

Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness

Members Present: Ewen Todd, Judy Greig, Kristina Barlow, John Guzewich, Bobby Krishna, Marilyn Lee, Sherri McGarry, Per Nilsson, Fernando Perez-Rodriguez, Ruth Petran, Muhammad Ihsanullah Qamar and Michael Roberson.

Board/Staff Members Present: Donald Schaffner and Didi Loynachan.

New Members: Jean Schoeni, Ben Tall, Ben Miller, Zuoxing Zheng, Elena Enache, Li Ma and Kruti Ravaliya.

Visitors/Guests: Ray Collins, Carrie Rigdon, Todd Rossow, Arlette Shazer, Ting Chen, Robin Hougland, Navneet Gill, Tanya Roberts, Ernest Julian and Michael Brodsky.

Meeting Called to Order: 8:00 a.m., Sunday, July 22, 2012.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Judy D. Greig.

The antitrust laws were read as requested.

Old Business:

1. Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness: About 1,000 copies of the 6th edition of the Procedures to Investigate Foodborne illness manual have been sold. There is an online and Kindle version currently available as well as the printed copies. The CCFI will develop a marketing task force to further promote the manual for potential users. Translation of the manual into different languages is being considered; FAO may be able to assist here because IAFP has a MOU with FAO. IAFP webinars also may be a good way to market booklets.
2. Procedures to Investigate Waterborne Illness: Status of Subcommittee to review Procedures to Investigate Waterborne Illness manual with Marilyn Lee to lead. The Subcommittee was formed to update the 1996 version; the new edition could be available 2013 or 2014. CDC was originally taking the lead but had to withdraw because of cutbacks; this delayed action for several months. Many individuals will work on small portions of the manual to make the required changes. Some new text additions will be the role of recreation water and adding pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium* and *Legionella*. Also need to include syndromic surveillance and turbidity levels to indicate potential waterborne illness and water contamination. Present contributors committed to update portions: Sharon Napier, EPA; Michael Brodsky, Brodsky Consultants; Cassandra LoFranco, Ontario Scientific Advisors Inc.; Julie Kase, FDA, and will try and get a representative from CDC. We should contact IFT (2012 President, Roger Clemens) because water is one of the Institute's priorities. Chuck Gerber, University of Arizona, Tucson, could be approached to cover the environmental aspects. It is important to include the international

perspectives, especially European. Per Neilson, as a former investigator of waterborne outbreaks in Sweden, will work on the investigational aspects of the manual. The manual will also be in electronic form which will make the use of forms easier to fill out. Marilyn presented the project for input by the Water Safety and Quality PDG.

3. Diseases Transmitted by Foods: The Subcommittee working on the 1982 CDC Diseases Transmitted by Foods, currently Ewen, Marilyn, Judy, Agnes and Bert, worked with Members who have been submitting their updates (Trish Desmarchelier, Ruth Petran, Guodong Zhang and Agnes Tan wrote sections on specific pathogens and other sections are in progress). Kruti Ravaliya, student at NCSU, very willing to write other sections. There is a need to identify expertise on plant, animal, fungal and chemical toxins beyond the reach of the current CCFI membership. Input will be sought from the Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG (Ken Davenport) for the chemical toxin areas. Michael Roberson said the Conference for Food Protection has a committee on mushroom poisonings and could review the mushroom section. Ben Tall, FDA, will consider finding names of other contributors. However, all contributions need to be reviewed by experts, e.g., CDC, FDA. We also need to update the references. Need to consider the best format, e.g., an online database that is searchable is a possibility. However, the target audience needs to be better defined. The final ownership of the document is being resolved by IAFP and CDC.
4. Committee history – 100 years in 2014: Frank Bryan has already prepared much of the early history up to 1998. We need to capture all the committee-sponsored symposia titles likely from 1980 onward, as well as publication updates. A special symposium will be developed for 2014. Some of the issues covered (or in a separate publication) could be:
 - a. How do we measure success in prevention?
 - b. Changes in foodborne illnesses over the 100 years.
 - c. How pathogens have changed over time for virulence and establish new niches.
 - d. We could add timeline slides (Kristie or Ruth have these).
 - e. Better surveillance increases number of outbreaks.
 - f. Increased global food supply and transmission of disease.
 - g. New methodology approaches and tools.
 - h. Also the issue of voluminous outbreak data that we can search and use as cooperate memory.
5. Suggestions for 2013 symposia
 - a. Collating and protecting evidence for court (Agnes Tan): What needs to be considered – Chain of custody, what constitutes admissible evidence, etc. Work with Food Law and Applied Laboratory Methods PDGs.
 - Look at custody for farm to fork from government (local, state/provincial, federal/national), industry, and lawyer perspectives – what is desirable and what is by law; does FSMA make a change to

this? Also need international perspective, e.g., what are the EU, ISO requirements?

