



## International Food Protection Issues PDG

The International Food Protection Issues PDG was established in 2009 with a mission to provide a forum to discuss issues of interest to the international food protection community. We like to believe that this PDG is an exponent of the much more active outreach of IAFP to food safety professionals in the last two decades in order to be truly *Advancing Food Safety Worldwide*.

The PDG has always met the day before all other PDGs, and it has steadily grown from a few dozen attendees to a rather stable gathering of some 60 food safety professionals from around the globe. The membership roster for the PDG tallies up to about 250 members from all continents, with a background in academia, government, industry across a wide range of areas of interest to food safety.

As the active and inspiring discussions during the PDG meeting prove year after year, ensuring food safety takes a joint approach of all stakeholders as well as collaboration among various geographies and countries that are linked-up more globally because of sourcing and food product trade. We spend time sharing what is happening in each attendee's area and organization, and seek ways to collaborate professionally.

For the PDG members, it is clear that we share responsibilities in making food safety happen day-to-day and in continuously improving what we can do today, while we prepare for tomorrow's challenges. We can learn so much from each other in how we discharge our

responsibilities, find synergies by sharing knowledge and coordinating our new scientific ideas and investments to find the necessary solutions.

Being a truly international organization requires IAFP to have a very keen eye on the hot topics and key advancements in food safety and consumer health protection. As a PDG we discuss these matters and have been quite successful in staging well-attended Annual Meeting sessions (symposia and roundtables) often in conjunction with other PDGs and organize the occasional webcast in between Annual Meetings.

Our ambition is to do so much more. We could have more webinars or organize online discussion forum meetings. We could write opinions and white papers. There are many different ways that we could share and develop food safety capability and capacity for our global food safety community.

Therefore, when you read this and get inspired to join, please do! Help us to make the world of food safety professionals smaller. Help make it easier to grow our expertise and impact, so IAFP really is that forum exchange information on protecting the food supply at global scale.

**Leon Gorris, Chairperson**  
**Ian Jenson, Vice Chairperson**