

Low Water Activity Foods PDG

Members Present: Organizational Meeting.

New Members Present: Indaue Mello, Tyler Berg, Margaret Hardin, Robin Kalinowski, Elizabeth Grasso, Jennifer Frankenberg, Larry Beuchat, Jeyam Subbiah, Son Kiat Lau, Harshavardhar Thippareddi, Fred Cook, Aaron Uesugi, Alvin Lee, Stephen Grove, Paul Hall, Bradley Marks, Angela Rincon, Sofia Santillana Farakos, Panciya Manalili, Sarah Cahill, Cagatay Celik, Edyta Margus, Nenge Njongmeta, Brian Mayer, Xiuping Jiang, Carl Custer, Pamela Wilger, Erdal Tuncan, Haiping Li, Michele Evans, Francisco Diez, Peyman Fatemi, Ben Warren, Ryan Kucker, Mary Lou Tortorello, Asia AlRaeesi, Tracy Sinclair, Stephanie Barnes, Lisa Trimble, Elisabetta Lambertini, Pardeepinder Brar, Dennis Burson, Lisa Lucia, Heidi Saunders, Joshua Gurtler, Tim Adams, Joe Meyer, Jean Schoeni, Zhinong Yan, Peter Taormina, Jeffrey Kornacki, Monica Ponder, Rob Williams, Gordan Hayburn, Amanda Matczynski, Arun Shastry, Gary Kramer, Alma-Sue Haiduk, Chantal Nde, Julia DeNiro, John Frelka, Darin Zehr, Carl Eidsath, Tim Johnson, Belem Ontiberos, Jinru Chen, Hari Dwivedi, Arlette Shazer, Yaoxin Huang, Rhoma Johnson, Daria Kleinmeier, Scott Burnett, Alejandro Amezquita, Jennifer Acuff, Gary Acuff, Christine Strapp, Raquel Andrade, Faye Feldstein, Derrick Bautista, Omer Cakmak, Samir Assar, Yuhuan Chen, Erol Gazi Hisoglu, Mu Ye, Polly Courtney, Jeremy Donais, Sue Keller, Nathan Anderson, Dana Gradl, Christina Stam, Shannon Pickens, Damian Montoya, Aaron Asmus, Lone Jespersen and Gale Prince.

Meeting Called to Order at: 2:59 p.m., Sunday, July 28, 2013 by *Chairperson Pro Tem* Indaue Mello.

New Business: Introductions Begin. Approved a motion to make stand-alone PDG.

Nominations for Vice Chair: Nominations for vice chair for both Elizabeth Grasso and Tyler Berg.

Must have succession plan for a 4 year plan: appointed today for succession planning: Elizabeth Grasso – Vice Chair; Tyler Berg – Co-vice chair. Elizabeth Grasso – unofficial Secretary.

Indaue Mello – Shared concern that there are too many PDGs already (via Don Zink). Asked for interest for meeting on Saturdays vs. Sundays. Members want PDG meeting held on Sunday.

Dr. Larry Beuchat – Motion to change name to Low A_w Foods from Low Moisture Foods. Gordon – Low A_w foods. Motion to change approved as a recommendation to the board.

Jeff Kornacki –May want 3 people for management (chair and two vice chairs) of issues/concerns.

Paul Hall – Applied Lab Methods PDG instituted unofficial organization (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary).

Motion to accept changes to original mission statement: To promote and disseminate practical and scientific knowledge on the production of safe and wholesome low water activity products. Motion to accept.

Time to talk about issues related to PDGs. Would like to have webinars; request to think about ideas for webinars. Think about people that may be qualified to present. May use IAFP resources for webinar with no cost for PDG members only. If open to public – cost \$25. Webinars are recorded.

Make recommendations to the board to make webinars publically available to all members through the IAFP website.

Gale Prince – recommendation to do basic webinars – What are low A_w foods, cleaning, technology applications, etc.

Prince – hold periodic QA sessions for those in webinars – troubleshooting questions.

