



**Dr. Adgebola Adesogan** received his BSc degree in 1988 in Agriculture at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and his MSc and PhD degrees in Animal Nutrition at the University of Reading, United Kingdom. He was an Assistant Professor of Animal Nutrition at the University of Wales, UK from 1995 to 2001, and is currently a Professor of Animal Nutrition and Director and Principal Investigator of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Livestock Systems. He has served on the Editorial boards of the Journal of Animal Science and other journals and chaired or co-chaired the committees of over 13 PhD students and 6 MS students and mentored over 50 visiting scientists and interns from over 20 countries. He has authored or coauthored over 200 scientific publications, received over \$65 million in research grants, and given over 100 international or national seminars in over 25 countries. He has received various awards including the 2006 Graduate Student

Mentor of the Year award at University of Florida (UF), the 2007 American Dairy Science Association Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc. Forage Award, the 2009 UF Research Foundation Professorship award, the 2010 LEAD 21 Award Fellowship from the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the Faculty Commons Nilson Award for outstanding leadership, service and Christian ministry by university faculty and administrators and the 2018 International Educator of the Year award, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UF.



**Dr. David M. Barbano** is a Professor of Food Sciences at Cornell University and the Director of Northeast Dairy Foods Research Center. David earned his BSc in Biology/Food Science and MSc/PhD in Food Science at Cornell. Dave conducts an applied and basic research program on dairy product manufacturing and milk analysis for dairy herd management. Recently, Dave has focused on developing new measures of cow metabolic health, nutrient utilization, and metabolic stress for dairy herd management using mid-infrared milk analysis. He has been very active in the analytical groups of the International Dairy Federation and the Association of Official Analytical Chemists International for the past 30 years. He has been a member of the American Dairy Science Association since 1974 and is a past president. Honors include: American Dairy Science Association West Agro Award (2008); for Milk Quality Research, Harvey Wiley Award - Association of

Official Analytical Chemists International (2010); Award of Excellence – International Dairy Federation (2014); American Dairy Science Association Elanco Award for Excellence in Dairy Science (2015), American Dairy Science Association De Laval Extension Award (2017); American Dairy Science Association – 100 peer reviewed JDS Publications Award (2017); National Cheese Institute – Cheese Laureate Award (2018); Babcock Educator Award –

Wisconsin Cheese Makers Association (2018); Award of Merit – American Dairy Products Institute (2018). He feels the best part of his job is working together with students to create new knowledge, technology, and science-based solutions to problems in the dairy industry.



**Dr. Hugh Chester-Jones** is a Professor of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota located at the Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Waseca for over 33 years. Prior to coming over from the United Kingdom in 1975, he received a National Diploma in Agriculture and College Diploma in Agricultural Marketing and Business Administration from Harper Adams University. He received a BSc degree in Animal Science at the University of Massachusetts and the MSc and PhD degrees in ruminant nutrition at Virginia Tech where he was on staff as an agricultural supervisor. His research activities in Minnesota have focused on production systems for raising calves to be used for dairy heifer replacements or dairy-beef production (confinement vs. grazing). The past 14 years he has been a supervisor of the SROC commercial calf and heifer raising research and extension facility, a partnership between the University of Minnesota, commercial feed industry and three commercial dairy operations. He

has travelled extensively including North America, Europe, South America and New Zealand to present his Minnesota research information.



**Dr. Andres Contreras** received his DVM from Universidad Nacional de Colombia. After 3 years of private practice in central Colombia working with tropical cow-calf operations and grazing dairy herds, he served as an intern in the Large Dairy Internship Program at Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI. Dr. Contreras continued his education at MSU receiving a master's degree in mastitis and milk quality and a PhD in Comparative Medicine and Integrative Biology. His postdoctoral training was at The Center for Integrative Metabolic and Endocrine Research (CIMER) at Wayne State University and focused on the lipolysis- induced white adipose tissue remodeling process and on elucidating the effects of sympathetic innervation on the differentiation of adipocytes in different fat depots. Dr. Contreras' research program is focused on the adaptations of adipose tissue to disease and negative energy balance and its implications to dairy cattle health

especially during the periparturient period. Currently his lab is working on the effects of the interactions between adipose tissue immune cells and adipocytes on lipolytic and lipogenic responses around parturition.



**Dr. Reinaldo F. Cooke** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal Science at Texas A&M University. Dr. Cooke received a BSc (2003) in Animal Sciences from Sao Paulo State University, and a MSc (2006) and a PhD (2008) in Animal Sciences from the University of Florida. Prior to Texas A&M, Dr. Cooke served Oregon State University as Assistant and Associate Professor from 2009 to 2017. Dr. Cooke's academic program is geared toward addressing the needs of the Texas, US, and worldwide beef industries. His research efforts focus on management strategies to improve productive efficiency in beef cattle operations, including nutrition, health, growth, and reproductive responses in *Bos indicus* and *B. taurus* cattle. To date, Dr. Cooke has authored/co-authored 100 journal articles and 3 book chapters, delivered more than 150 extension presentations in local, national, and international events, and secured \$4 million in extramural research funding. Dr. Cooke

has mentored seven PhD students, ten M.Sc. students, forty research interns, and two post-doctoral students. Dr. Cooke serves in the American Society of Animal Sciences (ASAS) Western Section as President-Elect, Section Editor for the Journal of Animal Science and received the ASAS Early Career Achievement Award in 2018, ASAS Western Section – Extension Award in 2017, and ASAS Western Section - Young Scientist Award in 2016.



