

Speaker Biography



Dr Rob Lake, Manager, Institute of Environmental Science and Research Limited, New Zealand
Rob Lake leads the Risk Assessment and Social Systems Group at the Institute of Environmental Science and Research in Christchurch New Zealand. He has been working in food safety in New Zealand for about 30 years, delivering reports to both industry and regulators. Rob was a member of the WHO FERG Core Group which delivered the first global estimates of the burden of foodborne disease in 2015. He also chaired the Country Studies Task Force during the FERG project. Rob is also a member of the Science Leadership Team of the New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre.



Dr Sara Pires, Senior researcher, National Food Institute, Denmark

Sara Pires (DVM, PhD) is a senior scientist at the National Food Institute, Technical University of Denmark. Her main areas of work are the burden and control of foodborne diseases. She has developed and applied methods to assess the burden of foodborne diseases and their most important sources at national and international level, and to provide evidence to guide public health policy for disease prevention. She has been part of various World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization and European Food Safety Authority's expert groups, and is the chair of the

Working Group on Infectious Diseases of the European Burden of Disease Network.



Dr Amare Ayalew, Program manager, African Union Commission, Ethiopia

Dr Amare Ayalew is Manager of the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) based at the African Union Commission. He has led PACA's strategic planning process and the launch and execution of regional and country programs as well as its continental and global advocacy and technical work to bring food safety at the center of policy dialogues and priorities. He led PACA's country led approach for holistic aflatoxin control piloted in six African countries, now scaling the models developed to address broader food safety challenges. He has also coordinated the

development, implementation and validation of the Africa Food Safety Index. Dr. Ayalew received PhD in mycotoxicology from the University of Goettingen, Germany, 2002, and bachelors and master's degrees from Haramaya University in Ethiopia. He is trained in project management, evidence-based policy making, higher institution leadership, and pest risk analysis and is a Borlaug sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) fellow. Prior to joining PACA he had been Associate Professor of Plant Pathology/ Mycotoxicology at Haramaya University, a visiting professor at Texas A&M University, USA (2008), and a research fellow of the Bavarian State Research Center in Munich, Germany during five different periods between 1993 and 2012.



Dr Lapo Mughini Gras, Senior epidemiologist, RIVM, the Netherlands

Lapo Mughini-Gras (DVM, PhD) is senior epidemiologist at the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and associate professor of veterinary public health at Utrecht University. His main research interests are the epidemiology, statistical modelling and risk assessment of infectious diseases, particularly foodborne and zoonotic infections and antimicrobial resistance. He is particularly interested in understanding the sources, transmission routes, risk factors and (health and socioeconomic) consequences of these infections, as to assess their burden and identify priorities for public health interventions. He has been member of various workgroups nationally and internationally. Since 2010, he has (co)authored over 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers.