

Developing Food Safety Professionals

Attendees: Matthew Moore (Chair), Amit Morey (Vice Chair), Adeniyi Odugbemi, Aftab Siddique, Alison Cousins, April Bishop, Bill Huntley, Brock Herron, Chris Boyles, Doug Marshall, Edith Wilkin, Ellen Shumaker, Ewelina Wachnicka, Hany Anany, Hayriye Cetin-Karaca, Janitha Liyanage, Jordan Nehls, Joseph Meyer, Kellie Burris, Kevin Freeborn, Lin Walker, Martha Gonzalez-Silva, Matthew Moore, Meg Kirchner, Megan Jensen, Pushpinder Litt, Rawane Raad, Robert Carey, Sean Leighton, Shruthi Shankar, and Titilayo Falade.

Board/ Staff Present: Emilio Esteban, Dina Siedenbug, and David Tharp.

Number of Attendees: 33.

Meeting Called to Order: 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday, June 28, 2021.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Amit Morey.

Old Business: Matthew Moore welcomed everyone to the virtual PDG meeting and requested Emilio Esteban to give IAFP Board Updates. Emilio encouraged the PDG to conduct meetings throughout the year and especially conduct webinars as they have been highly successful. He also introduced the group to the newly formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council and requested the PDG members to participate on the Council. Matthew Moore informed the PDG members that two proposals were selected for the 2021 IAFP Annual Meeting.

New Business: A roundtable focusing on “*Where do I go from here? Hiring, management, and advancing your career during a global pandemic and beyond.*” Sean Leighton (Cargill) and Doug Marshall (Eurofins). In a lively discussion, the panelists answered several questions from the audience. Both the panelists stated that COVID-19 affected the face-to-face communication with their peers and colleagues and had to readjust strategies to communicate with their teams. Sean mentioned more focus was on conventional meat products than high-value products. Doug stated that since the COVID-19 pandemic, the business model changed and the regulators approved new diagnostic products at a faster rate than before. Doug also mentioned that proliferation of low/no scientific basis stories/ news on media has been a major hurdle. Sean stated that his food safety team had to rapidly refocus on the survival of the virus on food contact and non-contact surfaces as well as rapidly communicate to customers. Responding to a question, both the panelists mentioned the importance of digital learning during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. When asked to provide an opinion on how should food safety professionals improve their marketability, Doug stated that they should continue education and add tools for better success and Sean added that they should expand their network, stay curious, and ask questions. Sean also said that when searching for a new job and applying for jobs online, try reaching out to the hiring manager and explain the reasons for the previous job loss. Doug said, the candidates can reach the hiring manager via LinkedIn. The roundtable ended with Matthew Moore thanking the panelists.

Matthew Moore informed the attendees that a physical space for discussion of proposals has been made available during the IAFP Annual Meeting in Phoenix on Sunday, July 18, 2021.

New proposals were discussed during the meeting. Some proposal ideas discussed were online social networking, building future of academia-industry partnership, effectiveness of training/webinars to develop professionals among others.

The PDG members were encouraged to consider running for Vice Chair of the PDG.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: July 31–August 3, 2022, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Matthew Moore.