- Designation and responsibility of Official Analysts.
- One of the new challenges is using only epi evidence in court or DNA, sequences, no "bug in hand."
- Another issue is when to take regulatory action on limited lab or epi evidence to prevent illnesses - are there guidelines or simply case by case? Effect on industry and possible law suits.
- Possible additional topics: Keeping of representative meals for two weeks for later testing if there are contamination or illness issues, Japanese Ministry of Health, e.g., Fumiko Kusaga; CDC speaker, e.g., Don Sharp. Li Ma with Oklahoma State University, works with food safety and biosecurity. Format: roundtable will allow us to have more speakers than a symposium.

b. *Impact of the notification requirements in the FDA Reportable Food Registry* (Agnes Tan). This issue covered this year, so dropped.

c. *Outbreak updates*. Jack Guzewich and Ben Tall will prepare a symposium as usual.

d. How does an organization gather outbreak information and train inspectors?

- Specific curricula for federal, state and local inspectors, e.g., Gerald Wojtala, International Food Protection Training Institute, Battle Creek. Other speakers could be Kristie Barlow and Marilyn Lee. How do we identify the optimum skill set? Guodong Zhang (FDA) would be good to work on this. This could be a workshop as well.

e. *Cross border health initiatives*. An international symposium or roundtable. Cross border initiatives between US-Canada and US-Mexico initiated by CDC funding, now stopped, to maintain good contact information and food defense and safety communication, e.g., Great Lakes Border Health Initiative (GLBHI) with Carrie Rigdon and Ewen Todd.

- Set up to conduct investigation of outbreaks across multiple states and provinces rapidly.
- Website in Minneapolis currently used by the GLBHI members to conduct webinars and share information along with monthly conference calls.
- This could be combined with similar initiatives in Europe or other countries.

f. *Food labeling* (Michael Roberson and Ewen Todd):

- Best before dates, best use by dates, etc.
- Partnerships of Food Safety Education, Shelly Feist.
- EU/UK food labeling confusing between quality and safety dating.
- Guidelines for labels Michael Roberson on executive Board of Conference of Food Protection can provide contacts.
- Work with the Retail Food Safety and Quality PDG, Haley Oliver, Thomas Ford.
- Changes retailers are putting in place with new labels, Kristie Barlow.

- This would be a followup to the one held last year.
- g. *Using the foodborne illness procedures manual effectively*. Workshop, roundtable or symposium on manual and new tools in last five years available to help investigate outbreaks, Sherri McGarry. Rapid response teams with SOPs to help on the group groups, Roundtable – work with Food Safety Education PDG and Shaun Kennedy, National Center for Food Protection and Defense.
 - h. *One Health Symposium*. Reconsider the One Health symposium that was canceled last year because of lack of travel funds. Work with the International Food Protection Issues PDG, Jeff Farber.
6. Procedures to Investigate Arthropod-borne and Rodent-borne Illness. The other manual to be considered for revision is the Procedures to Investigate Arthropod-borne and Rodent-borne Illness, Tracy DuVernoy, lead. Climate change makes it even more important to revise this manual as such illnesses are on the increase. Li Ma can provide names of insect specialists.

New Business:

1. Communication issues: Google groups are suggested as a better way of generating interactions with members. A webinar may be set up to help PDGs and other committees understand and use the process. Student Kruti Ravaliya can also help set up Google groups within CCFI.
2. We reviewed the IAFP strategic plan to consider the components for incorporation into CCFI future activities, currently meeting most of these.

Recommendations for the Board:

1. The CCFI will develop a task force composed of CCFI members and IAFP Board members to explore extent of manual distribution and means of marketing the procedures manuals, as IAFP wants to increase sales and broaden the audience. Marilyn Lee and Jack Guzewich are the CCFI members along with Ewen *ex officio*. One of the tasks will be to identify mailing lists of state/provincial organizations, armed forces, educational institutions (e.g., Schools of Public Health). Another is to work with Springer who is willing to participate in a marketing strategy but has found difficulty reaching state and local health departments because of the bureaucratic restraints.
2. CCFI will establish a task force with input from the Board and the Food Safety Education PDG to consider developing a training program based on the procedures manuals, including any costing involved. Courses could be developed in collaboration with groups, e.g., International Food Protection Training Institute, NEHA. Ewen and Judy will be the initial contacts to set this up with Board.

3. The CCFI recommends that the 6th edition of the foodborne illness procedures manual will be translated into Chinese and Spanish. Springer may have a source to translate into Chinese and CCFI will work with Springer on progress. The CCFI will approach the Board if any translation costs are anticipated to consider the Foundation for any funding. All translations of the Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness must be coordinated through the IAFP office and Springer Publications.
4. The CCFI plans to consider collecting and collating disease outbreaks around the world involving specific commodities that would be searchable for food/agent combinations and factors contributing to the outbreaks as a part of 100 years of Committee history.
5. Since the CCFI will celebrate 100 years of existence in 2014, a special symposium will be planned for the 2014 annual meeting in Indianapolis.

Next Meeting Date: July 2013 in Charlotte, N.C. with electronic communication at other times.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:25 p.m.

Chairperson: Ewen C. D. Todd