

## International Food Protection Issues PDG

**Attendees:** Frederick Adzitey, Sultan Al Tahir, Bassam Annous, Jianfa Bai, Peter Ben Embarek, DeAnn Benesh, Sylvia Bergman, Sarah Cahill, Marion Castle, Teen Teen Chin, Roger Cook, Sally Crowley, Carl Custer, Heidy Den Besten, Maria Teresa Destro, Jeff Farber, Laurie Farmer, Francoise Fontannaz, Elise Forward, Leon Gorris, Judy Greig, Brenda Halbrook, John Heller, Sunee Himathongkham, Sandra Hoffmann, Tim Jackson, John Jarosh, Ian Jenson, Bobby Krishna, Keith Lampel, Linda Leake, Alvin Lee, Jing Ma, Li Ma, Deon Mahoney, Alejandro Mazzotta, Marianne Miliotis-Solomotis, Per Nielsen, James O'Donnell, Haley Oliver, Anne-Marie Perchec-Merien, Ruth Petran, Damanna Rao, S. G. D. Nagalakshmi Reddi, Deana Rolheiser, John Sanders, Jenny Scott, Panagiotis Skandamis, Peter Slade, Thierry Sofia, Aswathi Soni, Mark Tamplin, Ewen Todd, Purnendu Vasavada, Jason Wan, Andrew Wilson, Guodong Zhang, and Marcel Zwietering. **Number of Attendees:** 58.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 2:35 p.m., Saturday, July 8, 2017.

**Chair:** Leon Gorris, **Past-Chair:** Bobby Krishna, and **New Vice Chair:** Ian Jenson.

Leon opened the meeting welcoming the PDG members and new attendees. He reminded the participants of the purpose of the meeting and presented the proposed agenda. Other than the election of a new Vice Chairperson, there were no additions to the agenda.

On behalf of the Board, Roger Cook welcomed the attendees. He noted that the normal info from the Board on IAFP would be shared during the opening session. The Board invites suggestions from the PDG to involve students more and to consider awards for students to specifically recognize them. The Board also encouraged PDGs to consider more initiatives such as webinars for symposia ideas not selected for further development into Annual Meeting sessions.

**Old Business:** The minutes of the 2016 PDG Meeting were adopted as written (Deon Mahoney proposed; seconded by Jeff Farber).

### **New Business:**

Election of Vice Chair. Leon reminded the meeting of the SurveyMonkey issued to vote for one of the three candidates (Brian Stringer, Canada; Bassam Annous, U.S.; and Ian Jenson, Australia) and allowed attendees a last chance for voting. The final result of the voting was that a majority of the PDG membership elected Ian Jenson as the new Vice Chair, starting office right away and taking on the role of Chairperson at the IAFP annual meeting in 2019. Leon thanked all three candidates for stepping forward and congratulated Ian. On behalf of the PDG, Leon thanked Bobby for the four years of his special commitment and energy put into the PDG's activities.

### **Success rate of last year's symposia submissions.**

The Chair noted that out of the 6 symposia sessions suggested by the group in 2016, 2 were on the 2017 Annual Meeting program. The PDG further suggested proposals of others, of which 3 made it to the final program.

### **Updates from (International) Organizations and countries/regions.**

- a. FAO & WHO: Sarah Cahill (FAO) and Peter Ben-Embarak (WHO) updated the meeting as follows. The past year has seen a number of important ini-

tiatives and activities. We will give you here a brief overview (full details to be provided to members by email) of some of the more important and relevant for the members of this PDG.

- Antimicrobial resistance: Codex requested advice on all the factors potentially contributing to foodborne AMR, not just on the animal health production side but also crop production, biocides sanitizers, environment, packaging, waste. To minimize the public health impact of AMR associated with the use of antimicrobials in the food chain, the WHO Advisory Group on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance (AGISAR) has been playing an active role in the implementation of GAP. AGISAR support country laboratory capacity building projects, with an aim to characterize the AMR of foodborne pathogens in at least two sectors along the food chain.
- Food control systems assessment tools: FAO and WHO have worked jointly to offer Member Countries a tool to assess, in structured, transparent and measurable ways, the performance of their food control system throughout the entire food chain, identify priority areas for capacity development, and measure and evaluate progress over time. FAO and WHO continue to develop and fine-tune the food control system assessment tool. To date, the tool has been tested in 8 countries. The experiences and feedback from the first field testing is being used to improve and update the tool. To facilitate the more widespread use of the FAO/WHO Assessment Tool, training is envisaged to develop a pool of reliable facilitators.
- Whole Genome Sequencing: FAO/WHO/OIE jointly organized a side event during last year's session of Codex Alimentarius Commission entitled "WGS and food safety: potential relevance to the work of Codex" on 28 June 2016 at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy. The final report is available at <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bp080e.pdf>. A side event is organized at this year's session of Codex CAC at WHO HQ in Geneva, Switzerland. Other technical reports available for meetings in Singapore and Washington.
- WHO IHR and emergency preparedness and response: The INFOSAN Secretariat responded to 38 international food safety emergencies in 2016, facilitating rapid communication among INFOSAN members. INFOSAN members' knowledge and capabilities to participate actively in the Network has been further developed through the delivery of awareness webinars, an 8-part Technical Webinar Series and online emergency simulation exercises.
- Scientific advice. JEMRA work is currently focussing on STEC and clean water. STEC: 2 source attribution studies are currently underway as well as the development of a paper on hazard characterization of STEC, as a means to support food safety management on STEC. These will be considered at an expert consultation in September this year. On clean water: concerns how to operationalise the Codex

guidance of using clean water defined as water which should not compromise the safety of the food in the context of its use. Focus is on 3 specific areas – water for horticulture/produce – (farm level and post-harvest), post-harvest water use in the fishery sector including on board and water re-use within processing facilities.

