



# **Ensuring Solid Animal Health and Nutrition:**

Preparing today for a successful tomorrow

Antwerp, Belgium  
17 - 19 March 2025



## SPEAKERS

### PLENARY SESSION

#### JOÃO MARCELO GOMES

President of Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health – EMENA (Europe, Middle East, and North Africa).

He joined Kemin in 2019 as President of Kemin Animal Nutrition and Health – South America and was previously also President of Kemin Food Technologies – EMEA. Gomes is a licensed veterinarian with nearly three decades of experience in sales, marketing, and business development in the animal nutrition and health sectors. He has held executive positions at several companies, including Bayer Animal Health, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Ceva Animal Health, Vallée S/A, and Novus International, and served as President of VetBR, one of the largest animal health and nutrition distributors in Brazil.

Gomes earned his degree in veterinary medicine from Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro and is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish, and English. Throughout his career, he has focused on sales growth, strategy development and execution, customer focus, and production differentiation. He also has a solid background in mergers and acquisitions and people development.

#### STEPHEN HALL

Stephen Hall Management – Quill & Pig Limited.

Stephen has worked continuously full-time in the UK pig industry for 55 years from the age of sixteen. The compass of his experience includes operational husbandry in commercial and genetic production herds, genetic sales and support, managing a production performance data recording and analysis company start-up, developing an independent production consultancy, alongside a system of advanced metrics, and writing industry comment, analysis and features. He is also currently working on the development of a 3E Industry Charter, and supporting the founders of an emerging Ag-tech startup based in the US.

Stephen has been married to Sue for 48 years, they have six children, ten grandchildren and recently welcomed the addition of their first great-grandchild into the world. Stephen describes his work interest as being compelled by an innate curiosity that focuses on pigs and people, and commercial reality. Away from the pigs he enjoys reading, writing, illustration, and the countryside, and is part of a leadership team in local church life.



## PLENARY SESSION

### LODE VERBRUGGEN

Associate Director of Sustainability at Kemin Europe.

Since July 2023, Lode holds the position of Associate Sustainability Director at Kemin Industries, where he oversees sustainability initiatives across the EMEA region. His responsibilities include enhancing the environmental, social and governance impact of the company and its partners.

He holds a master's degree in Economics and Law, supplemented by a postgraduate in sustainability management. His career in sustainability consulting began with roles at IBM and KPMG, and he later co-founded Brightwolves. Seeking to achieve more concrete results, he transitioned to Kemin Industries, focusing on life cycle assessments (LCA's), ESG reporting and identifying initiatives that align sustainability with value-added solutions.

### FEDERICO CASTELLÓ

Founder NeXusAvicultura.

Federico Castelló has 25 years of transformative leadership experience in the poultry industry, recognized for driving digital innovation and enhancing organizational efficiency. His career blends deep technical poultry expertise with strong backgrounds in veterinary sciences, marketing, communication, and project management. Federico has consistently been at the forefront of industry innovation, notably launching Spain's first poultry-focused website in 1996 and pioneering digital marketplaces like PROultry.com in 2013.

Most recently, he founded NeXusavicultura.com, a leading news and intelligence hub leveraging AI to serve poultry professionals worldwide. He is an expert in content marketing in poultry farming with a self-dedicated passion and specialization in generative Artificial Intelligence, data-driven decision-making, and process automation. His recent work focuses on leveraging AI technologies to optimize workflows, boost analytical capabilities, and create innovative solutions specifically tailored for poultry industry challenges.





## PLENARY SESSION

### DAVID GONZÁLEZ SÁNCHEZ

Sr. Technical Service Manager, Monogastric Nutrition.

David González Sánchez obtained his MSc in animal nutrition at the Agronomic Engineering School of Madrid (Spain). Soon after he started his career in Cargill Animal Nutrition Iberia as nutritionist and multi-species feed formulator and raw material purchaser. During those years he could get wide angle knowledge on how feed industry works from different perspectives through his active involvement with feed formulation, quality control, logistics, production and customer service. Later he continued his career in international environment as technical sales and export manager covering the EMENA region with 2 different feed additives and specialties companies, being responsible for business development, technical service and sales support.

