

Meat and Poultry Safety and Quality PDG

Attendees: Thomas Taylor (Chair), Melvin Carter, Denise Eblen, Eric Wilhelmsen, John Jarosh, Betsy Booren, Jody Swaim, Ryan Matsuda, John Schmidt, Glen Feller, Billy Hughes, Ben Graves, Kathleen O'Donnell, Jonathan Basha, Shanice Krombeen, Karen Beers, Mark Salter, Robert Campbell, Sampathkumar Balamurugan, Preetha Biswas, Kerri Gehring, Anthony Pavic, Robert Roe, Patricia Quinn, Bob Forner, Tyler Stephens, Mark Muldoon, Mick Bosilevac, Ian Hildebrandt, Narindra Randriamiarintsoa, Claudia Narvaez, Heath LaFevers, Scott Goltry, Suresh Pillai, Jason Scheffler, Erin Dreyling, Sally Wickramaratne, Jeremy Adler, Zachary Kuhl, Reginald Benitez, Suzanne Finstad, Alison Griffino, Isabel Walls, Juming Tang, Pete Kennedy, Jordan Nehls, Bet Wu Alvarado, Artistides Barahona Andrade, Barbara Masters, Subash Shrestha, Bill Potter, Kaylee Farmer, Justyna Kowalska, Elżbieta Fornal, Jena Roberts, Grace Dewi, Leena Griffith, Weilin Shelver, Jennifer Burke, Elizabeth Maeder, Greg DeVivo, Bill Patrum, Zi Hua, Gry Terrell, Sharon Nieves-Miranda, Sana Riaz, Mairui Gao, Leslie Thompson-Strehlow, Erica Miller, Tina Shaffer, Shuang Wu, Carine Nkemngong, Sharmeen Khan.

Board/Staff Present: Mark Carter, Emilio Esteban.

Number of Attendees: 75.

Meeting Called to Order: 9:04 a.m. Eastern Time, Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Caroline Dewi, University of Minnesota.

Old Business: Matthew Taylor, PDG Chair, called meeting to order and welcomed all attendees to the Annual Meeting of the PDG. He introduced himself and introduced Dr. Melvin Carter, PDG Co-Chair/Chair-Elect. Following the introductions, Dr. Taylor introduced Dr. Emilio Esteban as a member of the IAFP Executive Board to provide welcome and remarks on behalf of the Executive Board. Dr. Esteban introduced himself and commented on various actions being taken to improve IAFP's diversity and inclusiveness, indicating announcements were coming to demonstrate tangible methods to enhance organization diversity in membership and participation. Dr. Esteban encouraged attendees to pay attention to USDA science and regulatory updates coming later in the session and for attendees to attend the policy updates that will be provided by USDA leadership at a special session Monday afternoon of the Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh.

Following Dr. Esteban's comments, PDG Chair and Co-Chair invited the attendees to introduce themselves and provide name and professional affiliation. This was completed, and Chair Taylor encouraged that during later discussions of sessions the introductions could be useful for networking and session development. Chair Taylor provided some administrative announcements indicating that hard copies of the 2021 PDG meeting minutes were provided for attendees in addition to having been emailed through *IAFP Connect*. He encouraged attendees to be sure to activate notifications and email receipt in *IAFP Connect* so as to be aware of PDG-related activities and information. The 2021 meeting minutes were presented to attendees and Chair Taylor asked for any revisions to the minutes to be submitted. Receiving none, a motion was made by Betsy Booren to approve the minutes of the PDG's 2021 meeting (remote) as printed in *Food Protection Trends*. The motion was seconded by Emilio Esteban, and the motion was passed unanimously by vote (raised hand).

