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Prof. Gary Hardiman joined the Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences and Institute for Global Food Security (IGFS) at Queen's University Belfast in 2018 as the Chair in Food Systems Biology. His laboratory at QUB works in the field of systems biology, the objective of which is the study of biological systems, including genes, RNAs, proteins, metabolites, cells in a focused manner, organisms, and populations in a broader context. Current areas of research focus are studying the effects of microplastics on marine and human health; prostate cancer in the context of racial differences and nutritional deficiency; examining the impacts of long-term space travel – specifically the effects of nutrition, torpor, space radiation and microgravity on hepatic and intestinal biology; developing a rat model of opioid abuse to develop biomarkers for substance abuse; optimizing toolkits for better integration of Omics data sets into genotypephenotype predictions; and computational analysis to interpret the development of metabolic diseases mediated by non-coding RNAs. Hardiman is co-founder and CTO of the Northern Ireland based precision medicine company Altomics Datamation Ltd. Until 2018 Hardiman was Scientific Director of the Center for Genomics Medicine Bioinformatics and a full professor in the Departments of Medicine and Public Health Sciences at The Medical University of South Carolina. Hardiman received his BSc. Hons. & Ph.D. degrees in Microbiology/Molecular Biology from the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG). He has edited several books on genomics technologies and the recent Elsevier book 'Environmental Contaminants and Endocrine Health' with Prof. Oliana Carnevali.