

Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis

Members Present: Deon Mahoney (Chair), John Bassett, Peter Ben Embarak, Lisa Benjamin, Richard Brouillette, Robert Buchanan, Scott Crerar, Paw Dalgaard, Rhonda Fraser, Kenneth Janes, Divya Jaroni, Fumiko Kasuga, Kathy Kordana, Anna Lammerding, Fritz Lembke, Deog-Hwan Oh, Tanya Roberts, Tom Ross, William Ross, Jenny Scott, Panagiotis Skandamis, Erdal Tuncan, Richard Whiting and Kisun Yoon.

Board/Staff Members Present: Don Schaffner.

New Members: John Scott Meschke, Yoshika Momose, Shiga Koseki, Kunihiro Kubota, Christophe Dufour, Gayeon Won, Gary Barker, Shannon McCoy, Faye Feldstein, Dina Austin Scott, Ray Collins, Fernando Perez Rodriguez, David Luedeke, Meshal Albokami and Elena Enache.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:05 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Scott Crerar and Deon Mahoney.

Chair Deon Mahoney welcomed attendees and invited IAFP Board Liaison Don Schaffner to provide some introductory comments. Don thanked the members for their attendance and highlighted the importance of their ongoing support for IAFP activities. He encouraged the PDG to hold webinars, both for members and also for a wider IAFP audience, and outlined the support that may be provided by IAFP.

Alejandro Amezcuita (Vice Chair) submitted an apology for being unable to attend the PDG meeting, and John Bassett kindly accepted the role as Vice Chair.

Old Business:

Minutes of the 2010 PDG Meeting were tabled. Feedback was provided by Gary Barker on the sub-committee established to investigate options for interactions between meetings (Members: Alejandro Amezcuita, Juliana Ruzante, Gary Barker, Walid Alali and Peter Ben Embarek). The sub-committee recommended expanded use of the IAFP Web site to provide information on risk assessment and risk modeling. Don Schaffner explained that the Board was supportive of greater use of the Web site, as outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Motion to approve meeting minutes from 2010 – Anna Lammerding; seconded – Jenny Scott. Minutes Approved.

New Business:

1. The PDG hosted a guest speaker during the meeting. Mr. John Bassett (Unilever) spoke on the topic of *Microbiological Risk Assessment Tools*. John outlined the work being undertaken by the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) to publish a document on risk assessment tools. He outlined various components which are being drafted including a section on tools (for modelling, risk ranking, and specific risk assessments); risk analysis information resources; and risk management tools. The final document will include an inventory of what tools are available, the availability of additional models, information on data needs, and the form of outputs to be expected from these tools. The PDG showed keen interest in the topic, and provided feedback on the availability of additional resources, and the possibility of enhancing outputs by using a systems analysis approach.
2. Deon highlighted several sessions of interest to PDG members, including:
 - S15- Biotracing - Food Safety through a Marriage of Microbiology and Modelling (Monday, 1st August, 1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.)

- S25 - Food Safety Risk Ranking Prioritization – What is It and Why Does It Matter? (Tuesday, 2nd August, 1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.)
- T2 - Risk Assessment (Monday, 1st August, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.)
- T7 - Risk Assessment (Tuesday, 2nd August, 1:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.)

During discussion it was emphasized that the PDG had enjoyed good success with the Program Committee accepting two symposia from those submitted by PDG members.

3. International Meetings of interest:

- Society for Risk Analysis Annual Meeting: 4–7 December 2011, Charleston, South Carolina (http://www.sra.org/events_2011_meeting.php)
- 7th International Conference on Predictive Modeling of Food Quality and Safety: 12–15 September 2011, Dublin, Ireland (<http://www.eventelephant.com/pmf7>)
- International Association of Exposure Sciences: September 2011, Baltimore, and September 2012, Seattle.

4. IAFP Symposia/Workshops for 2011: Discussion centered around potential symposia as follows:

- Incorporating systems analysis approaches as employed by system engineers and analysts into food safety risk analysis. This was considered to be a new topic area for the PDG, and would seek to see more sophisticated analysis tools employed, with outputs of greater utility, and more closely aligned to risk management strategies. The session could be a short symposium with a speaker covering system analysis (delivered by a non-food system analyst) presenting alongside personnel engaged in risk modeling and risk management. The symposium proposal will be worked up by Bob Buchanan and Don Schaffner.
- The extent to which long-term health outcomes are incorporated into risk assessments was discussed and considered worthy of detailed examination in a symposium. Acute impacts are widely appraised while long term sequelae such as reactive arthritis, HUS, mental impairment (toxoplasmosis), Guillain-Barre, etc. are poorly evaluated and incorporated into hazard characterizations in risk assessments. The outputs of the WHO FERG country studies under the FERG programme may potential inform this symposium. Tanya Roberts and Anna Lammerding offered to develop the proposal. Inputs from Ari Havellar and Greg Paoli may also be sought in developing the symposium.
- Novel approaches to gathering data to inform risk assessments was raised as a possible symposium topic. This would extend beyond traditional microbiological data collected from laboratories and surveys, to include data generated by GIS, site visits to farms and manufacturers, etc. Proposer Yuhann Chen will be assisted by Don Schaffner to develop the proposal.
- Other topics which may form the basis for future symposia included:
 - i. The use of genomics data in risk assessment modeling.
 - ii. Consolidation of produce risk assessments and their utilization.
 - iii. Practical application of risk assessment tools, including comparative outputs – possible symposium or workshop

5. Election of Vice-Chair: The Chair invited nominations for a Vice Chair. Yuhann Chen was nominated by Jenny Scott and seconded by Don Schaffner. There were no further nominations, so Yuhann was unanimously elected, unopposed as Vice Chair.

6. Any other business: Board Liaison Don Schaffner encouraged the PDG to host a webinar, and offered to present on the topic 'Produce Risk Assessment Model'. As there were no further offers, the PDG accepted this topic for a future webinar.

Bob Buchanan informed the PDG of an upcoming vacancy of Risk Assessment Program Manager at JIFSAN. Further details will be released in the next two weeks.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

Approve Yuhan Chen as Vice Chair beginning at IAFP 1. 2012.

Next Meeting Date: July 22, 2012.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Deon Mahoney.