

WBFSH GA-2026 Dublin: Abstracts / Biographies Speakers



Jennifer Doyle PhD, Equine Geneticist, Horse Sport Ireland

Jennifer holds a B.AgrSc in Animal Science – Equine, from University College Dublin (UCD) and a PhD in Statistical Genomics from Waterford Institute of Technology (now South-East Technological University; SETU). Her research career includes:

- *Four years as a Walsh Scholar in Teagasc Moorepark during her PhD, working on a Science Foundation Ireland funded project on the genetics and genomics of linear type traits in Irish beef cattle.*
- *Two years as a Postdoctoral Researcher in UCD working on the DAFM funded Genjump research project to develop a national Irish Sport Horse genetic evaluation for show-jumping.*

At HSI, Jennifer's work includes the MS to SNP transition and authoring the scientific research paper on back-pedigree imputation. She was also the senior author on the innovative research paper that identified Trisomy 27 in the Irish Sport Horse population. Both papers are of great importance to Irish breeders, with continuous validation

work and research into equine traits for the support of breeding programme improvement and equine health.



Prof Jane Williams Head of Research, Equine Department

Jane is a professor of Equine Science at Hartpury University. A qualified veterinary nurse, she holds a Master's in Equine Science and a PhD investigating the use of surface electromyography (EMG) to assess muscle adaptation during training in racehorses and sport horses. Her research focuses on equine welfare, training and performance, rider influences on horse–human interactions, and evidence-based equestrian management. A former Honorary President of the International Society of Equitation Science and founding member of the Sporthorse Welfare Foundation, she is committed to translating research into practical improvements for the horse industry.

Together with PhD researcher Molly MacBeth, Prof. Williams will present Phase 2 of the WBFSH–Hartpury Welfare Project on best breeding practices in sport horse breeding. Their presentation examines the traceability of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) and explores practical approaches to improving transparency, confidence and welfare within sport horse breeding.



Dr Jan Govaere University of Ghent Veterinary Faculty, Department of Internal Medicine

Jan is Head of the Equine Reproduction Unit at Ghent University's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and a European specialist (Dipl. ECAR) in equine reproduction. His clinical and research work focuses on assisted reproductive technologies, stallion and mare fertility, embryo production, reproductive management and the application of new technologies to improve breeding outcomes. Jan combines extensive scientific expertise with practical experience, working closely with breeders and veterinarians to translate research into everyday practice. He has authored numerous scientific publications and contributes to clinical teaching and specialist training in equine reproduction.

In his presentation, Jan will explore how artificial intelligence is beginning to transform sport horse breeding and management, highlighting emerging applications that can support breeding decisions, reproductive management, health monitoring and performance evaluation, while considering both the opportunities and challenges these technologies present for the future of the sport horse industry.



Dr Lynn Hillyer Irish Horse Regulatory Board (IHRB) chief veterinary officer and head of anti-doping

Lynn took on the new roles of Chief Veterinary Officer/Head of Anti-Doping for the IHRB in September 2016 and is responsible for developing and managing the Board's activity in these areas alongside her team of Veterinary Officers, Assistants and Administrators. Lynn was in large animal practice before specialising in equine medicine and then joining the British Horseracing Authority where she had held the position of Veterinary Adviser whilst continuing to work on the racecourse as Veterinary Officer since 2005. Lynn has now been an internationally recognised equine regulatory veterinarian for over a decade and is Chairman of the International Group of Specialist Racing Veterinarians. She sits on the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)'s Advisory Council on Prohibited Substances and Practices, the IFHA International Movement of Horses Committee, the IFHA Welfare Committee and held the position of Chairman of the European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee Chief Veterinary Officer Working Party for the maximum of three terms.



Alan Creighton Head of Environment & Nutrition, Irish Equine Centre

Alan Creighton holds an Honours Degree in Food Science and Nutrition from the Dublin Institute of Technology and joined the Irish Equine Centre (IEC) in 1995. Initially working in the Microbiology Unit, he was appointed Environmental Scientist in 1999 and later became Head of Environment and Nutrition in 2017.

Alan works closely with trainers, stud owners and governing bodies, both in Ireland and internationally, advising on equine biosecurity, nutrition, performance, and grassland management. Alan lectures on the same subjects in various educational institutions and universities. A former showjumper, he remains actively involved in the thoroughbred industry as a breeder and pinhooker.



Tazmin Furtado BA(hons), AdvDip, PhD, University of Liverpool

Tamzin is a social scientist with a background in global health, and has a specific interest in the interconnections between human and animal health and wellbeing. She completed a PhD at the University of Liverpool studying how we can improve the management of obesity in horses, particularly focusing on horse-human relationships and human behaviour change.

She now works on projects covering a wide range of aspects of understanding human behaviour to improve companion animal welfare, and in using social sciences to find out more about how we can help people to change.



Molly MacBeth PhD student Hartpury University

Molly graduated from Hartpury University in 2023 with First Class Honours in Equestrian Sport Science. Following her studies, she gained practical experience in Australia as Head Groom and Show Groom for Ouverture Sport Horses AU, including working with Olympic medallist Christopher Burton. To support her research in sport horse breeding, she has also completed specialist training in breeding and artificial insemination techniques in the UK.

Molly is currently undertaking a funded Hartpury–UWE PhD in collaboration with the WBFSH, investigating equine welfare in sport horse breeding. In her presentation with Prof. Jane Williams, she will present findings from Phase 2 of the WBFSH–Hartpury Welfare Project, focusing on the traceability of assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) and opportunities to strengthen transparency and welfare in breeding practices.

WBFSH-Hartpury University Welfare Project Phase 2

This project focuses on a key aspect of sport horse breeding: assisted reproductive techniques (ARTs). Approaches to ART application, management and regulation vary across breeds, different countries and WBFSH members. ARTs were identified through the systematic review and in consultation with industry stakeholders as an area where existing traceability, transparency and welfare implications could be improved. This study aims to apply a holistic approach working with WBFSH and industry stakeholders to focus on understanding existing practice across the equine breeding sector to generate a profile of current practice, to understand cultural differences and influences underpinning ART use globally and to evaluate their implications to horse welfare. The results will inform good practice guidance and support future WBFSH education initiatives in this area.