- Fish and seafood related issues. FAO and WHO completed work on Toxicity Equivalent Factors for biotoxins in seafood (see <http://www.fao.org/3/ai5168e.pdf>). Some emerging and re-emerging issues that we are now starting to look into include the Issue of nanoplastics and Ciguatera - an expanding problem due to climate change.
  - Other resources: Global Food Consumption Databases prototype (<http://www.fao.org/gift-individual-food-consumption/en/>); Chronic Individual Food Consumption Summary Statistics platform (<http://www.who.int/foodsafety/databases/en/>). Food loss and waste (<http://www.fao.org/food-loss-and-food-waste/en/>); FAO/WHO Diagnostic Tool for Assessing Status of National Codex Programmes (in English, Spanish, French and Russian) at <http://www.fao.org/documents/card/en/c/9e9bc818-0622456a-b673-01a878061579/>; FAO Food Labelling to Protect Consumers Handbook: <http://www.fao.org/3/ai6575e.pdf>. FAO Enhancing Early Warning Capabilities and Capacities for Food Safety <http://www.fao.org/3/ai5168e.pdf>.
  - International Food Safety Day: The 40th session of FAO Conference which closes today adopted a draft resolution, to be transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring June 7th as World Food Safety Day.
  - Future outlook: See the full update notes available to members for the range of forthcoming priorities and activities.
- b. Codex: Jenny Scott reminded the meeting that Codex Committee for Food Hygiene was undertaking a major revision of the General Principles for Good Hygiene, integrating the current HACCP annex in the main body.
- c. FSPCA/FSMA: Update by Jason Wan (also on behalf of PC Vasavada). Jason introduced FSPCA's training program for FSMA's Preventative controls of human and animal foods, informing the meeting on the progress training qualified individuals and lead instructors in U.S. and abroad. A 500-page manual is available and translations are being made available.
- d. COMBASE. Mark Tamplin updated on international developments of Combase, which is actively engaging food microbiology groups across the globe. USDA and UTAS Tasmania lead the group. There is a new advisory group and Mark looks for scientists interested in joining the scientific panel. Some regions are not yet included. Translation of Combase on the waydex.

## Regional Updates:

- a. Roger Cook informed the meeting of the establishment of the virtual "New Zealand Food Safety Science & Research Centre" in 2016, of which the 1st anniversary meeting was held earlier in July. IAFP Members Arie Havelaar and Leon Gorris are on the International Science Advisory Board which aims to build up an excellence science capability in food safety to support industry as well as authorities. Roger noted the multiple challenges that chemical contaminant in food pose locally and in trade, signalling the need for globally harmonized methodologies for analyzing chemical contaminants and managing low level contaminants. He accounted of a DNA test and two markers that have been identified for the Manuka honey in view of adulteration problems.
- b. Deon Mahoney noted Australia's food safety system had now achieved mutual recognition with the USA and the continuing concerns regarding raw milk.
- c. Panos Skandamis from Greece, who is a member of the Biohaz panel of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) gave an overview of EFSA activities and outputs: i.e., guidance on the requirements of the microbiological criteria, working on a guidance for risk managers and risk assessors; guidance for risk ranking, *Listeria monocytogenes* risk assessment, opinion on HACCP for small retail businesses; report on growth of spoilage bacteria. For more details, see: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu>.
- d. Maria Teresa Destro presented on the recent "weak flesh" meat scandal in Brazil, which was associated with food safety concerns that were not valid as it was due to cases of bribery and bad communication, involving some media and food professionals.

## Suggestions for Symposia at IAFP 2018:

- a. Ideas for the Annual Meeting of IAFP in 2018 need to be submitted by 3 October 2017. The following topics were suggested to be developed:
  - Food safety education and training learnings from tailored small group offerings to running massive open on-line courses
  - International experiences developing and applying online tools for auditing food operations
  - Food fraud on an international scale
  - Increasing complexity of food outbreaks
  - Raw milk – can it be safe?
  - Food safety in extreme environments
  - Global strategies for antimicrobial resistance
  - Harmonized methods & management of chemical hazards internationally
  - International recognition of national food safety system
  - Water use and reuse WRT waste quality and safety along food chain
  - Pseudoscience in food, how to face rumours and how to respond
  - HACCP for smaller businesses – learnings on success of application and business needs
  - Seafood toxins and climate change
  - Eggs – differences in risk management U.S. and EU
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The Chairs will support the coordination of applications with other PDGs and will help attracting support from other PDGs. Those who proposed will need to develop more details before October 3. Once the Program Committee has selected successful proposals, the key contact of the proposers will be notified. Proposals not selected could be considered to develop for alternative PDG activities, such as webinars.

**Upcoming Meetings of Relevance to PDG**

- a. China International Food Safety & Quality Meeting and the Dubai International Food Safety Conference in November (IAFP co-hosts)
- b. Predictive modelling conference in Cordoba (<http://www.icpmf10.com/index.php>)
- c. VTEC 2018 March meeting in Italy (<https://www.mvma.ca/ce/continuing-education-events/10th-vtec-symposium-florence-italy-may-6-9-2018>)

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

- 1. To approve the election of Ian Jenson to Vice Chair of the PDG.
- 2. To provide written summaries of IAFP international meetings to be printed in *Food Protection Trends*?

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:15 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 7, 2018, Salt Lake City, UT.

**Chairperson:** Leon Gorris.