

Dr. Filip Van Immerseel, Ghent University

JM Bell Lectureship in Animal Nutrition



Influencing microbiota-host interactions by dietary strategies to improve intestinal health

Influencer les interactions microbiote-hôte pour améliorer la santé intestinale par des stratégies alimentaires

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Filip Van Immerseel has a Masters in Bio-engineering Sciences (1999), a Masters in Laboratory Animal Sciences (2004) and received a PhD in Veterinary Medical Sciences in 2004, studying environmental triggers in the gut that influence *Salmonella* invasion.

After a post-doc period, he was appointed as a Research Professor by Ghent University in 2008. Currently he is a Professor at the Department of Pathology, Bacteriology and Avian Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Ghent University in Belgium and heads a research group with more than 20 people that study host-bacterium interactions in the poultry gut. Filip Van Immerseel currently has more than 200 scientific papers in international peer-reviewed journals, has written book chapters and edited books on *Salmonella* and *Clostridium perfringens* and is a well-known speaker at international events. He is the editor of the journal Avian Pathology and is involved in many international collaborative research networks, has a dozen patents and has out-licensed multiple gut health solutions to companies.

His group is a leader in intestinal health in poultry (and other animal species) worldwide. The general approach is always to study host-pathogen or host-bacterium interactions and to collect scientific data on mechanisms of a) the pathogenesis of diseases or b) the protective effects of bacterial strains and bacterial metabolites on gut homeostasis. These data can then be used for rational development of control measures to control pathogen colonization or intestinal disease, including vaccines, feed additives and diagnostic tools.