

International Foods Protection Issues PDG

Attendees: DeAnn Benesh (Chair), Marcel Zwietering (Vice Chair) David Crabtree, Kevin Edwards, James Cook, Evan Henke, DeAnn Benesh, Patrick Bird, Aaron Dudley, Franciel Ikeji, Rosie Newsome, Kang Zhou, Arie Havelaar, Kate Meck, Jeff Farber, Katie Swanson, Tania Martinez, Isabel Walls, Maayan Abramovich, Guy Tenenbaum, Erin Crowley, Xiangwu Nou, Brad Taylor, Steven Gendel, Amarat Simonne, Christie Cheng, Sanjana Laobangdisa, Susan Teegardin, Caroline DeWaal, Jorge Pinto Ferreira, Mark Carter, Leon Gorris, Bob Banerjee, Jonathan Brackahn, Jeffrey Read, Teresa Fox, Deon Mahoney, Jenny Scott.

Number of Attendees: 38.

Meeting Called to Order: 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time, July 31, 2022, Room 335, Pittsburgh Convention Center.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Marcel Zwietering, Vice Chairperson; Aaron Dudley, Student Liaison.

DeAnn Benesh opened the meeting, welcoming PDG members and participants introduced themselves. Aaron Dudley introduced the Student PDG activities and mentioned specifically three priority ones being a) meet your favorite food scientist, b) 3-minute thesis competition and c) proposal submission. Please be active in engaging with students. If you want to contribute please contact either Aaron, our student liaison (adudley4@bulldogs.aamu.edu) or Claire Murphy (chair person Student PDG cmarik@vt.edu). DeAnn reviewed and reminded the participants of the Antitrust guidelines.

Old Business:

Related to the Minutes: Recommendations to the Board: Marcel Zwietering was approved as Vice Chair and the option of hybrid conferences was not followed for 2022, however presentations are available for viewing after the Annual Meeting. There were no comments on minutes of the 2021 PDG meeting as printed in *FPT* and posted on *IAFP Connect*. Motion to accept by Jeff Farber, seconded by Arie Havelaar. Minutes approved.

Seven PDG submissions were accepted, five symposia and two roundtables: RT3 (COVID-19), S21 (COVID-19), S27 (What to Expect When Exporting) S30 (Food Safety Africa), S36 (AMR in Middle East and North Africa), S45 (QMRA for LMIC), SS1 (Get-connected market).

DeAnn Benesh gave an Update from the Regulatory System Summaries Group: Proposed originally by Ian Jensen in 2019 and the idea was supported by the Food Law PDG (Rosetta Newsome). In monthly meetings progress is followed in the designing of the template and the filling in for the various countries. The first overview was produced by Jeff Farber and was reviewed and approved by Health Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Public Health Agency. Further ideas were to potentially involve Bob Brackett (he has a slide deck for US legislation, idea Katie Swanson), and additionally Arie Havelaar proposed to include the African Union, and potentially include Barbara Kowalczyk for data of Ethiopia. Caroline Smith DeWaal mentioned that documents for Nigeria were started. Also Tanja Martinez (check) mentioned her organization is doing a lot of work in Nigeria. Caroline suggested that connection to the Food Systems Dashboard could also provide information.

Mark Carter (board-liaison), presented the announcements from the IAFP Executive Board: There are around 3000 attendees, about 80% of Pre-COVID attendance, also exhibitors are about 80% of normal. In making proposals consider the DEI-principles (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) consider developing webinar series. Also consider donating for the foundation (the 4 for 40 campaign), this gives support for publications and meeting attendance. The mentor match initiative is working actively. *JFP* is in transition to Elsevier and becomes an OA journal (starting in January 2023). In 2023 the Annual Meeting will be in Toronto. Please be prepared and check your passport validity and potential visa requirements.

Kang Zhou (Food Safety Officer, Food System and Food Safety Division, FAO). Controlling the burden of food borne disease is essential for public health, economy and food security. Prevention is key in this control. In scientific expert meetings, the advice needs to be sound, responsible, objective, fair, transparent, and inclusive. There is a need for, for example, geographical spread and gender balance. Advice goes to Codex (198 countries and 1 union). Kang gave an update on recent work of JEMRA and FAO: In 2021 two meetings took place on microbiological quality of water use in food production (focused on fisheries and dairy; fresh produce was already done in 2019), 4 meetings on hazards in fresh fruits and vegetables. In these cases, the chain analysis is going from farm to fork. There are planned meetings on *Campylobacter* (next year) and *Salmonella* (this year September 2022) in chicken meat, and QMRA of *Listeria* food (leafy greens, cantaloupe/rock melon, frozen vegetables, RTE seafood (24-28 October, 15 experts selected out of 100). 3 meetings took place on allergens, and one is planned for 2022. Priority allergens are cereal (gluten), crustaceans, egg, fish, peanuts, milk, tree nuts, sesame (soy deleted, sesame included). A paper came out about JEMRA in the

journal “foods” ([TwentyYearsJEMRA](#)). Furthermore, 4 reports in the MRA-series were published no’s 26, 27, 35 and 37.

26: [Ranking of low-moisture foods in support of microbiological risk management: Meeting report and systematic review](#)

27: [Microbiological hazards in spices and dried aromatic herbs](#)

35: [Advances in science and risk assessment tools for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *V. vulnificus* associated with seafood](#)

37: [Safety and quality of water used with fresh fruits and vegetables](#))

Furthermore the first allergen report was published: [Risk assessment of food allergens: part 1](#)

Overall, 20 years of JEMRA resulted in more than 40 publications, 20 Codex standards and their updates, almost 900 citations, over 370 experts (40% female and over last 5-8 years ratio is 1:1) and experts came from nearly 60 different countries. The World Food Safety Day (jointly initiated with FAO is showing good increased activity.

