

International Food Protection Issues PDG

Members Present: Jeffrey M. Farber, Leon G. M. Gorris, Isabel Walls, Peter K. Ben Embarek, DeAnn L. Benesh, Andrew P. Benson, Barbara Blakistone, Robert E. Brackett, Rebecca Buckner, Sarah M. Cahill, Alessandra O. Chiareli, Patricia M. Desmarchelier, Alejandro Echeverry, Judy D. Greig, Jack J. Guzewich, Ian Jenson, Linda L. Leake, Deon B. Mahoney, Jenny Scott, Peter J. Slade, Cindy M. Stewart, Ewen Todd and Pamela A. Wilger.

New Members: Jason Wan, Harold Ewell, Roger Cook, John Allan, Randall Phebus, Jairo Romero, Rupesh Doshi, Xianming Shi, Mariza Landgraf, Maria Teresa Destro, Christine M. Aleski, Emilio Esteban, Bobby Krishna, Mohammad I. Quamas, Anna Lammerding and Ali Al Sakkaf.

Visitors/Guests: Karen Hulebak, Alejandro Rojas, Yuhua Chang, Jared Strong and Tejas Bhatt.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:35 p.m., Saturday, July 31, 2010.

Chairperson: Jeffrey Farber.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Leon Gorris.

Welcome by IAFP Board Liaison Isabel Walls. To support the Executive Board's long range strategic planning, Isabel asked for feedback on successful use of educational Webinars and associated subscription costs. Feedback was provided on importance of easy subscription and possibly bulk subscription at annual membership registration. Further feedback was requested on IAFP using social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), raising IAFP's brand visibility and compiling a top-100 food safety tips list for next year's 100 year anniversary meeting. Feedback to David Tharp and/or Isabel Walls.

Old Business: Minutes 2009 PDG Meeting. The meeting adopted the minutes as written.

New Business:

1. Jeff highlighted several forthcoming sessions of possible interest to PDG members:

- S19 – International Food Safety Policies
- S26 – Global issues and Impact of Gluten Allergy and Celiac Disease
- S27 – Food Safety in Developing Countries
- S30 – A Practical Approach to Risk Communication – Engaging Stakeholders and the Public
- S34 WHO's Epidemiological Approach to Estimating Foodborne Diseases – WHO FERG

2. International IAFP Meetings of interest:

- IAFP held a successful 6th European Symposium from 9–11 June 2010, in Dublin. Close to 300 people attended. Next time, the meeting may possibly be in The Netherlands. Info on IAFP Europe meetings (incl. presentations for download): <http://www.foodprotection.org/events/european-symposia/>.
- IAFP will hold its 2nd Latin America Symposium on Food Safety from 21–24 September 2010 in Bogota, Colombia. Info: <http://www.acta.org.co/Congreso2010%20Ingles.php>.
- Info on other meetings supported by IAFP (i.e. Dubai, China, Korea) available on IAFP Web.

3. The guest speaker for the PDG session was Karen Hulebak, talking on "Codex Alimentarius – Past Concerns, Current Issues and Future Prospects". Dr. Hulebak is Chief Scientist in the USDA, Office of Food Safety. In July 2010, Dr. Hulebak was elected to a third and final one-year term as Chair of the Codex Alimentarius Commission. She was previously a Commission Vice Chair for three years, and the Chair of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene for seven years. In her presentation, Karen discussed recent changes in Codex Alimentarius in speeding up issuing standards and guidelines and talked about the need for further change to address challenges such as: global change in demographics and the need to involve developing and emerging economies more, implementation of risk analysis framework across commission, assuring transparency and inclusiveness, difficulty in developing consensus on nationally sensitive issues, etc. One of the ideas raised in discussion was that of mentoring developing economies in effective participation in the Codex process. Karen kindly shared her speaker notes, which will be attached to the minutes when posted on PDG Web page.

4. Roundtable updates were provided on:

- The International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Food (ICMSF) by Leon Gorris, secretary to ICMSF, who talked about ICMSF generally and their latest projects: Book 8 on useful testing within a food safety assurance system, excel spreadsheet tools for establishing sampling plan/microbiological criteria and for safe food design based on risk based metrics (FSO/PO/PC), and an illustrated lay-person's guide about these metrics; more details on www.icmsf.org. The PPT used will be attached to minutes posted on PDG Web page.

- Dr. Sarah Cahill, FAO, updated the meeting on a number of activities, most of which were jointly run with WHO in the areas of development of scientific advice, capacity building and emergency response. Under scientific advice, she covered microbiological risk assessments and other JEMRA work, harmonization of methods, risk communication, nanotechnology, risk of chemicals in food (Bisphenol A) and risk/benefit of chlorine use in food industry. Sarah's speaker notes will be attached to the minutes on the PDG Web site.
- Dr. Peter Ben Embarek added from the WHO perspective. He recalled that this year the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution providing guidance on food safety priorities for WHO and FAO to consider, covering nutrition aspects of food safety, food aid, emergency support, food availability/security, increase of data generation on foodborne illnesses, expansion of INFOSAN, strengthen education and dissemination of food safety information, and need to address human health at the interface between humans and animals.
- Dr. Isabel Walls updated the meeting on the Asia Pacific Economic Consortium (APEC) activities, which look at coordinating activities to support food safety skill and capacity build-ing in the region, possibly with support of the World Bank.

5. IAFP symposia/workshops for 2011 (deadline October 18, 2010). The following ideas were raised:

- White paper on food safety system produced by PDG; FAO/WHO, communication professionals, scientists, etc.
- International Knowledge Platforms, requested by APEC, could be on risk communication as a theme; follow-up from Wednesday symposium for volunteer working group "best practice in risk communication" (issues such as: comm-unicating tox thresholds, chemicals in foods, emerging concern areas).
- GFSI & global food safety auditing. Some work presented this year. Needs to address new aspects.
- Where can we find key information on various hazards, like thermal kill temperatures? An easy source of information...
- New laws are created in many countries to force food processors to use the system. What support is given to processors to make it work? Capacity building. Best practice in implementation – maybe with focus on small and medium sized businesses.
- Private sector initiatives. What is happening in terms of their activities to help developing markets regarding safe manufacturing and marketing operations.
- Inspection. Huge challenges. How to do it in different regions, facing global challenges. Learnings and best practices.
- A symposium on private standards issues. Involvement of multi-nationals, how developing countries can raise their status refs infrastructure, capacity, partnerships. Learnings and ideas to go forward.
- *Listeria* increase in listeriosis / Denmark/Europe and Asia. What are the underlying reasons? Implementation of the new Codex standard – learnings & performance.
- Developing countries participation in PDG. Issues for those countries such as security of food supply. Relative low priority of food safety in their environment. How can they be supported by IAFP? World Bank and Codex links?

An E-mail discussion (possibly in September) will be used to establish concrete ideas and progress proposals. Proposers are requested to keep Jeff and Leon up to date with submission and feedback from the Program Committee.

6. Election of a new Vice Chair for the PDG.

Three nominations have been put forth: An e-mail ballot will be organized for PDG members to vote on the new Vice Chair.

7. Any Other Business.

Jeff inquired after satisfaction of members to have the PDG meeting on Saturday afternoon. Those present were not unhappy with it, disregarding the additional time/costs for attending. One argument was that there would be more overlap with other PDGs when it would be on Sunday.

Recommendations to Executive Board:

1. Approve Deon Mahoney as Vice Chair.

Next Meeting Date: 30 July 2011, Milwaukee, WI.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Jeffrey Farber.