Martin Cole is currently Deputy Director for Agriculture and Food (A&F) within the Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the National Science Agency of Australia. He is an internationally recognised food scientist and accomplished science leader with over 20 years' experience in research management across government, academia and industry. Prior to his current role, he was Director of the U.S. National Centre for Food Safety and Technology (NCFST), an FDA Centre of Excellence, based in Chicago, Illinois.

Professor Cole has published and presented on many aspects of food science including food safety, novel processing and nutritional food security. He has over 15 years' experience with the CODEX Food Hygiene Committee and has frequently been called upon as an expert by organizations such the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as well as the US House of Representatives. He is currently the Chair of the International Commission on the Microbiological Specifications for Food (ICMSF) and a member of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) to the UN Food Security Committee. He is also a Director with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ), Adjunct Professor at the Tasmanian Institute of Agricultural Science, University of Tasmania and a fellow of the International Union of Food Technologies (IUFoST).