Since January 2015 he joined Kemin Agrifoods Europe as Technical Service Manager in EMENA giving active technical support for the nutritional range of products. He also held the position of Product Manager for feed enzymes during several years. He is now holding the position of Senior Technical Service Manager for monogastric nutrition with full responsibility on the technical support of nutritional solutions offered by KEMIN in the entire EUMENA region. His main activities and research interests have focused on the role of fiber in poultry diets, enzymes, fats and oils, and feed formulation.



## POULTRY SESSIONS



### SEBASTIAAN THEUNS

pHd and co-founder of PathoSense.

Dr. Sebastiaan Theuns is the co-founder of PathoSense, a spin-off from the Laboratory of Virology (Prof. Nauwynck, Ghent University). In 2010, he obtained his degree as a veterinarian, and in 2015, he successfully defended his PhD. Subsequently, he developed expertise in vaccine development during a postdoctoral VLAIO Innovation Mandate. Sebastiaan always had an interest in the diagnostics of infectious diseases in various animal species and saw the emergence of new DNA/RNA sequencing technologies as an enormous opportunity for innovation.

Since 2017, his research has led to the development of a complete 'sample-to-diagnostic-interpretation' platform for infectious diseases in veterinary medicine, which culminated in the spin-off PathoSense in October 2020. Since then, PathoSense has been used for all animal species by veterinarians in Belgium, the Netherlands, and several other European countries. PathoSense has already been selected for several prestigious startup accelerator programs, including the Belgian MedTechAccelerator in 2018 and StartIt@KBC in 2020-2021. Sebastiaan is co-author of multiple scientific publications, a patent, and co-supervisor of several doctoral studies.

### NADIA EVERAERT

University of Leuven, Belgium.

Nadia Everaert studied bio-engineering at KU Leuven (1999-2004). After an additional semester focused on livestock farming at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark, she obtained her PhD at KU Leuven in 2008, focusing on the embryonic development of chickens. During her post-doc, including a research stay at INRAE in France (Tours), she specialized in molecular biology skills, using chickens as a model for fetal and nutritional programming.

In October 2013, she became a lecturer at the University of Liège (Belgium) at the Gembloux Agro-Bio Tech faculty (bio-engineering sciences). She taught courses on nutrition for humans and animals, animal welfare, physiology, functional biochemistry, poultry and pig farming. She built her research team on nutrition and health in pigs and poultry, focusing on microbiota and gut health.

Since October 2021, she has returned to KU Leuven as an associate professor and now leads the lab Nutrition and Animal-Microbiota EcoSystems (NAMES). Her research group studies microbiota colonization, gut health, and gut function in monogastric animals such as poultry and pigs. The NAMES Lab investigates the interaction between host and microbiota and its impact on the development of the gastrointestinal tract through in vivo experiments and in vitro models. Moreover, the NAMES Lab aims to improve animal performance and health by modulating gut health and microbiota colonization through nutritional manipulations to make chickens and pigs more resilient to antigen and environmental stressors.



## **MAURO DI BENEDETTO**

Consultant.

Mauro received his degree in Veterinary Medicine from the department of Animal Nutrition of Bologna University. During his career, Mauro has built up a wide expertise in livestock production primarily giving technical assistance in the animal nutrition and animal health area. In the period 1981 to 1982 he worked with Roussel Hoechst Agrovet as technical service manager for feed additives.

Starting in 1982 until 1992 Mauro worked as nutritionist in a commercial and partially integrated feed mill, and from 1985 to 1992 in the same company also as technical director. In the nineties Mauro founded his own consultancy which gave advice on animal nutrition and management for feed mills, premix producers, poultry integrators and large farms. In the meantime, he was managing his own sow unit and other swine farms in Italy. From 2009 to 2013 he was in charge of Kemin Europa technical service management for the Nutritional Product Department and then became head of the department. In 2016 he was appointed as Head of Technical Service Monogastric in Kemin Europa.

