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Professional Profile

Dr. Evans leads the European Food Safety, Nutrition and Regulatory Affairs operation. He has a proven track record in food safety and food regulatory affairs after fifteen years working with the national food regulatory authorities in the UK and Ireland, initially with the Food Standards Agency in the UK from 1999 to 2006, and from 2006 to 2014 with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland.

In his latter post, Dr. Evans was Chief Specialist in Chemical Safety and led the regulatory controls on the safety of chemicals in food. Dr Evans initially joined Exponent in 2014 and successfully developed the European food consultancy services in this role over a four year period. He has recently returned to Exponent after 2 years working as Group Head of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs with a world leading supplier of ingredients to the global food and beverage industry.

Dr. Evans has an in depth understanding of European and international regulation and authorisation of chemicals in the food chain, including food additives, flavourings, enzymes and contaminants, as well as food contact materials, having been the lead National representative for both the UK and Ireland at European Commission expert and regulatory committees where legislative controls in these areas are negotiated and adopted. He has also attended the Codex Committees on Food Additives (CCFA) and Contaminants in Food (CCCF) as National Head of Delegation for over 10 years. In addition, he has extensive experience of wider aspects of European food regulation, including European controls on novel foods and processes, as well as general food safety controls and risk management approaches. Dr Evans also has first hand experience of developing and implementing scientific and regulatory affairs functions across a global business, and played a key role in developing the scientific and policy positions of relevant trade associations.

Dr Evans also has expertise in food microbiology and microbial safety in the food chain gained through his doctoral and post-doctoral work as well as more recently from working in the food ingredients sector.

Dr. Evans has particular expertise in crisis management in the food chain, having played a central role as incident manager in the Irish Government's management of the pork dioxin crisis in 2008, and played a leading role in the development of Europe-wide measures to address Sudan I contamination of food in 2005.

Dr. Evans is a past Chair of the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on Flavouring Substances and a former member of the Irish Medicine Board's Advisory Committee on Veterinary Medicines. He was also a tutor on the European Commission's "Better Training for Safer Foods" training programmes on food additives and food contact materials legislation.

Academic Credentials & Professional Honors

Ph.D., Biochemistry, Cardiff University, Wales, 1995

Prior Experience

Group Head of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, James Finlay Limited, 2018-2020

Head of Food Safety and Regulatory Affairs (Europe), Exponent International Ltd, 2014-2018

Chief Specialist Chemical Safety, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2006-2014

Head of Food Additives, Food Standards Agency, UK, 2002-2006

Higher / Senior Scientific Officer (Novel Foods / Food Additives), Food Standards Agency, UK, 1999-2002

Publications

Tlustos C, Anderson W, Evans R. Responding to food contamination incidents: Principles and examples from cases involving dioxins. In: Persistent Organic Pollutants and Toxic Metals in Foods. Rose M, Fernandez A (eds), Cambridge, UK: Woodhead Publishing, 2013.

Pratt I, Anderson W, Crowley D, Daly S, Evans R, Fernandes A, Fitzgerald M, Geary M, Keane D, Morrison JJ, Reilly A, Tlustos C. Brominated and fluorinated organic pollutants in the breast milk of first-time Irish mothers: Is there a relationship to levels in food? Food Additives and Contaminants (Part A) 2013; 30(10):1788-1798.

Pratt IS, Anderson WA, Crowley D, Daly SF, Evans RI, Fernandes AR, Fitzgerald M, Geary MP, Keane DP, Malisch R, McBride J, Morrison JJ, Reilly A, Tlustos C. Polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins (PCDDs), polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in breast milk of first-time Irish mothers: Impact of the 2008 dioxin incident in Ireland. Chemosphere 2012; 88(7):865-872.

Evans R, Tlustos C, Pratt I, McHugh B, Tyrrell L, McGovern E. Investigation into levels of persistent organic pollutants in fishery produce available on the Irish market. Epidemiology 2009; 20(6):S236.

Mills C, Tlustos C, Evans R, Matthews W. Dietary acrylamide exposure estimates for the United Kingdom and Ireland: Comparison between semiprobabilistic and probabilistic exposure models. Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry 2008; 56(15):6039-6045. Russell NJ, Colley M, Simpson RK, Trivett AJ, Evans RI. Mechanism of action of pulsed high electric field (PHEF) on the membranes of food-poisoning bacteria is an 'all-or-nothing' effect. International Journal of Food Microbiology 2000; 55(1-3):133-136.

Presentations

Evans R. Chemical safety in the European Union. IUFoST / IFSTI Conference Global Food Safety 2012, Dublin, Ireland, 2012.

Evans R. Rapid detection methods - The European perspective. 3rd CIFST / IUFoST International Forum on Food Safety, Beijing, PR China, 2012.

Evans R. Case study - Dioxin in Irish pork. Workshop on Chemical Hazards and Biological Toxins in Food, Beijing, PR China, 2012.

Evans R. Dioxin Sunday - The Irish dioxin crisis. Leatherhead Food Research Ultimate Crisis Management Conference, Leatherhead, Surrey, UK, 2010.

Evans R. Experience of food safety authorities in Europe. Food Import Safety: Systems, Infrastructure

and Governance Conference, University of Wisconsin - Madison, WI, USA, 2009.

Evans R. EU perspective on product safety. Relevant regulatory and analytical challenges for food and dietary supplements. Covance Laboratories / University of Wisconsin Food Research Institute 6th Annual Symposium. Madison, WI, USA, 2009.

Evans R. Sudan I to IV - Current status of the problems on analyses, toxicological assessment etc. 4th Fresenius Conference on Contaminants and Residues in Food, Cologne, Germany, 2006.

Project Experience

Participated in a study on the urinary dietary Cadmium concentrations of a subset of the Irish population.

Designed the Annual National Food Chemical surveillance and enforcement programmes for Ireland.

Participated in the design and implementation of the second Irish Total Diet Study.

Successful application for an increase to the specific migration limit for a food contact additive in the EU.

Supported clients in the preparation, submission and post submission management of various novel food applications in the EU.