



MAKING AN IMPACT

2021 Annual Internal Conference By Guillaume Le Palud

The VistaMilk 2021 internal conference took place virtual earlier this month. An average of 108 attendees connected on both days. A total of 45 video poster presentations were submitted and showcased across the two morning sessions. There were six panel sessions which included 40 presentations. These panels focused around the centre's three strategic goals, namely; Food Security, Sustainability and Prosperity and Societal Enrichment. These presentations led to discussions, questions and numerous ideas for potential new collaborations and research.



The first day included a workshop on Education and Public Engagement (EPE) led by EPE Manager, Eimear

Ferguson. During this workshop colleagues investigated deeper forms of engagement for future EPE activities.

Liz Walsh, Teagasc site manager, organised an online team challenge on the second day which included some fun team tasks. After a year during which many of us haven't been able to meet new VistaMilk colleagues in person, it provided a much welcome and relaxed ice-breaking opportunity.

The conference also provided an opportunity to initiate discussions regarding phase 2 of the VistaMilk SFI Research Centre. Deputy Directors, Sasi Balasubramaniam and Laurence Shalloo, led a session to identify what the research topics of interest are for the future. This was the first of a series of exercises that will be implemented over the coming months. We are planning to hold an industry event later in the year to showcase the on-going research.

NEW STAFF



[Martin Browne](#), Technologist, Milking efficiency targeted project

MEET THE RESEARCHER

Name: Michael Kennedy

Education: I graduated with a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from University College Dublin in 2020. I also took part in the student exchange program in 2019 where I attended Purdue University, USA for one semester.



Host: Teagasc & University College Dublin

Role: PhD Student – Nutrition and methane emissions

Research at VistaMilk: I began my research with VistaMilk & Teagasc Moorepark in October 2020. My main area of research is animal nutrition and methane emissions in dairy cows over lactation. Since starting my PhD I have completed a late lactation research trial looking at the impact of lactic acid bacteria silage inoculants on methane emissions and milk production. My research involves measuring daily methane, hydrogen and carbon dioxide emissions from dairy cows using the Greenfeed emissions monitoring system. This system allows cows to voluntarily visit the emission unit daily and enable me to collect data on daily CH₄, H₂ & CO₂ emissions. My research aims to aid the sustainability of Irish dairy farms. My current research trial is looking at the impact of spring grass availability on methane emissions in early lactation. Feel free to contact me for any questions on my research.

Contact: Michael.Kennedy@teagasc.ie

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Horizon Europe Work Programmes to be published in May. Get in touch with [Guillaume Le Palud](#) to discuss opportunities and support.

[CELTIC-NEXT](#) for industry and RPO transnational R&D projects on next generation communications for digital society, incl. smart agriculture. Deadline April 12th 2021. Call details [here](#).

[EIT Food Innovator Fellowship](#) programme for talents with creative and innovative potential to expand their skills through advanced training to develop an entrepreneurial idea impacting food systems. Deadline May 14th 2021. Call details [here](#).

[ERA-NETs SusAn, FACCE ERA-GAS, ICT AGRI-FOOD and SusCrop joint call](#) on “Circularity in mixed crop and livestock farming systems (incl. grassland), with emphasis on greenhouse gas mitigation”. Full application May 26th 2021. Call details [here](#).

[EJP SOIL](#) “Towards climate smart sustainable agricultural soils” internal call (open to Teagasc teams only). Applicant webinar on April 9th. Deadline May 31st. Call topics and details [here](#).

[AGROBOFOOD](#)'s Innovation Experiments Open Call for SMEs to develop innovative solutions for the application of robotic technologies in agri-food industry. Deadline May 31st. Call details [here](#).

[L'Oréal-UNESCO UK and Ireland For Women in Science Rising Talent Programme](#). £15k endowment to promote, enhance and encourage the contribution of women pursuing their research careers in Ireland. Deadline May 31st.

[SFI Industry RD&I Fellowship Programme](#). Up to €100k for academic researchers to work on a research project in industry worldwide, through a temporary placement with an industry partner. Deadline July 21st. Call details [here](#).

New SFI's Frontiers for Partnership. Programme will support partnerships between Technological Universities/Institutes of Technology, and Universities and other RPOs, to deliver excellent research. To be launched in coming weeks.

Events: European Innovation Council Pathfinder and Transition actions webinar on 13th April. EIC will support RPOs, start-ups, and SMEs developing high risk, high impact breakthrough innovation, with a particular focus on solutions contributing to the European Green Deal and the Recovery Plan for Europe. Details and registration [here](#).

2021 European Research and Innovation Days. Online event on 23rd and 24th June 2021. Details [here](#).

PUBLICATIONS

Identification of genomic regions that exhibit sexual dimorphism for size and muscularity in cattle

Jennifer L Doyle, Deirdre C Purfield, Tom Moore, Tara R Carthy, Siobhan W Walsh, Roel F Veerkamp, Ross D Evans, Donagh P Berry

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jas/skab070>

Characterising soil moisture regimes on poorly drained soils in Ireland using optical satellite derived vegetation indices and the OPTRAM model

Rumia Basu^{1,2}, Colin Brown¹, Patrick Tuohy², and Eve Daly

[10.5194/egusphere-egu21-3336](https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu21-3336)

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Workshop on spectroscopy and Chemometrics (28th and 29th April)

Register here: <https://t.co/puoPctFXCL?amp=1>

Password: Spectroscopy21

Opportunity for VistaMilk researchers!

SFI are piloting an initiative called the I-Corps@SFI Academy to support researchers to explore the commercialisation potential of their research using the methodology employed in the National Science Foundation (US) I-Corps Programme.

Objectives

- To train researchers in evidence-based entrepreneurship
- To support the development of validated business models and commercialisation strategies for research with commercial potential
- To support the formation of spin-outs and start-ups

Contact James Healy to register your interest at James.healy@teagasc.ie