

Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG

Names of Attendees: Alexandre DaSilva (Chair), Julie Jean (Vice Chair), Adrienne E. Shearer, Alison Lacombe, Angela Nguyen, Anna Starobin, Candace Barnes, Carl Custer, Doug Marshall, Enrico Buenaventura, Hediye Cinar, Jack Guzewich, Jackie Woods, James O'Donnell, Jill Hollingsworth, Kaiping Deng, Larry R. Beuchat, Laura Ewing, Lucy Robertson, Mauricio Durigan, Mona Kumar, Mustafa Yesil, Naim Montazeri, Siman Liu, Sonia Almeria, Tamara Ford, Ted Gatesy, and Phyllis Posy.

Staff Present: Didi Loynachan and Dina Siedenbug.

Number of Attendees: 30.

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time, Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Julie Jean.

The meeting was called to order by Alex da Silva (Chair). Alex introduced himself and welcomed everyone. All attendees were invited to introduce themselves and after that Alex gave an overview of the agenda.

Old Business: The minutes from IAFP 2019 was approved with no modifications.

Alex reviewed the 3 accepted sponsored or co-sponsored proposals (S36: Confirmatory Tests for Non Culturable Foodborne Pathogens in Produce for Regulatory Testing Purposes: Recent Advances and Challenges Ahead; S55: Foodborne Parasites: An Emerging Issue; and S61: Regulatory Testing for Viruses and Parasites: The Crossroads between Public Health and Industry).

New Business: Two main topics were on the agenda:

Update on viral foodborne diseases:

Douglas Marshall brought out the topic of the SARS-CoV2 virus (or viral RNA) on food surfaces and food packages. The impact on export and import of food commodities was briefly discussed as well as the public health issues vs the trade issues. Questions were asked on the traceability and blockchain for this viral target.

Update on foodborne parasitic diseases (Cyclosporiasis outbreaks):

Alex da Silva shared his screen showing the CDC website with the data about 2020 cyclosporiasis outbreaks, including the number of cases, recalls, type of commodities involved, epicurve and traceback data which led to the collection of canal water that was tested positive for the parasite. Mauricio Durigan added that the method used in this investigation method was published in the FDA BAM. Several other participants (among them Jack Guzewich, Kaiping Deng, Phyllis Posy, Nese Cinar) discussed about the origin of the contamination, the reuse of water for irrigation, importation of products and traceback and sequencing of the environmental compared to clinical samples.

In preparation for IAFP 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona, July 18-21, 2021, roundtable, and symposia topics were suggested and discussed:

Challenges to link clinical to environmental samples with genetics matching of *Cyclospora* was suggested by Mauricio Durigan as a potential symposium or roundtable proposal.

Frozen berries: A symposium on *The Challenges of Viral Contamination of Fresh and Frozen Berries* was already accepted for IAFP 2020 but had to be canceled for non-availability of the 2/3 speakers. Julie Jean suggested to resubmit the same proposal for next year since the subject is still very actual.

Symposium on SARS-CoV-2 on surfaces was suggested as it was mentioned in the new business by Kaiping Deng. Douglas Marshall offered to work also on the proposal on this important topic.

New or improving detection methods on virus and parasites was brought up by Alex as a potential good subject for a symposium. The idea from sampling to genetic identification was briefly discussed.

The discussion moved on the challenges of exchange of foods on the international market in the context of the pandemic of COVID-19 as a new normal and a roundtable was suggested as an excellent topic. Jackie Woods was interested in working on such proposal which could be cosponsored with GMA PDG. Jack Guzewich suggested that this could also be a great idea for a webinar and should be discussed sooner than waiting just for the next IAFP Annual Meeting. Laura Ewing brought up the changing of eating habits in this context and that there is an increase of home gardening and also other kind of possible food safety challenges such as canning.

Future communications for the proposals to be submitted will be done via IAFP Connect. Deadline for symposia, roundtable and workshop proposals is *November 10, 2020*. Also, it was highlighted that webinars are sponsored by the IAFP Foundation and are free for participants. It was also mentioned that elections for a PDG co-chair will be held next year. The goal is to have the elections in April 2021.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: July 18-21, Phoenix, Arizona.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:37 a.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Alexandre da Silva.