

## **Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Diseases PDG**

**Members Present:** Stephen Grove, David Kingsley, Frank Burns, Franck Chatigny, Andrea Cipriani, Changsun Choi, Nigel Cook, Carl Custer, Doris D'Souza, Christophe Dufour, John Guzewish, Julie Jean, Kalmia Kniel, Alvin Lee, Fabienne Loisy, Efstathia Papafragkou, Sarita Raengpradub, Jennifer Shields, Otto Simmons and Samantha Wales.

**Board/Staff Members Present:** Tim Jackson.

**New Members:** Idrissa Samandougou, Christine Yu, William Burkhardt, David Lees, Blanca Escudero, Fabrice Peladan, Juan Leon and Hediye Cinar.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 9:02 a.m., Saturday, July 25, 2015.

**Recording Secretary of Minutes:** Stephen Grove.

**Welcome and Introductions:** David Kingsley, PDG Vice-Chair; and all attendees present.

**Report from IAFP Executive Board:** Tim Jackson provided the update from the Executive Board. Record number of members with 4,200 members currently, reporting a strong attendance at the IAFP 2015 meeting – a record attendance above 3,000 attendees. Topics should be considered for webinars as well as symposia.

**Old Business:** 2014 PDG meeting minutes were approved by members, and the PDG was reminded that the minutes are located on the IAFP website for review.

### **New Business:**

#### Overview of current topics of interest

##### *Lee-Ann Jaykus, North Carolina State University*

Alvin Lee presented on behalf of Lee-Ann an update on activities within NoroCORE. An overview of each CORE was presented. Research continues in the project and progress will be presented in this IAFP meeting and in calicivirus meetings internationally in the next two years.

##### *Chun Wang – Texas Department of State Health Services*

Chun Wang provided an update on the current *Cyclospora* outbreak investigation in Texas. Cases of *Cyclospora* have increased dramatically in recent years, with 600+ cases in 2013, 170+ cases in 2014, and already 200+ cases in 2015. This increase cannot be simply linked to an increased number of fresh produce imports. Cilantro imported from Mexico is again suspected as implicated produce item. Two differences have been noted in this year's outbreak compared to the last two year's outbreaks:

1. Different dates of onset compared to past years (earlier in the summer this year).
2. Different region affected (Austin area).

#### *Update on Program Committee:*

Alvin – Increasing numbers of abstracts and symposium proposals submitted to the program committee in recent years. Need very well developed proposals with support from other PDGs. Sessions that are well developed will be given higher priority.

#### Election for Vice-Chair

The PDG membership voted for the Vice-Chair out of three candidates. Efi Papafragkou (FDA-CFSAN) won the vote.

## Discussion of topics for IAFP 2016

### *Juan Leon*

- Viruses on produce – how to detect (sampling on field and in retail)
- Epidemiology
- Training and extension

### *Nigel Cook*

- Standardized methods – under investigation currently
- In depth look from those using the methods – what works and what doesn't
- Novel process for virologists in the standardization process

### *Alvin Lee and Lee-Ann Jaykus*

- NoroCORE – update on research activities:
  - In vitro cultivation
  - Epidemiological findings
  - Norovirus risk model – NorOPTIMAL
  - Intervention strategies that work
  - Where are we with detection
  - Role of stakeholders informing research and extension
  - Social media in public health messaging
  - Building capacity in food virology
  - Ensure topics are presented in a manner that relates to implications worldwide

### *Other topics*

- Hand hygiene as it relates to viruses and parasites
- Public health issues around hand sanitation
- How effective is hand washing – need for disinfectant, not just washing
- Behavioral issues around hand washing
- Changes in lifestyle affecting norovirus prevalence
- Use of water in food production – what if potable water contains viral RNA during food production?
- What does a food company do with a positive result for norovirus?
- Towards agreement between regulators, industry and academia
- Hepatitis E
- Under the radar/ subclinical agents of illness (combine with Toxoplasma)
- Causing issues in pork production – but not just in pork, e.g., detected in shellfish
- Why is this considered an important issue in some parts of the world and not in others?
- Parasites
- Moving toward molecular methodology
- What do we still not know – surveillance, where is contamination coming from? What is the route of contamination in these outbreaks, and how are epidemiological investigations hampered in these outbreaks?
- Toxoplasma is linked to neurological effects and considered highly in risk ranking studies. Current information on Toxoplasma should be proposed as a symposium
- Metagenomics
- Emerging agents of illness discovered in feces
- How accurate is the data?
- What about food-related agents but not foodborne illness agents (for discussion with Meat and Poultry PDG)
- Role of bats, bush meat, bats

- Many contamination issues are the same between viruses and parasites – combined symposium on issues in investigating outbreaks of viruses and parasites

These topics will be discussed in upcoming conference calls, and potential speakers identified. The group will decide if any topics are better suited for a webinar

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Efi Papafragkou recommended as Vice-Chair of the PDG.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 31, 2016, America's Center, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:55 a.m.

**Chairperson:** David Kingsley.