

5th Euro-Global Summit and Expo on

## Food & Beverages

## June 16-18, 2015 Alicante, Spain

## Decoding the proteins of functional food ingredients: Providing proof of bioactives and maintaining consumer confidence in an emerging industry

**Eugene T Dillon** Food for Health Ireland, Ireland

High protein foods and functional foods with bioactive proteins and peptides are major growth areas to for the food ingredients industry. The basis of claims for functional food ingredients requires the findings from basic nutritional research and subsequent double blind placebo controlled feeding studies for their substantiation. However, batch to batch variations in protein content and ingredient preparation can lead to changes in the health benefits of protein foods. In order to fully characterize functional food ingredients and to provide a platform for the sustainable development of functional food ingredients to maintain consumer confidence in this emerging growth area, Food for Health Ireland (FHI) employs proteomic analysis and mass spectrometry in the identification of novel bioactive peptides for functional food ingredients. FHI builds upon recent advances in mass spectrometry for reliable and accurate identification and quantification of proteins and peptides, such as those bioactive components of functional food ingredients. This analysis adds credibility to the functional food ingredient preparations. This presentation will give an insight into the role of characterization as a mechanism in decoding the ambiguity around protein sources in functional foods which are responsible for health claims, providing proof and clarity of their presence as well as understanding their benefits to health and ultimately ensuring more trust for consumers in the functional food industry.

## **Biography**

Eugene T Dillon has completed his BSc, MSc and PhD studies in the field of Nutrition, specializing in molecular nutrition and the development of insulin resistance during obesity. As part of the FHI technology transfer team, he applies the field of proteomics to understand global peptide profiles of high protein functional foods with health benefits.

eugene.dillon@ucd.ie

Notes: