

Food Law PDG

Members Present: Jenny Scott, DeAnn Benesh, Zeb Blanton, Patricia Curtis, Carl Custer, Emilio Esteban, Gordon Hayburns, Yale Lary, Susan Linnp, Andrew MacCabe, Deon Mahoney, Gloria Swick-Brown, Gina Nicholson, Christina Wilson and Suresh Pillai.

New Members: Ken Tyrrell, Gregory Sanders and Thilde Peterson.

Visitors/Guests: Deborah Herr, Helen Barela, Rupesh Doshi and Ronald Jech.

Meeting Called to Order: 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 1, 2010. PDG Chair, Caroline Smith-DeWaal, unable to attend. Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair, Jenny Scott, FDA CFSAN.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: DeAnn Benesh.

Old Business:

Motion to approve meeting minutes from July 1. 22 conference call – Carl Custer; seconded – Christina Wilson. Minutes Approved.

One of the three symposia submitted by the 2. Food Law PDG for this year's program was accepted, but the PDG Chair had not been made aware. Brainstorming by the PDG as to how to improve this situation for the future resulted in 3 recommendations for the executive board – listed below.

New Business:

Vice-Chair election:

The Vice-Chair still has 1 more year to complete of a 2 year term, so no action required at the moment.

Nominations remain open. Two candidates were mentioned thus far: Christina Wilson, and DeAnn Benesh.

Voting will be conducted electronically.

White Paper Ideas:

1. **Criteria and Tools for Comparing National Food Safety Programs** – Rejected as a symposium for 2010, but agreement within PDG that we should work towards creating a white paper for publication in *Food Protection Trends*. Caroline Smith-DeWaal & DeAnn Benesh will lead a small working group [Deon Mahoney, Emilio Esteban, Pat Curtis and Carl Custer] to draft.

2. **Different National Import/Export Programs to Ensure Consumer Protection** – it was suggested that this could be a series of white papers, or a follow-up to the Criteria and Tools paper above.

The committee felt we should complete the paper above, and then determine next step – how this topic fits in, or becomes a new topic.

3. **New Legislation: Bringing Science & Law Together to Improve Food Safety** – review again, when Congress passes the Food Safety Bill. Consider providing this topic as a recorded Webinar.

Webinars:

- There is discussion within IAFP regarding a minimal charge for Webinars [\$25?].
- IAFP currently covers cost for PDG Webinars, but are considering a charge for Webinars that are considered continuing education. IAFP would like comments.

Food Law Webinar Topics:

- Food Safety Transportation Act – suggested we hold this for the future, when law in place
- Overview Outlining the “Layers” of Food Law:
 - Local vs. State vs. Federal
 - Country vs. European Union

Symposia suggestions for 2011 [the first 3 below were suggestions from Gina Nicholson]:

1. 100 Years of Food Law – retrospective, and the changes occurring to address new challenges. It should include: domestic & international, developed and developing countries.
 - Organizers: Caroline Smith-DeWaal, DeAnn Benesh, Deon Mahoney, Carl Custer, Gina Nicholson.
 - This topic may be large enough to break down into parts 1 & 2 [and also to connect with Symposium suggestion #3, below].
 - Pat Curtis suggested a white paper could be created from this symposium – which would be especially useful for students taking courses that include topics around food law.
 - The organizers should consider seeking a sponsor for support – both for international speakers and the white paper project.
2. Food Transportation [synergies with Food Defense and Retail PDGs]

- This topic could cover: concerns along the cold chain – how to regulate and control this vulnerability? Effect and control of independent trucking contractors; temperature control monitoring technologies.
 - It was suggested perhaps this could also create additional vendor participation/membership from technology companies that would be new to IAFP.
 - Gina Nicholson will take this symposium idea to the Retail PDG to see if they would like to collaborate.
 - Ron Jech will take this symposium idea to the Food Defense PDG to see if they would like to collaborate.
 - Organizers: Gina Nicholson and Yale Lary, possibly with others from collaborating PDGs.
3. Changes in Food Laws from Health Concerns [reduced salts, fats, etc.] requiring new product formulations, and their effects/ implications for food safety.
- Ideas surrounding this topic: nutritionists aren't knowledgeable about food safety, so they aren't aware of the effects of some of these health changes; effects on labeling and packaging regulations; sustainability, etc
 - Gordon Hayburn will take this topic to the new Food Packaging PDG to see if they would like to collaborate.
 - Ron Jech will take this symposium idea to the Food Defense PDG [because of the packaging-related issues] to see if they would like to collaborate.
 - Organizers will depend on interest of other PDGs.
4. Important information, e.g., applicable food laws, to help when setting up a new food company
- Thide Peterson, member of the Committee for Control of Foodborne Illness, requested support from the Food Law PDG to collaborate on this symposium.
 - Topics they would like to cover: where do food entrepreneurs get food law information? Business incubators; Edison Technology; Innovative Food Technology Centers [US] / Food Industry Centers [EU]; contacts and step-by-step procedures of points to consider when setting up a food company.
 - They would like our PDG to provide a Food Law perspective.
 - Information from this symposium could be developed into a manual, and/or on-going Webinars.

Board Member Visit to the PDG: IAFP President-elect, Lee-Ann Jaykus

- Thank you to PDG for hard work.
 - What do we think about set a cost for Webinars? [there's a cost to have staff organize & manage these. Today, IAFP can manage 2/month, so schedule early!].
 - The Board wants *recommendations* from PDGs vs. just information [things that affect IAFP as a whole vs. points that only affect the PDG].
 - The Board is in the process of strategic planning and would like input to the following questions:
1. How can we increase the visibility of the IAFP Brand?
- The IP name isn't IAFP – it's food protection, so it doesn't "pop up" first when you type "IAFP" into the search engine.
 - Get connected to other associations, to get recognition: as a resource, as a leader in food safety, etc. [e.g., the association that exists for innovative food technology centers].
 - IAFP is not just food safety, so expand the reach to better include our shift to new areas [packaging, defense, toxicology, etc.]
 - Increase the number of white papers and guidance documents produced. Try to be the FIRST people to do this in new areas [defense, packaging], and not just FIRST, but BEST.
 - IAFP should focus on being recognized as a true leader in food safety.
2. Where does the Food Law PDG get information? Is there a need/gap in our sourcing that IAFP could help fill?
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4. What are the benefits and downfalls of current social media? Should IAFP be capturing /capitalizing on them?

- Instead of Facebook, use the professional site: LinkedIn, because IAFP is a professional group, and some companies do not allow access to Facebook through their firewalls.
- Create a group[s] within LinkedIn where white papers can be uploaded.
- Use Doodle.com for polling and voting within IAFP.
- IAFP 100th Anniversary next year – the Board is looking for any ideas for the celebration, and the 100 top food safety tips. Please submit your ideas.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

• **Recommended Improvements to PDG Symposia Submission Process:**

1. Include within the electronic symposium submission the option to select the NAME of the PDG submitting the symposium [where applicable].
2. When the symposium has been submitted, an automatic notification should be sent to the PDG Chair.
3. If a symposium is rejected, the PDG chair, in addition to the organizers, should be notified, along with the rationale as to why the symposium was not accepted. Note areas for improvement and/or whether there is interest in seeing the topic resubmitted in the future.

Next Meeting Date:

Teleconference will be scheduled mid-September to finalize symposium submissions. Teleconference or Webinar will be held if/when new US food safety legislation is passed.

Meeting Adjourned at: 11:00 a.m.

Vice Chairperson: Jenny Scott.