

Ursula Gonzales-Barron



Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron, a Peruvian-Irish national, is a Food Engineer (Hns) with a PhD from University College Dublin, Ireland. She is currently a Principal Investigator at the Mountain Research Centre, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, Portugal, and Invited Professor at PhD programme in Food Science at the National Agricultural University La Molina, Peru. She leads the reputed "Food Quality and Safety Modelling" team, composed of 13 researchers, focusing on advancing computational methods for predictive microbiology, meta-analysis and risk assessment. Her domains of expertise also include simulation and optimisation for food safety processes, biopreservation strategies, acceptance sampling plans, statistical process control, systematic reviews and databases. Dr. Gonzales-Barron has supervised over 25 postgraduate students; has published >150 peer-reviewed articles, 10 book chapters and 1 book; has presented her research findings at over 80 international conferences; and has organised and taught at 20 international dissemination and training events in Europe and America.

Dr. Gonzales-Barron acts as the Chair of the International Committee on Predictive Modelling in Food (ICPMF). She is also an Effective Member in the Normalization Technical Committee CT 061 (Microbiology in the Food Chains) of the Instituto Português de Qualidade (IPQ, Lisbon). She has served as an Expert Member in ISO/TC34/SC9/WG19 (ISO, Genève), Expert to the ad-hoc PAP Working Group of the Panel on Biological Hazards (BIOHAZ, EFSA), and as Consulting Expert and R Programmer in the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment (JEMRA) of the World Health Organization (WHO, Geneve). Dr. Gonzales-Barron is the developer of the Pathogens-in-Foods European database (https://pif.esa.ipb.pt/).