

International Food Protection Issues PDG

Attendees: Marcel Zwietering (Chair), Constanza Vergara E. (Vice-Chair), Anthony Adeuya, Basim Alohal, DeAnn Benesh, Marie Breton, Antoine Cabon, Roger Cook, Aaron Dudley, Martin Duplessis, Jeff Farber, Jorge Pinto Ferreira, Elise Forward, Teresa Fox, Rick Goodman, Leon Gorris, Joshua Gurtler, Arie Havelaar, Sanaz Hemati, Leslie Hintz, Franciel Ikeji, Basel Al Jaber, Ian Jenson, Ahmad Al Kaabi, Youngwoon Kang, Chyer Kim, Kathy Knutson, Jeffrey Kornacki, Sanjay Kumar, Elisabetta Lambertini, Mariza Landgraf, Dave Largey, Quynh-Nhi Le, Alvin Lee, Jeffrey LeJeune, Vivian Ly, Deon Mahoney, Frederic Martinez, Colleen Mattingly, Joseph Meyer, Emefa Monu, Daniela Pereira, Carolina Prates, Birendra Rajapreyar, Jeffrey Read, Luz De-Regil, Allissa Riley, Katie Satterthwaite, Tracie Sheehan, Szu-Chuan Shen, Niraj Shrestha, Panos Skandamis, Marianna Solomotis, Eric Stevens, Irshad Sulaiman, Kentaro Takenaka, Helen Taylor, Collin Timm, Svetoslav Todorov, Zeynal Topalcengiz, Pranaya Udash, Isabel Walls, Pamela Wilger, Chung-Hsin Wu, Laís Zanin, Kang Zhou.

Board/Staff Present: Mark Carter.

Total Number of Attendees: 66.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, 8:35 a.m., July 16, 2023.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Constanza Vergara, Vice-Chairperson.

DeAnn Benesh, as past president, opened the meeting and welcomed Marcel Zwietering as incoming president, who showed the proposed agenda to the attendees. No comments to the agenda were made and the agenda was adopted.

The meeting started with a reminder of the mission statement for IFPI PDG, which is *“To provide a forum to discuss scientific issues of interest to the international food protection community”* and of the *“Anti-trust guidelines.”* Then each PDG attendee in the room introduced themselves, followed by the welcome words and update from the IAFP Executive Board by Mark Carter, IAFP vice president.

Aaron Dudley, student liaison, introduced the Student PDG 2022 – 2023 activities and mentioned specifically 1) to join as an invited scientist on the “Meet your favorite scientist” activity 2) to join as a competition judge for the 3-minutes thesis competition and 3) to include the student PDG as a session co-sponsor on the proposal submissions for 2024 IAFP Annual Meeting. For those interested in participating, connect with Ellen Mendez, Student PDG Chair, ellenandrea@ksu.edu The meeting also included presentations from 3 speakers; 1. DeAnn Benesh (Global Scientific Affairs, Neogen), “Regulatory System Summaries Update – Country Comparisons.” 2. Kang Zhou (Food Safety & Quality Unit, FAO) “Food & Agriculture Organization “JEMRA/FAO Work Update” Marie Breton (Health Canada) “Health Canada’s *Listeria* Policy in RTE foods.”

Old Business: About the recommendation made to the Board last year of asked if there is an activity of IAFP at World Food Safety Day (June 7) since it is perfectly matching with our mission. The Board response was

IAFP had recognized World Food Safety Day in past years through social media and mention in the *IAFP Report*. Efforts will be made to promote this event earlier and more widely.

During 2022 – 2023, 3 webinars were organized by this PDG, where one of them was on June 7 to commemorate World Food Safety Day, also the idea of have all the webinars open during one month in 2023 came from this PDG and was a very successful initiative.

New Business: Marcel Zwietering mentioned that proposals from this PDG are encouraged, and he and the Vice-Chair are available for help. Submission deadline is October 3, so he invited to not wait until the last minute and communicate and reach others through *IAFP Connect*.

Regarding the activities between the Annual Meetings for this PDG, it was proposed for moving the meetings every 3 months, to increase attendance. Given the success of the webinars, the PDG will continue organizing webinar sessions with the proposals that are not accepted by the program committee or other topics. Finally, Pamela Wilger talked about her experience of being Mentor and mentioned how fruitful is for both mentors and mentees. All members of the PDG are invited to join the mentor match program.

The *Food Protection Trends (FPT)* journal is now open, and everybody was invited to send articles, also it was informed that once the food regulatory system country profile is ready it will be submitted to the *FPT*.

Ideas for 2024 Program Submission

Arie Havelaar: WHO updates on the Global Burden of Foodborne disease, to present an update of results.

Elizabeth, proposed to also show the results of projects in Africa about foodborne diseases and other in the Philippines.

Eric Stevens: A session dedicated to Intersectoral sector communications and scientific publications information impact, how to communicate international organizations scientific advises?

Arie Havelaar: Session on infant foods, powdery formula, e.g., Low-moisture guidance by FDA, or more globally about breast milk contamination and environmental contamination, labelling issues, storage on breast milk, and come back to reportable diseases. More global perspectives. Leon Gorris: One session on thinking on how to assess and manage risk across the food safety chain, in all the dimensions.

Lisa: Session on Improving food safety in traditional markets, Symposia where we bring different perspectives on behavioral changes, especially where regulatory oversight is not as prominent, so behavioral changes are important.

What happens with the revising policies, how the changes affect the outbreaks, testing in a global scale.

Other topic may be sustainability issues and climate change, how food safety is going to look in 10 or 20 years, ICMSF is also working on that, a new book.

Leon Gorris mentioned that several participants had problems in obtaining a visa even while they applied for visa 6 or 9 months in advance.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend approval of Constanza Vergara Escobar as Vice-Chair of the International Food Protection Issues PDG.

2. Take initiative to speed-up Visa Applications for many international participants, either as IAFP or jointly with other scientific associations.
3. Ask the Executive Board to host a session where is possible to connect PDGs where broader links can be made, including the high-level views across the board.
4. Compliment the Executive Board for the initiatives of making the webinars available in June for free which gave access to less privileged people and for make *JFP* open access.

Next Meeting Date: July 14, 2024, Long Beach, California.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:32 a.m.

Chairperson: Marcel Zwietering.