**Dr. Rick Grant** was raised on a dairy farm in northern New York State. He received a BSc degree in Animal Science from Cornell University, a PhD from Purdue University in ruminant nutrition, and held a post-doctoral position in forage research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison from 1989 to 1990. From 1990 to 2003, Rick was a professor and extension dairy specialist in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Since February of 2003, he has been President of the William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute in Chazy, NY, a privately funded educational and research institute focused on dairy cattle, equine, and crop management. Rick's research interests focus on forages, dairy cattle nutrition, and cow behavior. He has been the recipient of the Pioneer Hi-Bred International Forage Award in 2010 and the Nutrition Professionals Applied Dairy Nutrition Award in 2015.

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**Bob Hostetler** is the Director of Nutrition at St Genetics/ Ohio Heifer Center. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Education from The Ohio State University. He was awarded a College of Agriculture Honors Scholarship and was inducted into nine honorary societies. He worked at Milk Products and Cargill Animal Nutrition as a calf specialist. While at Cargill, he trained dairy nutrition consultants and calf specialists in all phases of dairy calf husbandry and helped accomplish a 386% increase in calf and heifer sales in four years.



**Dr. Bob James** retired as the dairy extension project leader in the Department of Dairy Science at Virginia Tech with additional responsibilities in teaching and research in July 2016. At the University, he received the University Academy of Teaching Excellence Award in 2010. His research concentrated on management of growing calves and heifers. A Jersey milk replacer was developed based upon Virginia Tech research. Most recently the research focus was field based involving management of on farm pasteurizers used for calf feeding and automated calf feeding systems. He is a founding member of the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association and currently serves on the board of directors. He had a modest dairy herd consulting business for 15 years prior to retiring that focused on nutritional management of dairy herds. Upon retirement his business model shifted to dairy calf and heifer consulting on larger farms and calf ranches throughout the US, Canada, Mexico, South

America, Asia, Australia and Europe. He routinely makes presentations at producer and veterinary conferences annually.



**Dr. T. G. Nagaraja** is a University Distinguished Professor of Microbiology in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University. His research expertise is in gut microbiology of cattle. His research has focused primarily on role of rumen microbes in function and dysfunction of the rumen, and on food borne pathogens, particularly Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* and *Salmonella* in cattle. His teaching responsibilities include Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology Lecture and Laboratory for the sophomore DVM students, Ruminant Digestive Physiology for the freshman DVM students, two graduate courses on the rumen, Rumen Metabolism and Rumen Microbiology. Additional responsibilities include serving as the Director of the PhD Program in Pathobiology and the MS Program in Veterinary Biomedical Science in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Nagaraja's research is a blend of basic and

applied studies and involves collaborative interactions with epidemiologists, molecular biologists, pathologists, and ruminant nutritionists. Nagaraja and his associates have made significant contributions in the following areas: Use of ionophore antibiotics in cattle, Causes, pathogenesis and vaccine development for liver abscesses in feedlot cattle; causes and preventions of ruminal disorders, such as acidosis and bloat; Ecology of Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* and *Salmonella* in cattle; and, Antimicrobial resistance and Antimicrobial alternatives. His extramural research support (over \$10 million) has been predominantly from the USDA and Animal Health companies. He has mentored 19 PhD, 18 MS, and 3 MPH students and several post docs and visiting scientists. His research has resulted in seven US patents. Nagaraja and his associates have published 18 book chapters, 14 review papers, 5 symposia proceedings, and 212 peer-reviewed journal papers.



**Dr. Corwin Nelson** is an Assistant Professor of Physiology in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida. Dr. Nelson earned his BSc degree in Biochemistry from the University of Minnesota-Duluth and his PhD degree in Biochemistry and Immunobiology in 2010 from Iowa State University. He completed his post-doctoral studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Biochemistry prior to joining the faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida in 2013. His general research interests include elucidating the molecular and genetic basis for nutritional influences on immune and endocrine systems of livestock species. Much of his research has focused on nutrition, metabolism, and genomic actions of vitamin D in cattle. Dr. Nelson's recent work has focused on current practices for vitamin nutrition in cattle (Nelson et al., 2016, J. Dairy

Sci. and Nelson et al. 2016, J. Animal Sci.) with the goal of optimizing vitamin nutritional requirements for beef and dairy cattle.



**Dr. Greg Penner** is an Associate Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He obtained his BSA and MSc degrees from the University of Saskatchewan in 2004, and his PhD from the University of Alberta in 2009. His research program focuses on understanding the regulation of absorptive and barrier function of the gastrointestinal tract in ruminants. Notable accomplishments include the development of 2 indwelling pH measurement systems that have been adopted by the research community worldwide. Dr. Penner has a well-funded research program, has published 74 peer-reviewed papers, provided numerous invited presentations and, in 2012, he received the Canadian Society of Animal Science Young Scientist Award. Greg also has an active extension program helping to communicate research results to end users and serves as the co-chair for the Saskatchewan Beef and Forage Symposium.



