



Participant: Dr. J. Andrew Hudson, Environmental Science and Research (ESR)
Project Title: Scientific sYnergisM of nano-Bio-Info-cOgni Science for an Integrated system to monitor meat quality and Safety during production, storage, and distribution in the European Union (SYMBIOSIS-EU)
URL: <http://symbiosis-eu.net/>
Research Area: Food Science
Research Programme: FP7, Small Collaborative Project (SCP)
Co-ordinator: Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), Greece
NZ Role: Partner
Period Covered: 36 months from 13/10/2008 to 12/10/2011
Funding: € 2 280 098

Getting to meet the people in Europe who might otherwise be just surnames and initials on paper titles is of immense benefit through the building of networks and collaborations.

Dr. Andrew Hudson is a food microbiologist with a total of 16 years experience in the area. He has worked with the Food Safety Programme at ESR's Christchurch Science Centre for almost 13 years and this has involved a range of activities from the provision of consultancy services to the Ministry of Health, and later the New Zealand Food Safety Authority, to applied research into the biocontrol of foodborne pathogens.

It was this latter interest, as well as ESR's participation in other EU projects, which led to the involvement in **SYMBIOSIS-EU**. In 2008 Dr. Hudson was awarded an ESR Senior Fellowship to attend the "kick off" meeting of the EU project **ProSafeBeef** and to make contacts in Europe with the aim of broadening the group's interests in biocontrol. The contacts made during this trip led to ESR's involvement in SYMBIOSIS-EU.

The project is mostly focused on improving the quality of beef, but part of the work considers safety. The use of biocontrol is of interest to both ESR and AUA and so the incorporation of biocontrol into the project was an obvious avenue to follow. While the project has only just started, linkages supporting the project are already being set up and further international collaborations likely to follow.