

Student PDG

Attendees: Minh Duong (Chair), Erika Estrada (Vice Chair), Aishwarya Vengatesan, Alex Ham, Andrea Etter, Cameron Bardsley, Catherine Gensler, Claire Marik, Emily Forauer, Hope Eseeose, Jennifer Acuff, Jiyoung Yi, Karuna Kharel, Kathryn Parraga, Katie Overbey, Kory Anderson, Matt Igo, Meg Kirchner, Ramin Khaksar, Sarah Jones, Savana Everhart Nunn, and Marina Girbal Gonzalez.

Board/Staff Present: Kali Kniel, Tamara Ford, Didi Loynachan, Dina Siedenburgh, and David Tharp.

Number of Attendees: 27.

Meeting Called to Order: 3:01 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Emily Forauer.

Old Business:

Student-targeted programming this year was very successful, including the mentoring program, student liaison program, and affiliate initiatives. The mentoring program pairs a student with an IAFP member with an established career; they meet monthly to discuss topic sheets, current events, and offer guidance to students. The 2019-2020 program had 1/5 international participants and 4/5 U.S.-based. A survey administered to participants had a 69% response rate, with 80% of respondents rating the program as "very enjoyable." The student liaison program pairs an IAFP student PDG member with a different PDG, responsibilities of the student are primarily at the in-person annual meeting and many PDGs have given positive feedback about this program. For the affiliate initiative from 2019-2020, we have added a new board position to serve as a contact point for IAFP affiliates looking for increased student engagement. Surveys have been administered to affiliates worldwide to determine current activity and student involvement; more active groups offer opportunities such as poster competitions and scholarships.

Last year at the Annual Meeting, the t-shirt fundraising sale was very successful with 150 shirts sold. In light of circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the shift to an online meeting, a t-shirt sale for this year has become logistically difficult and will not be occurring. We urge members of the PDG who would have purchased a shirt to consider making a donation to the Foundation.

Communication with members of the SPDG occurs primarily through an email listserv, and over the 2019-2020 year has been transitioning to a greater presence on IAFP Connect.

This year we were able to provide fee waivers to 20 students to attend the COVID-19 and Food Safety Global Summit.

New Business:

We hosted two speakers, Dr. Andrea Etter and Dr. Ramin Khaksar. Dr. Etter spoke about the challenges of finding a job and forging a career path as a young food safety professional, highlighting her successes and setbacks in both academia and industry. Dr. Khaksar spoke about how next generation sequencing technologies are shifting food safety, and also mentioned some tips for success in networking. Association president Dr. Kali Kniel encouraged students to continue to participate in IAFP and events.

The upcoming 3-Minute Thesis competition sponsored by Merck will be held virtually via webinar, deadline for video submissions: 9-20-2020.

There are surveys available to fill out if student members are interested in participating in the mentorship program, the liaison program, or being connected to a local affiliate.

We are looking to transition a majority of communication with PDG members to IAFP Connect in the upcoming year. IAFP Connect is also where we will be hosting a virtual job board for students to access now with the loss of an in-person job board.

The Student PDG will be hosting virtual networking events including coffee hours, a social hour in November 2020 to present the 3-Minute Thesis winner, small group networking events to meet prominent food scientists, and a student presentation and discussion series.

At the 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting, the Student PDG is sponsoring and co-sponsoring a number of sessions. We encourage members to participate in other PDG meetings before the virtual conference and attend these sessions. Ideas for session proposals were discussed for the IAFP 2021 Annual Meeting. T-shirt sales will resume at the 2021 Annual Meeting, with the intention of also marketing special-edition merchandise to commemorate the Virtual Annual Meeting of 2020.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend Erika Estrada for Vice Chair of the Student PDG.
2. Recommend continuation of two-hour PDG meeting length for student group for next year's meeting.
3. Although we did not sell t-shirts this year, we had a successful pre-sale two years ago. Once again, we would like to recommend the Board order a larger quantity of t-shirts for the 2021 Annual Meeting sale.
4. We were grateful for the opportunity for students to attend the IAFP COVID-19 Food Safety Global Summit free-of-charge through a fee-waiver. We would like to recommend similar fee-waivers/scholarship opportunities for students to attend workshops, webinars, or other similar events.

Next Meeting Date: July 18-21 2021, Phoenix, Arizona.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:04 p.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Minh Duong.