Volunteers – Jeff Kornacki – Controls for low a_w foods;

Edyta Margas – Cleaning and Sanitation for low A_w foods.

Ideas for symposia must be submitted before October 15th.

Topic: Problem with cleaning and sanitation is not validated for Low Water foods.

Idea: Discuss limiting which foods are considered Low Water foods. Motion to 0.85 Water for Low Water foods

Molds and yeasts; 0.92 – Limit of *C. bot* and *S. aureus* toxin production.

Meyer: < 0.85 bacteria become more heat resistant

Kornacki – 0.6 – GMA document

Kornacki – Work together with Hygiene PDG for validation of equipment design for low water foods.

Peter Taormina- suggested that the water activity of the product is not as important as the fact that the water activity of such products is controlled by formulation. That should be the determining factor if a product is a low water activity product.

Member asked about spoilage organisms and that they should be considered as well within the PDG. Mello commented that the term “wholesomeness” includes Y&M

so that is covered.

Topic: How do we define low-water foods (possible webinar) – Mello suggested it should be part of the webinar on basis of low water activity foods.

Webinars:

Champion on topic: Lot definition and C&S validation – Jeff Kornacki; Peter Taormina; Margret Hardin

Champion on topic: Kill step validation (thermal and non- thermal) – Bradley Marks - Michigan State; Jeyam Subbiah- Nebraska University.

Linda Harris commented about a technical session regarding *Enterococcus*: Tomorrow; classification of organisms as BL-2 tomorrow – Not a pathogen.

Member commented that we should also address recovery bacterial methods for validation studies.

Elizabeth Russo – Inoculation methods need evaluation.

Gordon Hayburn – Will start a closed linkedin group for this PDG to allow for topic discussion.

Belem Ontiberos – Challenge study for inoculum and inoculum level.

Facility design should include equipment design (new and retrofitted). This is necessary for pathogen control as well as environmental monitoring.

Indaue Mello – Send some suggestions for ideas and speakers after meeting.

Indaue Mello – How do you address uncleanable equipment (unsanitary design)?

Jennifer Frankenberg – Volunteer to put together a webinar on sanitary equipment design. Work on uncleanable equipment.

Paul Hall – Validation and lot definition.

Gale Prince – Cannot define a lot for everyone. Suggestion to identify parameters for assessment of lot definition.

Erdal Tuncan – What is the point of defining the lot – microbial or otherwise (production); shipping schedule.

Indaue Mello – Educating is necessary for companies. How to communication with upper management.

Paul Hall – Almond Board has done a lot on industry self-initiative with research. Took it upon themselves after recalls.

International standards coming out – Relevant topic; lot definition is interesting.

Indaue Mello – Is 5 log sufficient for any commodity? No not really. Quantitative work must be done to determine proper log reduction.

Should other commodities have standards across industries similar to the California Almond Board?

Finishing up – list of new members check on sign-up sheet.

Larry Beuchat – Applaud individuals for PDG on low a_w water products; too long ignored.

Suggestion for short symposium:

Recalls and best practices in the pet food industry

Possible speakers: Tyler Berg – Hills Pet Nutrition; Michele Evans – Diamond

Pet Food; and Bryan Cole - Mars Petcare.

Suggestions for symposia:

Key aspects for low water products

- Lot definition
- Validation of kill step
- Validation of dry clean sanitation
- Intermediate and transfer areas
- Facility and equipment design
- Quantification of incoming Water materials
- Appropriate surrogates

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Accept the Low Water Activity Foods PDG as a stand-alone PDG.
2. Appoint Indaue Mello as Chairperson.
3. Appoint Elizabeth Grasso as Vice Chairperson.
4. Webinars be free for all IAFP members and posted on the IAFP Web site.
5. Accept mission statement: To promote and disseminate practical and scientific knowledge on the production of safe and wholesome low water activity products.

Next Meeting Date: IAFP 2014.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:32 p.m.

Chairperson Name: Indaue Mello.