



## Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG

The Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG is a relatively new IAFP PDG, established in 2017, with the goal to provide a forum for exchanging and sharing information and best practices connected to assessments, audits and inspections which form an important element of most food businesses' food safety compliance programs.

The PDG currently comprises of 200 members from a variety of backgrounds and professions including food manufacturing, the inspection and food safety auditing industry, education and training, retail, food service and many other disciplines all with a keen interest and enthusiasm to share and acquire knowledge as the demands and expectations with the varying elements of oversight progress and advance.

Previous activities by the PDG included a very well-attended symposium at the IAFP Annual Meeting in Kentucky titled "Practical Guide to Auditing Food Safety Culture" developed in conjunction with the Food Safety Culture PDG. During the annual PDG meeting in 2020, we were fortunate to have speakers from the GFSI (Global Food Safety Initiative) who kindly provided an introduction to GFSI, their current activities and an

interesting overview of the 2020 "Race to the Top" strategy. For IAFP 2021, there are plans for representatives from GFSI to lead a roundtable entitled "Can You Trust Third-Party Certification?" sponsored by the PDG. Additionally, we have plans to sponsor a number of exciting webinars connected to different topics linked to food safety assessment, audit and inspection. Proposed topics for the webinars include:

- Data from assessments and audits and how to make it useful
- Best practices and challenges with remote audits and inspections
- Effective methods and approaches assessing food fraud vulnerability assessments (in conjunction with the Food Fraud PDG)

Our group welcomes constructive discussion and new ideas and we invite you to join and engage with the Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG. If you would like to learn more about the group, please contact me.

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