From 2020 to 2024, Mauro supported nutrition and health monogastric platforms of KAE, KAA and other Kemin business units as consultant.

From 2024 Mauro is working as free-lance consultant for feed and feed additive industry, with special attention to the projects dedicated to the combination of animal nutrition and health.

Mauro is the author of several articles on poultry and pig nutrition that have been published in peer reviews and international trade magazines.

## **ERIC N'GUETTA**

Marketing Manager Intestinal Health.

Eric joined Kemin Animal Nutrition & Health EMENA in 2021 as a Product Manager for Intestinal Health. He holds an engineering degree in agronomy with a specialty in biotechnology. With prior experience in applied research and innovation project management in animal nutrition and health, he is contributing to the growth of Intestinal Health solutions at Kemin, particularly in the EMENA region. In his current function of Marketing Manager, Eric acts as a liaison in many areas, such as sales, operations, innovation, and strategic direction, providing high support and direction.



## POULTRY SESSIONS



### KÁROLY DUBLECZ

Professor at the Institute of Physiology and Nutrition.

He serves as chair of the Department of Animal Nutrition and Nutritional Physiology in Keszthely. His research is focusing on several aspects of poultry nutrition, including energy and protein evaluation of poultry feeds, evaluating the effects of different feed additives, to get more understanding on the interactions of poultry nutrition and poultry health, studying the multifactorial effects of gut microbiota and its interactions with the animals, how to improve the animal product quality with nutritional tools, finding and evaluating new feedstuffs, secondary cereals, industrial by-products and alternative protein sources.

He is the president of the Hungarian Branch of the World's Poultry Science Association (WPSA) and works also as the Hungarian delegate of the nutritional working group of the European WPSA. He has been active led or participated in several national and international research projects and has successfully applied for research grants nationally and internationally. He authored and co-authored 96 peer reviewed research articles.

### KAREN BIERINCKX

Senior Product Manager for Monogastric Nutrition at Kemin Industries since January 2025, leading the strategic growth and business development of the monogastric nutrition portfolio across the EMENA region. Responsible for steering cross-functional teams, aligning commercial and technical strategies, and driving customer-centric innovations to maximize market impact.

Graduated as a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering Biochemistry from the University of Antwerp, Belgium in 2013. Started her career Kemin's in laboratory services, working closely with customers to optimize feed formulations and provide data-driven recommendations.

Before taking on the current role, she led the Customer Laboratory Services (CLS) division at Kemin for EMENA, managing an international team and developing innovative service solutions that strengthened customer engagement and business growth. Prior to that, she held product management responsibilities for antioxidants and the LYSOFORTE® portfolio, optimizing feed costs for key accounts and implementing impactful marketing strategies.

With extensive experience in product and service management, marketing strategy, and business development, Karen is passionate about driving innovation, fostering collaboration, and creating solutions that deliver value to the animal nutrition and health industry. Currently pursuing an Executive MBA to further enhance her strategic leadership expertise and long-term business impact.



## POULTRY SESSIONS



### ROSER SALA

Tenured university lecturer in the Department of Animal and Food Science at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).

She is a member of the Animal Nutrition, Management, and Welfare Research Group at UAB, where her work focuses on animal production and nutrition.

Her research includes the study of fats and oils in animal diets, particularly their impact on digestion, metabolism, and overall animal performance. She has explored the role of different lipid sources in improving feed efficiency and animal health, contributing to advancements in precision nutrition for livestock.

Dr. Sala Pallarés has published extensively in the field, with her work accumulating over 170 citations. She continues to contribute to the scientific community through teaching, research, and collaborations aimed at optimizing animal nutrition strategies.

### MARK ALLEN

Global Technical Service-Cage Free Flock Management at Lohmann breeders, based in the UK, with more than 20 years of professional experience.

He started working as a Field Support Manager for Bowler Eggs during 10 years after which he became a poultry consultant and bio-security technician for Howells veterinary services & Roxby Farm supplies. He has worked as a consultant in the poultry and veterinary sector mostly for cage-free housing systems.

Currently Mark is responsible for Global Cage free flock Management for Lohmann breeders GmbH. His field of activity within the technical service team concentrates on flock management in alternative egg production systems.





