



Beverages and Acid/ Acidified Foods Professional Development Group

The Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods Professional Development Group's goals include providing a forum to discuss and develop symposia on issues facing the beverages and acid/acidified foods industry. This PDG reaches diverse segments of the industry from manufacturers of juices and carbonated beverages to those processing salsa and pickled products. Our current membership stands at 171.

Due to the diversity within the PDG, offerings at IAFP have encompassed a variety of topics. Programs sponsored by the PDG in recent years include:

- An Overview of Emerging Beverage and Process Technologies
- Small Scale Fermentation: Is the Consumer at Risk
- Developments in Mycotoxin Research: From Methodology to Prevention
- Characterization and Identification of Spoilage Causing Fungi, a Hands-on Preconference Workshop in 2017

At IAFP 2018, the PDG is sponsoring a highly anticipated symposium: *The Challenge of Challenge Studies*. This session will provide a few case studies on framework development for conducting a formula risk assessment and designing a microbial challenge study using published tools such as the NACMCF Parameters for Inoculated Pack/Challenge Study Protocols, mathematical modeling tools, and the FDA decision tree on Time/Temperature Control for Safety. Speakers will address whether challenge studies are appropriate and, if so, some of the nuances, specific considerations and precise details to design and perform a rigorous challenge study.

This IAFP session will build upon the PDG webinar in June 2018 outlining *Recommendations for Designing and Conducting Cold-fill Hold Challenge Studies for Acidified Food Products*. The webinar highlighted details in a publication of the same title that has been accepted for publication in *Food Protection Trends*.

Our PDG welcomes ideas and discussion as we strive to develop IAFP Annual Meeting topics, webinars, and publications of interest to a wide spectrum of food industry professionals.

Wilfredo Ocasio, Chairperson