New Business: Dr. Melvin Carter was introduced to provide the USDA-FSIS Regulatory actions update presentation. He presented information pertaining to the agency's actions regarding poultry sampling and establishment meeting the *Salmonella* performance standards by categorization. He further discussed efforts for *Campylobacter* data to propose new standards for carcasses and parts where FSIS labs have adopted Hunt broth for the enrichment and screening of *Campylobacter*. Pork performance standards were discussed next where he gave background and updates on the On February 16, 2022, published proposed pork performance standards where the focus is on sampling raw pork cuts and comminuted pork product for *Salmonella*. He went on to discuss changes with the New Swine Slaughter Inspection System (NSIS), because of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota vacating a portion of FSIS' final rule. FSIS in collaboration with OSHA, offered a "time-limited trial" that enables establishments to experiment with ergonomics, automation, and crewing to create custom work environments with a purpose of ensuring food safety while protecting workers and increasing productivity. Dr. Carter discussed expansion of non-O157:H7 STEC verification sampling and analysis to all raw beef products that are currently tested for *E. coli* O157:H7. His update then focused on changes coming regarding egg products regulations resulting from the egg products final rule, published October 29, 2020. Appendices A&B were published December 2021, and Dr. Carter reported establishments utilizing previous versions as support should update to the 2021 Guideline. To ensure agency and industry education on the changes, the agency has completed 10 internal and external webinars on the Revised guidelines including two industry webinars in May with the two industry webinars being available on the FSIS website. He stated

the agency had on-going study with ARS and FERN to address identified research gaps with Appendix A&B. One study recently concluded a market basket microbiological evaluation of the presence of *Clostridium perfringens* in large mass non-intact products, such as RTE Turkey breast and roast beef, that cannot be cooled to meet the recommended cooling options of Appendix B. He reported that while data had been completed for its collection, analysis was ongoing, and results would be made public and reported on the FSIS webpage. He concluded by identifying newly released generic HACCP models for various inspected products as well as some that will be published in the future.

Dr. Denise Eblen was then introduced and provided the agency's science update on scientific actions and activities engaged by the USDA-FSIS. She began by reviewing the agency's testing programming for microbiological and chemical materials in inspected products, reviewing the battery of tests that the agency routinely and intermittently performs. She discussed the various chemical food safety hazards the agency labs test for, the use of data, and the needs for improvement in testing methods for microbiological and chemical hazards. In the FY 2022, FSIS labs were reported to generate 2.9 million data points/results of testing from 130,000 samples. For years 2023-2024, Dr. Eblen stated the agency's scientific focus would be on seeking data to assist transforming the sampling of turkey carcasses for *Salmonella* and the optimization of sampling other poultry products for *Salmonella* detection, including development of triage procedures for presumptive *Salmonella* and enhancing the efficacy of differing enrichment media.

Dr. Isabel Walls from FSIS then reviewed the agency's identified research priorities and data gaps published on their agency website. New research priority additions were reported, including understanding *Salmonella* transmission along the poultry chain as well as consumer attitudes and behaviors related to food safety protection during preparation and consumption of inspected products. She identified a desire by the agency to improve pathogen detection and typing by use of MALDI-mass spectrometry. She reported opportunities for ORISE fellowships and the collaboration between FSIS and other USDA branches (e.g., ARS, NIFA, AMS) to improve/develop scientific data for policy development.

Dr. Mark Carter, USDA-NIFA, was then introduced to provide a review of NIFA's funding mechanisms and granting programs. He reviewed the Food Safety and Defense program as well as other food safety-related/funding programs within the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program, defining grant types, integrated versus standard projects, and

identified agency contacts for research programs. He encouraged researchers to already have a grant narrative in development for coming deadlines and reviewed deadlines for relevant programs. He reported funding amounts were not expected to change for the next funding cycles, indicating a 15% funding success rate for proposal submissions.

Following agency reports, Chair Taylor led a session of attendees identifying and suggesting session ideas and proposals for symposia to be submitted for the 2023 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The PDG membership recommends the PDG leadership initiates a position description and seeks nominees for a PDG Secretary.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 16, 2023, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:53 a.m. Eastern Time (Adjourned by Matthew Taylor).

Chairperson: Matthew Taylor.