

Committee for Control of Foodborne Illness

Members Present: Ewen Todd (Chair), Judy Greig (Vice Chair), Kari Irvin, Michael Batz, Sherri McGarry, Bobby Krishna, Barry Michaels, David Nicholas, Ben Tall, Phyllis Posey, Michael Roberson, Carl Custer, and Amarat Simonne.

New Members Present: Kurt Rueber and Steve Maudernach.

Board/Staff Present: Timothy Jackson.

Visitors: Hussain Azzam, Robert Strong, and Danah Vetter.

Number of Attendees: 19.

Meeting Called to Order: 8:10 a.m., Sunday, July 8, 2018.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Judy Greig.

Old Business: Ewen shared the statement from IAFF regarding acceptable activities in Committees and requested changes to the agenda. Additions were made by Barry Michaels and Michael Roberson.

Tim Jackson Board Report: Tim submitted a report on behalf of the Board. Membership was up to 4,300 members but mainly from the USA; membership flat abroad and in Canada. IAFF Annual Meetings are so large that there are few locations in the U.S. and even fewer in Canada (2) to host these meetings. For boosting Canadian membership, maybe regional IAFF meetings could be held in smaller Canadian cities. It is hard to get symposia accepted (90/220); alternative means of communication can be considered like webinars or even workshops. Impact factor decreasing for *JFP* which means we need to get better quality manuscripts. PDGs need to include more students. Possibly awards could be given to students active in the Committees. Ewen suggested a student could be assigned by the Student PDG to CCFI and be given appropriate tasks that would both help the Committee and be an incentive for the career advancement of the student. To do this, the CCFI would like to see the list of students who were supported by IAFF. Foundation is doing well but there are restrictions on the amount of travel funds that can be awarded. Recommendation: A student be assigned to work with the CCFI during the year including at the Annual Meeting.

Results of Symposia Planning from Last Year: Most symposia suggestions were rejected by the Program Committee: 2018 Foodborne Outbreak Updates was accepted, and all the talks should be interesting: Monday, July 9, 2018 at 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. The Committee held two conference calls during the year (May and June) which were helpful for symposium development.

Discussion of Progress on Manuals:

1. The 7th edition of the *Procedures for Investigation of Foodborne Illness Manual* would probably be published in 2021 or 2022 but the timing would depend on where there are gaps or errors. Tim Sly of Ryerson revised the waterborne manual epidemiological tables and maybe these should be considered for the foodborne manual. For the foodborne manual we need Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS), but the guidelines have not been finalized yet but probably would be by 2020. WGS will open up a lot of challenges for investigation, etc. Many outbreaks now are not just complaint-driven but recognized through laboratory analysis and social media as well. An update will need to increase 3-day food history to 5–7 days. Dave Nichols and Kari Irvin agreed to look the present manual over and report back in one month.
2. *Diseases Transmitted by Foods Manual* (3rd edition) need experts in plant toxins, chemicals and parasites for updates.
3. The *Vector-borne and Rodent-borne Manual* is being updated. Judy has contacted Canadian experts and has suggestions for international experts who could contribute. A document from the EU ECDC on field sampling methods for mosquitoes, sandflies, biting midges and ticks – has just been released and is being reviewed. Michael Roberson will have her in contact with a retired vector specialist, Zia Ziddiqi, from Orkin. The North American Pest Control Association Conference for Food Protection have a mandate to look at all manuals.
4. General discussion on the manuals: CDC has officers come in each year to FDA and we could get copies into their hands through the EIS program; Sherri is willing to work on it. The

Board assigned Springer to be the publisher of the manuals, but the cost has increased substantially making bulk purchases expensive for cash-strapped local health departments or even state departments. Keeping costs down for the next editions will be important to consider. Having CDC and other epidemiological experts working on the manuals could be one of the best ways to bring them into our group. One means of getting recognition for epidemiologists at the IAFF meeting is the Ewen C. D. Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award. Maybe CCFI members can recommend future recipients, such as from CDC. Michael Batz says we should have a schedule for development of each manual revision.

5. The 100 Year History of the Committee is in draft form but a shorter version could be drafted to help the membership understand the history and work of the Committee and how it is different from PDGs.
6. A survey of IAFF members to determine their food safety habits began development last year with input from Ben Chapman, Ian Young and Christine Bruhn. Need to agree on questions and implement the survey. Board has approved this activity. This is being reactivated for early 2019. Michael Batz wants it to move quickly. It was suggested that to compare this with the food safety habits of the general public, a huge Google sample of the public could be generated, but not at the same time-frame. To do any survey requires funds: this could come from the Foundation or be sponsored by an organization or industry.

New Business:

Transition after 2020: The Committee needs individuals who will be committed to the work of the Committee. Both Ewen and Judy have been Chair/Vice Chair since 2000, and it will be time to look to fill both these positions after 20 years. The CCFI members present felt there will still be a need for the foodborne and waterborne manuals in the future especially for local health departments. Because of an increase in vector-borne diseases due to climate change it is important to update the *Vector-borne and Rodent-borne Manual*. There was also discussion about the role of CCFI acting more as a PDG and it is possible that the PDG component could be slotted at a different time spot from the manual discussion time. Since 2010, manual revisions have been championed by one member who brings in external experts to write or review any changes and works with the Chair for consistency. The Board has on occasion supported separate working meeting times for those finalizing manuals or scientific review papers.

Potential Symposia Topics:

1. Culture Independent Diagnostic Testing (CIDT) – What Does It Mean for Public Health and industry?
2. International Approaches to the Safe Use of Irrigation and Wash Water in the Face of Water Shortages.
3. How Do We Measure the Effectiveness of Regulatory Food Safety Programs?
4. Impacts of Marine Biotoxins and Lessons from the Past to Protect the Future.
5. Root Cause Analysis to Involve the Identification of Human Factors.
6. Outbreaks and Recalls from Eggs: Prevention and Control Strategies.
7. Are We Reaching the Millennium Goals for Food Safety?
8. Navigating Food Safety Across Cultures: Adopting New Foods.
9. Food Safety Impacting Tourism and Travel.
10. Coconuts for *Salmonella*: Lessons Learned from Recent Outbreaks.
11. Lessons Learned from the 2018 Romaine Outbreak in Arizona.
12. 2019 Foodborne Outbreak Update.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the Board should investigate means to fund specific Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness activities such as the member survey.

2. Recommend the manuals should be better advertised and promoted at international meetings as well as at the Annual Meeting.
3. Comments from some state users indicate that the manuals would be more useful if they were interactive. For instance, they say that even the online versions are in pdf format and they have to be downloaded rather than fillable. This may be a Springer way of controlling downloadable purchases but not useful for those doing investigations. The Board can consider working with IT savvy members who can review what can be done to make the manuals more interactive.
4. Because CCFI meets all day at the Annual Meeting and it is difficult for PDG members to meet and discuss issues relating to foodborne illness at this particular meeting, one suggestion would be for PDG Chairs/Vice Chairs who have an interest in outbreak investigation, prevention, and control of foodborne illness related to their membership, exchange ideas for symposia, manuals, publications, etc., on a periodic basis throughout the year with the Chair/Vice Chair of the Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness.
5. Recommend a student from the Student PDG be assigned to work with the Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness during the year including at the Annual Meeting. Students rarely attend the Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness meetings.
6. Since attendance by Canadians at IAAP Annual Meetings is limited because it is considered foreign travel and membership has not grown, the Board should consider a regional Canadian food safety meeting, as is done for the rest of the world, such as in Winnipeg or Ottawa.

Next Meeting Date: July 21–24, 2019, Louisville, KY.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Ewen C. D. Todd.