**Michael Poindexter** is a PhD student in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Florida. Michael earned his BSc degree in Animal Sciences from the University of Arizona and his MSc in Animal Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Florida. His research interests include working with the transition dairy cow and focusing on strategies to maximize production and reduce disease incidence in the fresh period. Specifically, much of his research is focused on nutritional strategies such as feeding vitamin D or choline in the prepartum period and the benefits these supplements offer during the transition period. Michael's most recent work was focused on feeding 25-hydroxyvitamin D<sub>3</sub> during the close-up period and the effects of its supplementation on calcium homeostasis and production.



**Dr. Eduardo Ribeiro** grew up on a family farm in a small town located in southern Brazil. In 2008, he graduated in Veterinary Medicine at the Santa Catarina State University and in 2009 he moved to the United States to start his graduate studies in the Department of Animal Sciences at University of Florida under supervision of Dr. José E. P. Santos. He completed his MSc degree in 2011 and his PhD degree in 2015. In 2016, Dr. Ribeiro joined the Department of Animal Biosciences at the University of Guelph as Assistant Professor in Reproductive Physiology. His research seeks to understand the nature and causes of pregnancy losses in bovine, and to develop strategies that ultimately improve pregnancy survival and reproductive efficiency in dairy herds.



**Dr. Lorraine M. Sordillo** earned her BSc and MSc degrees from the University of Massachusetts and her PhD degree in immunology from Louisiana State University. She was a research scientist in the immunology group at the Veterinary Infectious Disease Organization in Saskatoon Canada from 1987-1992 before beginning her academic career at the Pennsylvania State University from 1992-2004. She is currently a faculty member at Michigan State University where she is the first person to hold the Meadow Brook Chair for Farm Animal Health and Well Being in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Lorraine's primary research has focused on developing solutions to reduce health disorders in transition dairy cattle by investigating the interaction between nutrient metabolism, oxidative stress and immunology. Her research has resulted in 5 US patents aimed at improving dairy cattle health. Lorraine has written more than 160 peer-reviewed

articles in scientific journals in addition to numerous chapters in books, proceedings articles and monographs. She is often asked to speak at national and international meetings relating to dairy cattle health. She also has served on many national committees and has received several awards for her research on bovine immunology and mastitis control.



**Dr. Mike Van Amburgh** is a Professor in the Department of Animal Science and a Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow at Cornell University where he has a dual appointment in teaching and research. His undergraduate degree is from The Ohio State University and his PhD is from Cornell University. He teaches multiple courses and leads the Cornell Dairy Fellows Program, advises approximately 50 undergraduate students and is the advisor for the Cornell University Dairy Science Club. Mike currently leads the development of the Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System, a nutrition evaluation and formulation model used worldwide and through that effort is focused on enhancing the efficiency of nutrient use by ruminants to improve the environmental impact of animal food production. A significant focus of his current work is to understand whole animal and ruminal nitrogen metabolism and amino acid supply and requirements to enhance the

development of the Cornell Net Carbohydrate and Protein System. Further, his group is active in developing methods to better describe the interaction between forage and feed chemistry, rumen function and nutrient supply to compliment the model. He has authored and co-authored over 70 journal articles and many conference proceedings and is the recipient of several awards including the American Dairy Science Foundation Scholar Award, the Land O'Lakes Teaching and Mentoring Award from ADSA, the American Feed Ingredient Association Award for Research, the CALS Professor of Merit Award and the CALS Distinguished Advisor Award and in 2016, was named a Stephen H. Weiss Presidential Fellow, the highest teaching award given by Cornell University.



**Dr. João Vendramini** received his BSc degree in agronomy from the University of São Paulo, the MSc degree in Animal Sciences from the same institution, and the PhD in forage management at the University of Florida in 2005. He was an Assistant Professor and Forage Specialist at Texas A&M University from 2005 to 2006 before taking his current research and extension appointments at the University of Florida Range Cattle Research and Education Center, Ona, FL. Dr Vendramini's program is dedicated to forage management with emphasis on sub-tropical production systems. The major area of interest is forage-livestock interface and the impact of forage management on forage and animal production. Dr. Vendramini's research program has generated 5 book chapters; 111 refereed journal articles, 52 extension articles, and 150+ abstracts in professional meetings. He has been the principal investigator or co-principal investigator on grants totaling \$1,200,000 and

currently he is the chair or co-chair of 2 graduate students and serves as a member of an additional 6 committees. He received the 2010 Merit Award – American Forage and Grassland



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Council, 2011 Florida Cattlemen's Association Researcher of the Year, 2011 Florida Association of County Agriculture Agents Outstanding Specialist, and the 2017-2020 UF/IFAS Term Professorship Award. Dr. Vendramini is a member of the American Society of Animal Sciences, American Registry of Animal Science Professionals, American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, America Forage and Grassland Council, and Florida Cattlemen's Association.