Vasilis P. Valdramidis, PhD - Editorial Board - Food Research International - Journal - Elsevier](#)

Mariem Ellouze

Dr. Mariem ELLOUZE is a Senior Microbial Risk Assessment Specialist at the Institute of Food Safety and Analytical sciences at Nestlé Research in Lausanne, Switzerland. Dr. Ellouze has an Engineering degree from the National Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, a Master degree in Innovation in the Food Industry and a PhD in Risk assessment. In her current role, Dr. Ellouze evaluates existing and new products/processes/concepts, provides technical assistance and scientific advice and develops tools and guidelines to help Nestlé R&D centers and Operations to conduct microbiological risk or exposure assessments.

For more info: [Loop | Mariem Ellouze \(frontiersin.org\)](#)