

## Foreword

We are delighted to introduce the Special Edition of *Animal Production Science* entitled: **ADSS2016: Science-based solutions for Australasian dairy industries**, which contains selected invited and submitted papers presented at the *7th Australasian Dairy Science Symposium 2016 (ADSS2016)* held at The University of Sydney in November 2016.

The ADSS, a biennial symposium that is held rotationally in New Zealand and Australia, is the largest dairy-specific, scientific meeting in the southern hemisphere. ADSS2016 brought together leading scientists and students from New Zealand and Australia who presented their latest research and scientific advances in all areas of dairy science and dairy production.

As per previous symposia, the ADSS2016 also brought a number of leading national and international invited speakers: Professor Daniel Weary (University of British Columbia, Canada); Dr Pablo Gregorini (Lincoln University – formerly DairyNZ, New Zealand); Mr Pieter Raedts (University of Tasmania, Australia); Dr Bill Wales (Agriculture Victoria, Australia); Dr Richard McDowell (AgResearch, New Zealand); Professor Rupert Bruckmaier (University of Bern, Switzerland); and Professor Chris Reynolds (University of Reading, United Kingdom).

We sincerely thank the Organising Committee for their assistance with the review process for ADSS2016. The committee comprised Dr Cameron Clark (University of Sydney), Professor Danny Donaghy (Massey University), Dr Callum Eastwood (DairyNZ), Professor Grant Edwards (Lincoln University), Professor Sergio (Yani) Garcia (University of Sydney), Dr Joe Jacobs (Agriculture Victoria), Associate Professor Kendra Kerrisk (University of Sydney), Mr Chris Murphy (Dairy Australia), Associate Professor Ruth Nettle (Melbourne University), Dr David Pacheco (AgResearch), Dr Richard Rawnsley (Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture), Dr John Roche (DairyNZ), and Dr Bill Wales (Agriculture Victoria).

All authors who presented at ADSS2016 were offered the opportunity to submit their work to this Special Edition. Submissions were managed as per journal guidelines, where

each paper was peer-reviewed by at least two independent national and international experts in the respective field, and an Associate Editor. This Special Edition covers the key topics of: animal welfare and intensification; cows, plants and their interactions; farm economics and systems; feed and feeding systems; soils and environment; physiology, nutrition and health; and technology, data and automation in dairy production. Individually, contributions range from thought-provoking reviews on current industry topics like public perceptions in relation to animal welfare and the role of systems research in the future, to scientific testing of practical solutions to day-to-day problems encountered by our dairy farmers, and new and advanced management practices for animals, soils and plants. Collectively, this selection of scientific contributions demonstrates not only the dynamic and proactive nature of dairy research in Australasia but also, in line with the title, the potential of dairy research to provide science-based solutions for our dairy industries.

The organising committee of ADSS2016 sincerely thank all authors for their contributions and participation in this event and their subsequent commitment to delivering papers for this special edition of *Animal Production Science*. We also thank our major sponsors, Dairy Australia and DairyNZ, The University of Sydney at which the event was hosted, and official session sponsors: ABVista; The University of Melbourne; Agriculture Victoria; and the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture for their financial support of the Symposium.

*Sergio (Yani) Garcia*  
*The University of Sydney*  
*NSW, Australia*

*Joe Jacobs*  
*Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources*  
*Agriculture Victoria*  
*Vic., Australia*

*Editors, Special Edition*



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