## POULTRY SESSIONS



### BERND KASPERS

Bernd Kaspers graduated in Veterinary Medicine in 1986 from the University of Munich and received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1989.

Subsequently, he worked as a PostDoc fellow at the United States Department of Agriculture focussing on the immune response to coccidian infection. Since 1997 he is a Professor for Animal Physiology at the University of Munich. He has more than 30 years of research experience in animal physiology and immunology, which is documented by more than 115 peer-reviewed publications. He is senior editor of the 3rd edition of "Avian Immunology" published in 2022. His work involves research on both the innate and adaptive arms of the avian immune system with a particular focus on host-pathogen interaction, immune system maturation and mucosal immunity.

### SUSANNE KIRWAN

Global Technical Service Manager at Kemin.

She initially joined Kemin as a Product Manager for Intestinal Health at Kemin Europa in Herentals, Belgium. In her current role, she provides technical support to Kemin's customers and regularly submits abstracts to international scientific conferences and journals mostly on the topics of animal health and antibiotic reduction.

Previously, she worked as a technical sales manager of feed additives for Northern Europe, based from her native, Germany. From 2006 to 2009, she pursued a PhD in Land Economy at the Scottish Agricultural College (SRUC) in Aberdeen and with the University of Aberdeen, UK. Before that, she worked in primary production of poultry breeders in Nigeria and as microbiologist in Israel. She earned a Master of Science from the University of Hohenheim, Germany.



## DAVID SOLÀ ORIOL

Researcher and professor at the Servei de Nutrició i Benestar Animal (SNI BA) within the Department of Animal and Food Science at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).

He earned his Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition in 2008 from UAB's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, following a Master's degree in 2005 from the same institution. His academic background also includes an Agronomical Engineering degree from the Universitat de Lleida in 2003 and an Agronomical Engineering Technology degree from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in 2001.

Dr. Solà-Oriol's research primarily focuses on non-ruminant nutrition, particularly in swine and poultry. His interests encompass feed acceptability, ingredient preferences, and the sensory perception's role in food intake regulation. He has been involved in numerous projects evaluating feed additives, nutrient assessment of various ingredients, and digestibility studies, aiming to enhance animal performance and farm sustainability.

## FRANCESC MOLIST

Manager of Research and Development at Schothorst Feed Research (SFR) in the Netherlands

He holds a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), a Ph.D., and a Bachelor of Business Studies (BBS). In his role at SFR, Dr. Molist oversees research initiatives aimed at advancing animal nutrition and feed efficiency. Dr. Francesc Molist has made significant contributions to the field of animal nutrition through his extensive research and numerous scientific publications. As of now, he has authored 94 publications, which have collectively garnered over 1,296 citations, reflecting the impact of his work within the scientific community. Beyond peer-reviewed journals, Dr. Molist has contributed to industry publications, sharing his expertise on practical aspects of pig nutrition and management. His articles cover topics such as reducing nitrogen emissions in pigs, factors influencing creep feed intake, and strategies to lower feed production costs. Through his extensive research and publications, Dr. Molist continues to advance the understanding of animal nutrition, particularly in swine, influencing both academic research and practical applications in the field.



## MARCELO GOTTSCHALK

Department of pathology and microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Montreal

### Education and background:

- DVM from the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- PhD in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Montreal (1991)

### Career:

- Since 2002: Full Professor at the Department of Pathology and Microbiology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Montreal
- Director of the International Reference Laboratory for Swine Pleuropneumonia and Streptococcus suis
- Consultant for the WHO on human diseases caused by S. suis

### Recent Work:

Prof. Gottschalk's research focuses on the pathogenesis of bacterial infections, particularly Streptococcus suis and Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae. He has published over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals and has been an invited speaker at more than 300 conferences worldwide. His recent studies include the systemic and central nervous system inflammatory response during infections and the development of vaccines against pathogenic bacteria.

