



**IAFP**

Applied Laboratory Methods PDG

## **Teleconference Minutes – June 19, 2012 12:00 – 1:00 pm (Eastern Time)**

*Mission: To provide a forum for the exchange and sharing of information related to the development and use of Laboratory methods for the analysis of food and related commodities.*

### **“Don’t Be a Benefiter. Be a Contributor!” Pat Rule**

**MEETING ATTENDEES:** Leslie Thompson, Phil Coombs, Christine Aleski, Reginald Bennett, Andy Benson, Sun Kim, Joe Meyer, Omar Oyarzabal, Mary Lou Tortorello, P C Vasavada, George Wilson.

**MINUTES:** Leslie Thompson, Phil Coombs

**STARTED:** 12:05 pm EST

The main purpose of the meeting was to review programs that had been accepted for the 2012 Annual Meeting. Symposium convenors / organizers provided updates. Other items are as listed.

### **1. COMPENDIUM OF METHODS FOR THE MICROBIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOODS – Call for authors and reviewers**

Mary Lou Tortorello made the following request:

The revision of the Compendium of Methods for the Microbiological Examination of Foods is currently underway. New authors are needed to revise the following chapters:

- Sweeteners and Starches
- Gums and Spices

The Editors also are looking for authors who can write two new chapters:

- Probiotics
- Cell Injury and Methods for Analysis

Also, reviewers of all chapters are needed. Please contact me if you are interested in authoring any of the above chapters, or if interested in being a reviewer, note which areas you feel you can review.

I would like to send the message to the PDG membership by email also. If you are able to help, please contact Lou:

**Mary Lou Tortorello**

Supervisory Microbiologist, FDA

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Christine Aleski suggested that Joan Pinkas (McCormick & Co.) would be very authoritative on the subject of spices. George Wilson agreed to contact Joan. Christine also suggested Michael Brodsky as the lead author of the chapter on Probiotics. Lou said Michael was already involved with another chapter of the Compendium, but could still be considered. Joe Meyer will ask his clients if they know of anyone suitable on Probiotics.

## **1. SYMPOSIA / ROUND TABLES ACCEPTED FOR 2012.**

- a) **Harmonization of Methods to Evaluate and Validate Preventative Controls which will be critical for FSMA -Alvin Lee, P C Vasavada, Zhinong Yan**

**SCHEDULED FOR: WED JULY 25, 8:30 – 10:00 AM**

**Speakers: Larry Keener, John Larkin, Russ Flowers**

Alvin apologized for not being on the call. John Larkin may not be attending, and may be replaced by Mickey Parish (FDA-CFSAN).

- b) **Drivers for Global Food Safety: Aligning Public, Private, and Government Resources - Keith Lampel, Pam Wilger, Andy Benson**

**SCHEDULED FOR: WED JULY 25, 8:30 – 12:00 PM**

**Speakers: Patrick Wall, Angelika Tritscher, Jean Kamanzi, Mary Schmidl, Kathy Gombas, Mike Robach**

Andy reported on some last minute changes. Angelika Tritscher was unable to attend and would be replaced by Peter Ben Embaraek (WHO, China).

It was also not certain whether Jean Kamanzi would be able to attend although efforts were being made to secure travel funds. The back-up plan was a) to invite Carlos Alvarez Antolinez as he was already speaking at another symposium whose dates did not clash with this one; b) invite Jordi Serratos (European Food Safety Authority "Liaison officer" at US FDA); c) Andy himself to report on a 2012 survey of consumer perceptions of imported food.

[In later discussion, it was suggested that this last item might be included in a proposed symposium for the 2013 Annual Meeting.]

- c) **FSMA: From Legislation to Implementation - George Wilson, Keith Lampel, Michael Brodsky & P C Vasavada**

**SCHEDULED FOR: MON JULY 23, 8:30 – 10:00 AM**

**Speakers: Jenny Scott, Pam Wilger, P C Vasavada, Carlos Alvarez Antolinez**

George reported that he had recently spoken with his co-convenors and that all speakers would be participating as planned.

d) **STEC in Food: It's Time for Action – Patrice Arbault, Guy Loneragan**

**SCHEDULED FOR: WED JULY 25, 8:30 – 12:00 PM**

**Speakers: Mick Bosilevac, Ian Jenson, John Ruby, Kerri Harris, Guy Loneragan**

Under separate cover, Patrice had reported to Leslie that all speakers would be participating as planned.

