

Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG

Members Present: Angelica O'Shaughnessy, Tumnoon Charaslertrangsi, Mike Clark, Hari Dwivedi, Sean Leighton, Aaron Uesugi and Wendy White.

Board/Staff Members Present: Katie Swanson, Alejandro Mazzotta and Lee-Ann Jaykus.

New Members: Jarret Stopforth, Saurabh Kumar, Elaine Black, Michelle Lovett, Daniel Quillen, Joe Meyer, Sun Kim, Janet Raddatz, David Reyda, Mike Villaneva, Nenge Njongmeta, Carol Wallace, Annemarie Buchholz, Lynette Johnston, Brooke Whitney, Pamela Wilger, Keith Lampel and Tatiana Lorca.

Visitors/Guests: Debra Vincent and Patricia Rule.

Meeting Called to Order: 10:00 a.m., Sunday, July 22, 2012.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Angelica O'Shaughnessy and Wendy White.

Old Business: A Speed Networking Event, which was a recommendation from 2011 PDG meeting, was held. This event was very successful and gave the chance for everyone to have a one-on-one with another member for a 1.5 minute interval. This was well received by the membership and recommended that we hold the event again.

New Business: Katie Swanson, our executive board liaison, gave us a board update including encouraging all to download the IAFP Smartphone App; information regarding the use of Google Groups (guidance on limitations on use); and the board's Strategic Plan (membership recruitment/retention, information exchange, and Foundation recruitment). There was talk about collaborating with the Student PDG to attract a larger group of younger professionals that are in their first five years of their food safety career, since the number of young professionals yesterday was outnumbered by the number of mentors. Wendy White will reach out to Chip Manuel, Student PDG Chair, regarding future collaboration between the two groups.

Alejandro Mazzotta, Sr. Director of Global Food Safety at Campbell Soups and IAFP Secretary, shared his experience as a successful food safety professional. Alejandro spoke about the importance of Networking and having technical knowledge while also developing a business acumen. Alejandro stressed the importance of creating, deploying, performing and executing during our careers. He encouraged us to explore the idea of changing companies or positions a few times, early in your career, to expand your professional development.

Lee-Ann Jaykus, Professor at North Carolina State University, spoke about being a self-made professional with no or limited mentorship. This experience made her want to be a strong mentor for younger professionals. Lee-Ann values being technical, working really hard, and stressed the importance of developing a congenial personality and

attitude as strengths. She gave us the great advice to look at the “big picture” and continued involvement in IAFP for a chance to become “a big fish in a little pond.” She advised making a concerted effort to consider your audience and not overwhelm them with technical jargon: “Don’t speak Latin.”

Patricia Rule, Sr. Staff Support Scientist at bioMérieux, shared with us the importance of becoming involved in cross-sectional groups early so you develop a much higher profile within your company: “Get your name out there.” Pat has had a chance to work with customers and travel with the sales people which has strengthened her role in the food safety and pharmaceutical community.

Angelica and Sean Leighton, Past Chair, nominated Wendy White as the new Vice Chair. This was accepted by the membership, and Wendy accepted (pending Board approval).

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. It’s our recommendation for the Board to approve the appointment of Wendy White as Vice Chair of the Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG.
2. It’s our recommendation for the Board to approve the appointment of Tumnoon “Pow” Charaslertrangsi as Student Liaison of the Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG to facilitate collaboration and communication with the Student PDG.
3. In order to increase participation in the PDG meetings, we recommend this PDG’s meeting format transition to a paid luncheon, similar to the Student PDG, on Monday or Wednesday. Board guidance is sought to help explore the parameters of this transition and defining the meeting structure.

Next Meeting Date: July 28, 2013 or alternate date per the Board.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:55 p.m.

Chairperson: Angelica O’Shaughnessy.