## TORRES SWEENEY

University college Dublin

### Education and background:

- BSc in Biochemistry from University College Cork (1991)
- PhD in Molecular Biology from University College Dublin (1994)
- Post-doctoral research fellowships with the European Science Foundation at the MRC Centre for Reproductive Biology in Edinburgh and the Irish Health Research Board

### Career:

- 1998-2002: College Lecturer in Cell and Molecular Biology, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, UCD
- 2002-2007: Senior Lecturer in Cell and Molecular Biology, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, and Conway Institute
- 2007-2011: Associate Professor of Animal Genomics, UCD School of Agriculture, Food Science and Veterinary Medicine, and Conway Institute
- 2011-2018: Professor of Animal Genomics, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
- 2019-present: Full Professor of Animal Genomics, UCD School of Veterinary Medicine
- Recent Work: Prof. Sweeney's recent research focuses on animal genomics, particularly in improving animal health and performance through dietary interventions. Some of her notable recent publications include studies on alleviating weaning stress in pig



## PIG SESSIONS



### JORDI BALIELLES

Grup de Sanejament Porcí (GSP), Lleida, Spain.

#### Education and background:

- DVM from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (1997)

#### Career:

- Worked in an integrated poultry and pig company until 2016
- Joined the Grup de Sanejament Porcí de Lleida (GSP) in 2016
- Collaborates with the Interprofessional Agro-Food Organization of White-Coat Pigs (INTERPORC) on regional PRRS control programs, rational use of antibiotics, and biosecurity improvement programs on pig farms

Recent Work: Dr. Baliellas is an expert in swine health, focusing on the control of Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS). He has contributed to various studies and articles on the detection and management of PRRS, including the use of innovative monitoring techniques and the impact of different viral strains.

### THOMAS SØNDERBY BRUUN

Senior Specialist, SEGES Innovation.

Thomas completed his MSc in Animal Science at University of Copenhagen, Denmark, in 2005. From 2005 to 2010 he worked as a pig production consultant where his main focus was on applied sow reproduction, diet formulations for sows, practical nutrition of sows and management protocols in the farrowing unit. Since 2010 he has been working at SEGES Innovation where his research has been focused on sow and gilt nutrition.

He has also been involved in transferring knowledge from research and innovation to farmers – and thereby participating in implementation of best practice on Danish farms. Thomas' main areas of research has been amino acid and energy requirements of lactating sows, milk production, stomach health and feeding of rearing gilts with focus on litter size and longevity. More recently, his focus has been on feeding gestating sows in co-operation with University of Copenhagen and Aarhus University.





## PIG SESSIONS



### IOANNIS ARSENAKIS

Department of Animal Science and Aquaculture, Agricultural University of Athens.

He graduated from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2010. Following this, he earned a scholarship to study at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Edinburgh University, where he graduated with distinction in 2012 with an M.Sc. in Animal Biosciences. Arsenakis has extensive experience as a swine and poultry veterinarian, having worked in Ireland and Belgium. He completed his Ph.D. at Ghent University, focusing on vaccination protocols to control *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* infections in pigs.

His research interests include improving vaccine efficacy, animal health, productivity, and welfare, with a particular emphasis on swine.

He has published numerous papers in international peer-reviewed journals and has participated in various research programs funded by European consortiums and industry associations.

### ANTONIO PALOMO YAGÜE

Director of the Swine Division at SETNA-ADM, a Spanish company specializing in premixes and technical consultancy, a position he has held since December 1999.

Additionally, since September 1994, he has been an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Complutense University of Madrid.

Regarding his academic background, Dr. Palomo Yagüe obtained his Veterinary Degree from the Complutense University of Madrid in 1985. He then completed a Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota between 1985 and 1987, followed by a Master's in Swine Nutrition at the same institution in 1988. Additionally, he pursued a Master's in Swine Pathology and Production at Utrecht University between 1988 and 1989. In 2021, he earned a Master's in Science and Philosophy from the School of Government at the Complutense University of Madrid.

Dr. Palomo Yagüe has contributed to over 500 publications and is a member of more than 20 scientific committees for national and international swine congresses and symposiums. For the past two years, he has been an elected member of Spain's scientific committee on Swine Welfare.