WHO update (video recorded) by Luz Maria De-Regil (Unit head multisectoral actions in food systems, department of nutrition and food safety, WHO). The WHO has a global strategy with 5 strategic priorities (strengthen national food control safety systems, responding to global changes, better use of information/science/QMRA in management decisions, stakeholder engagement and risk communication, safety essential in local/regional/international trade). Work should be evidence driven, people centered, forward looking, and cost effective. Overall ambitious targets are set as 40% reduction of food borne disease, 100% multisectoral collaboration mechanisms for food safety events, stronger national surveillance systems to detect and monitor foodborne disease and food contamination. A national food control system assessment tool (WHO/FAO) using 162 criteria was developed. The World Food Safety Day was now organized for 4 years (together with FAO) with a clear increasing trend of uptake, 450+ events, 106 countries active and 1.2 bln impressions on social media platforms. Furthermore, Health Talks on Food safety are organized: see <https://foodsafety.whohealthtalks.org>.

Additionally, a food safety community of practice was launched the end 2021. Codex updates (see also before at FAO), there were many publications produced among others: pesticides residues in foods and microbiological risk assessment guidance in food. The Global Environment Monitoring System GEMS database was updated. The FAO newsletter can be requested at NFS@who.int.

Arie Havalaar (Uni Florida /WHO) gave an update on FERG2:

Previously the WHO Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) reported in 2015 (based on the status of 2010) their report and many background and specific publications. It clearly stipulates the relevance of foodborne disease being relevant (and also preventable), worldwide and for everyone. The burden is especially high for children below 5 and specifically in Africa. Four metals have been added that were not officially included in the previous WHO outputs. Resulting from the WHA73.5 resolution 2020 an update will be made of these first ever global estimates. New activities will start with the biggest change being the move to more national estimates versus regional. The work will be carried out over 2021-2024, and the first outcomes expected in 2025 and contribution from 26 new members. There will be some additional hazards (bacteria, parasites, toxins). There will be a new impact measurement task force and country support task force. Apart from DALYs, economic estimates will be made (including also the World Bank). Additionally, hazards with a low disease burden, where there is a lot of attention, will be focused on, to help prevent too stringent a focus and using the management systems in a cost-effective way as to not waste valuable food management resources, valuable food and hurting producers unnecessary. Overall, the system will also be made more easily updatable.

Questions: are aspects like salt/blood pressure included? No, it is not based on nutrition. Q: for chemicals like arsenic and mercury-lead, what is the issue related to them? The exposure side is similar; but the health effect estimates are not bound (and can be much larger than the actual one), and the attribution methodology discussion is not solved yet. Q: what is the model for national burden estimates? There is not yet a default model.

New Business:

2023 Ideas for Program Submission (submission deadline 4 October 2022).

DeAnn Benesh: Could we create symposia for example from the WHO/FAO output just presented? Organize a webinar to help disseminate information on FAO/WHO or other organizations reports and manuscripts that are newly published (together with the IFPI PDG or any other relevant PDG given the subject). Furthermore, it is questioned how there is follow up of the FAO/WHO documents. together with the IFPI PDG or any other relevant PDG given the subject. Information can also be shared by joint symposia with the food safety education.

Caroline Smith DeWaal: Traditional food markets symposium (*JFP* study describes 4 regional guidance documents (of FAO/WHO) for traditional food markets, but these were very different, so it would be good to strive for more global standards.

Leon Gorris: Room for innovation for risk assessment and risk analysis, and how food systems work (organized together with Janell Kause): approaches for metrics for equivalence.

Jeff Read: symposium idea US food safety regulation compared to around the globe and how to balance regulation to meet other countries regulation systems going down to production/product level. Leon Gorris: built on to Jeff Read's idea with suggestions of adding room for innovation in risk assessment/analysis, getting a better understanding of how food systems work in other countries and asses risks of deviations from codex regulation (Food safety indicators).

James Cook (SGS) proposed as subject: E-commerce for seafood industry: regulatory requirements.

Lucia Anelich: the ready-to-eat conundrum challenge and opportunities: combine with Caroline (also include African Union Strategy)

Would it be useful to increase the number of meetings?: in general, the opinion was to hold PDG meetings once every two/three months: to develop ideas and keep the right pace. Since it is international PDG it would be best not to have a standard time but to alternate. It would be good to set meetings on the calendar, and skip if there are no agenda items. It could help to keep the flow in developing proposals for RT and Symposia, but also webinars.

Should we extend the Chair/Vice Chair team with a secretary?: this would have as disadvantage that this would result in a 6 year's assignment, so no support was given to make this chance for the PDG.

Questions to the Executive Board: what is done for "Food Safety Day" by IAFP ?

Q: Regional IAFP meetings, what is their frequency? There are some consistent and some rotating regional meetings from IAFP in different regions in the world

For next year there will be a nominations procedure for the Vice Chair position.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Caroline Smith DeWaal proposed if there is an activity of IAFP at World Food Safety Day (June 7)? And if not, it is advised to develop a strategy to also have communication/promotion of food safety at this day, since it is perfectly matching with our mission.

Next Meeting Date: July 16, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn the meeting: Katy Swanson, seconded by Isabel Walls.
Meeting adjourned 10:32 a.m. EDT.

Chairperson: DeAnn Benesh.