



Interfacing Food & Medicine

A World
Leading SFI
Research
Centre



APC Microbiome Ireland Strategic Vision 2021-2026

Making a Difference through Microbiome Science

HOST INSTITUTION



PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath



FUNDED BY:



Collaborating to translate microbiome science for a sustainable future

APC Microbiome Ireland is a world-leading SFI Research Centre in microbiome science and innovation - a rapidly expanding research area with direct societal, health and economic impact. APC has created a lively, trans-disciplinary research environment where scientists and clinician-scientists from diverse backgrounds work in teams, sharing ideas and resources. This environment has led to amazing scientific breakthroughs and novel innovations that will lead to new cutting-edge knowledge and products that will deliver benefits for the health of all. Through this new strategic vision, APC's ambition, passion and conviction will translate microbiome science to positively impact the planet and people, through collaboration, industry engagement and nurturing future talent.

I am delighted to see the focus on organisational culture and the commitment to core values of collaboration, inclusion and integrity. I look forward to supporting APC on this important journey and wish to thank all who helped in shaping this ambitious strategy.

*Dr. Pamela Byrne,
Chair, APC Governance Committee and
CEO, Food Safety Authority Ireland*



Our ambitious vision to deliver microbiome solutions for global grand challenges

Over the last 17 years, due to the quality and impact of our research, APC Microbiome Ireland has enabled Ireland to attain a primary position globally in microbiome research and to make a real difference to the health of individuals. As a global leader in microbiome science, APC continues to be a collaborative powerhouse for innovation across wide-ranging relevant areas, from human nutrition and food production to disease treatment and prevention. APC continues to grow and to develop smart microbiome-associated solutions to address global grand challenges including infection, atopic disease, cancer and climate change.

This is important for the continued development of Ireland's knowledge economy and job creation in our food, agriculture, biotechnology, diagnostics, veterinary and pharmaceutical sectors. In this vision document, we set out our ambitions for 2021-2026 where we will provide global leadership in microbiome research and its translation to practical outcomes for mankind and the planet.

*Prof Paul Ross,
Director,
APC Microbiome Ireland SFI Research Centre*



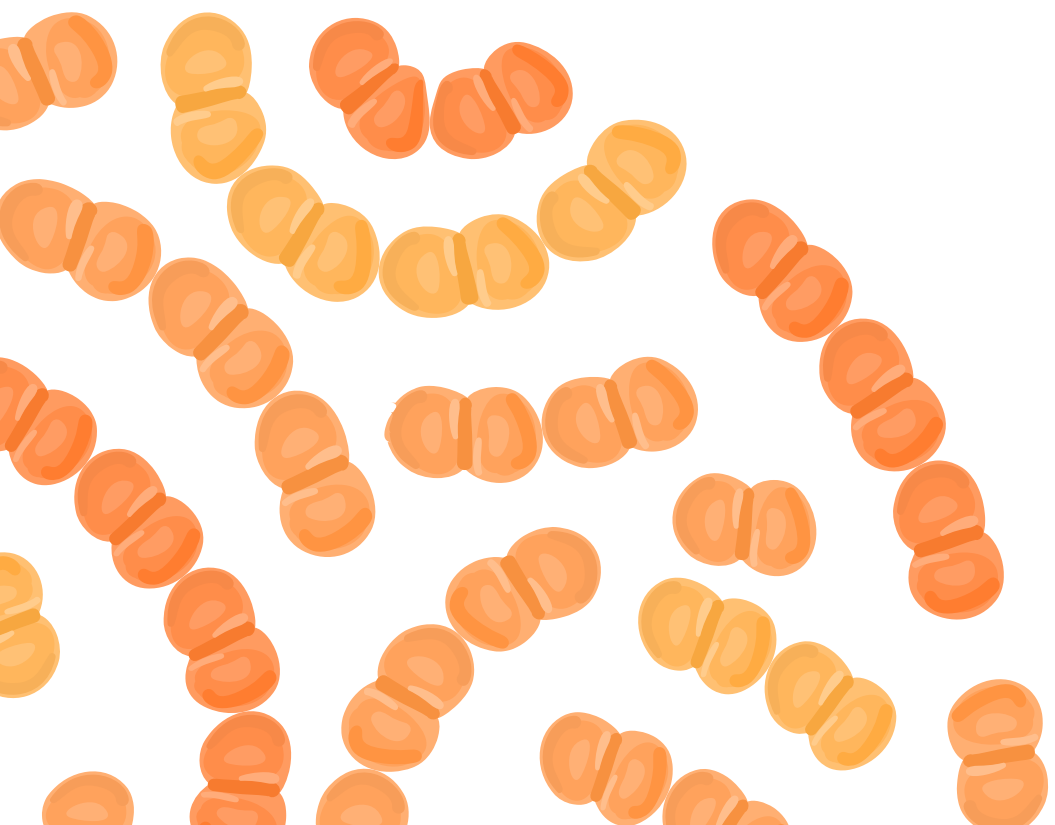
2026 Vision

To continue to be global research leaders who positively impact human and planetary health through excellent microbiome science and innovation.



