



# APSA 2021 18<sup>TH</sup> BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Australasian Pig Science  
Association (Inc)

Sofitel Brisbane, Australia

15<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021



## Dr Chantal Farmer



### ***Improving the performance of neonatal piglets***

*Dr Chantal Farmer is a Research Scientist in swine lactation biology working at the Sherbrooke Research and Development Centre of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. She obtained her Bachelor of Science from McGill University (1980), her Master of Science from the University of Saskatchewan (1982) and her PhD from Pennsylvania State University (1986). Dr Farmer's research goal is to increase sow milk yield and she was a pioneer in studying mammary development in gilts and sows. She has published 153 scientific manuscripts, 9 book chapters, and is the sole editor of two books. Dr Farmer's expertise is recognised internationally as evidenced by her being guest-speaker in 13 European countries as well as China, Canada and the USA. She was president of the Canadian Society of Animal Science in 1998-99 and was made a fellow of this society in 2017. She was also on the board of the American Society of Animal Science from 2014 to 2020.*

Newborn piglets have a great incidence of pre-weaning mortality that is not only associated with low birthweights but also with the presence of intra uterine growth-restricted (IUGR) piglets. Such IUGR piglets are commonly seen in litters from hyperprolific sows and are largely due to insufficient placental transfer of nutrients. Nutritional strategies can be used in gestation to enhance fetal development and can also be used in the transition period to reduce the duration of farrowing and increase colostrum yield. Various other approaches can be used, such as: 1) optimising the farrowing environment, 2) performing farrowing supervision and handling of piglets, 3) using cross-fostering techniques, 4) providing nurse sows, and 5) providing artificial milk. Even though research advances have been made in developing feeding and management strategies for sows in order to increase performance of their newborn piglets, much work still remains to be done to ensure that maximal assistance is provided.