e) **Toxoplasma - Nathan Bauer.**

**SCHEDULED FOR: MON JULY 23, 3:30 – 5:00 PM**

**Speakers: Dolores Hill, Marie Opsteegh, Robert Yolken**

Status of speakers not known at this time to the ALM-PDG.

f) **China: Food Safety in an Emerging Market Economy - Vanessa Cranford, Ramkishan Rao, Zhinong Yan**

**SCHEDULED FOR: TUES JULY 24, 8:30 – 10:00 AM      Part I**

**TUES JULY 24, 10:30 – 12:00 PM      Part II**

**Speakers – Part I: Xia Zhaogang, Leon Gorris, Leslie Bourquin, Pam Wilger**

**Speakers – Part II: Peter Ben Embaraek, Xiumei Liu, Leon Gorris**

Vanessa indicated that all speakers are confirmed.

g) **China-Food Safety for an Integrated World (Roundtable)-Vanessa Cranford, Zhinong Yan**

**SCHEDULED FOR: TUES JULY 24, 10:30 – 12:00 PM**

**Speakers – Part II: Peter ben Embarek, Xiumei Liu, Leon Gorris**

Vanessa indicated that all speakers are confirmed.

**2. IAFP Applied Laboratory Methods PDG 2013 Annual Meeting Preparation**

Leslie reminded us that IAFP was continuing with the idea of having Symposium and Workshop proposals for the 2013 Annual Meeting submitted in October and that the **deadline is October 16, 2012.**

a) Michael Brodsky was unable to attend the call but submitted an idea to Leslie:

- a. The premise of his suggestion was based on our inability to promote/develop a food safety culture in the general public. Despite millions of dollars being spent on food safety awareness programs, outbreaks continue to occur due to poor food handling

practices. Why are we failing to get the message across and what can we do to improve to change this metric?"

- b. Potential titles of: Are we talking too softly or are people just stupid?" or on a softer note, "Are we talking too softly or are people just hearing impaired?" or, "If an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, why are there so many obese people walking around?"
- c. Michael Brodsky will discuss further at the annual meeting.
- d. Following the train of thought of Dr. Brodsky's idea, Andy Benson floated the idea of a symposium on the issues of food safety and nutrition. After some discussion, it was decided that the issue of poor nutrition, while important in the broadest sense, was outside the remit of the Association. Mary Lou Tortorello reminded us that poster papers on the nutrition had previously been rejected by the Program Committee.

George Wilson suggested that there might be a tie-in with the survey work that Andy was considering presenting and Phil Coombs suggested that Andy combine efforts with Michael Brodsky and draft a program to cover issues of food safety / customer perceptions, etc.

### **3. WEBINARS**

- a) Testing the Test Methods: User's Perspective on non-O157 STEC Methods (Dr. Mick Bosilevac, USDA/ARS, Dr. Carol Iverson, Nestec SA presented April 3, 2012).

Available online at: <http://www.foodprotection.org/files/members/testing-the-test-methods-users-perspective-on-non-0157-stec-methods/>

P C Vasavada suggested that the issue of RT-PCR might be suitable for both a webinar and a Round Table discussion at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

No other topics were suggested, but members were encouraged to give this some thought.

### **4. PDG Committee Meeting**

Leslie reported that in contrast to previous years, the ALM-PDG Committee Meeting would be held on Sunday afternoon, rather than Sunday morning.

### **5. PDG Social Gathering**

The PDG plans to gather for an informal get together following the IAFP "Welcome Reception" (5:30-6:30) on Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup>.

From prior knowledge of the locale, P C Vasavada suggested that there was an Irish pub within walking distance of the meeting that would be a suitable venue for the informal Saturday evening event.

[Not reported during this teleconference call, but Phil Coombs would like to share that at last year's meeting, he printed up several copies of an on-line map showing how to get from the IAFP reception to the Social Gathering. These were handed out as "invitations" to interested parties.]

As per the agenda, Leslie reminded us that this is NOT a sponsored event just an opportunity for PDG members (and family members) to gather together socially prior to the Sunday morning meeting.

**5. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

No further business.

**END:** 12:50 pm EST