APC Mission

To bring talented researchers, clinicians and industry together to develop microbiome based knowledge, solutions and products to tackle societal challenges and support economic growth.



APC Core Values



Excellence through Collaboration

We are “better together”, so we continually strive to research and innovate collaboratively to achieve societal and economic impact. We nurture transdisciplinary teams that work together across the boundaries of traditional research disciplines.



Integrity and Respect

We are committed to ensuring a culture of dignity, objectivity, transparency, honesty, trust and respect for all.



Inclusion, Diversity and Equity

Our people are our strongest asset. We promote a research programme and environment for all that is renowned for its collegiality, inclusion and fairness where our researchers can flourish.



Ambition, Passion and Conviction

(APC) We are passionate about our research and are committed to creating a positive impact for society and the planet.

Strategic Areas

1

People and Culture

To create future leaders in microbiome science through a culture that promotes integrity, diversity and creativity.

2

Scientific Excellence

To translate microbiome science to improve health, wellbeing and economic prosperity.

3

Partnerships

To maximise our impact on society through collaboration, industry engagement, and forming new companies.

4

Stakeholder Engagement

To actively involve, serve and influence our stakeholders.

Strategic Area:

People and Culture

Key Aims: To create future leaders in microbiome science through a culture that promotes integrity, diversity and creativity.

Goals:

1. To attract, develop and enable the best people as future leaders for academia and industry.
2. To foster collaborative, inclusive and creative cross-disciplinary teams.
3. To embrace a spirit of critical and independent thinking and entrepreneurship.
4. To promote a positive culture that supports wellbeing through our equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) strategy.

Outcomes by 2026:

1. APC attracts and trains talented staff and students who will drive Ireland's knowledge economy.
2. Cross-disciplinary teams that shape societal thinking and drive innovation in knowledge-based industries.
3. APC is the go-to place for microbiome expertise and thought leaders.
4. A culture that welcomes and respects diversity and a work environment which supports a good work-life balance.

Strategic Area:

Scientific Excellence

Key Aims: To translate microbiome science to improve health, wellbeing and economic prosperity.

Goals:

1. To deliver excellent and impactful microbiome research and education, that transforms the field.
2. To strengthen clinical relationships and research to improve patient outcomes, and individual health and wellbeing.
3. To improve consumer health and economic prosperity by developing microbiome-based solutions in food and agriculture.
4. To provide microbiome innovations that tackle some of the biggest global challenges for a sustainable future.

Outcomes by 2026:

1. Enhanced global reputation as a centre of excellence for microbiome research.
2. Improved patient care through our microbiome research and expertise.
3. Development of functional foods, medical foods and live biotherapeutics to improve human (and animal) health.
4. Microbiome solutions to microbiome-based challenges such as anti-microbial resistance (AMR), pathogen persistence and methane production in developed & developing countries.

Strategic Area:

Partnerships

Key Aims: To maximise our impact through collaboration, industry engagement, and forming new companies.

Goals:

1. To be the focal point for microbiome research and collaboration on the island of Ireland.
2. To develop strategic partnerships with international research institutes.
3. To establish a new APC Innovation Centre, devoted to co-creation and innovation with industry across the food-pharma interface.
4. To foster a culture of entrepreneurship and partner with relevant stakeholders to establish new, investor-ready spin-out companies.

Outcomes by 2026:

1. APC, as a National Institute, continues to cement Ireland's leading role in microbiome science globally.
2. APC's impact is increased internationally, through strategic partnerships and greater leadership on international microbiome initiatives.
3. New dedicated building which will be a hive of innovation to position Ireland at the forefront of precision nutrition and medicine.
4. A portfolio of thriving high-potential APC spin-out companies across a range of microbiome fields.

Strategic Area:

Stakeholder Engagement

Key Aims: To actively involve, serve and influence our stakeholders.

Goals:

1. To develop a targeted communication and marketing strategy to highlight APC research nationally and internationally.
2. To have an excellent public engagement culture and programme.
3. To involve non-specialist stakeholders through Engaged Research to maximise the societal impact of our research programme.
4. To influence national and international nutrition and health policy by engaging with key stakeholders.

Outcomes by 2026:

1. APC's brand and impact is increased, nationally and internationally.
2. Strong culture of public engagement within APC resulting in increased public capacity to understand, engage with and utilise microbiome research.
3. APC's increased capacity to conduct Engaged Research supports the centre to generate quality, impactful research.
4. Increased evidence of microbiome science in national and international policy in areas relating to food and health.

