

Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG

Members Present: Deon Mahoney, Leon Gorris, Mickey Parish, Donald Schaffner, Alejandro Amezcuita, John Bassett, Peter Ben Embarek, Richard Brouillette, Roger Cook, Vanessa M. Cranford, Jeffrey Farber, Kenneth James, Fumiko Kasuga, Keith A. Ito, Anna Lammerding, Bradley Marks, Joseph D. Meyer, Juliana Ruzante, Niteen Sawant, Jenny Scott, Cindy Stewart, Jeyamkondan Subbiah, Panagiotis Skandamis, Mark L. Tamplin, Erdal Tuncan, Agnes G. Tan, Ewen Todd, Whendy N. White, Richard C. Whiting and Jozsef Baranyi.

New Members: Regis Pouillot, Xiangwu Nou, Shirin Abd, Mrudula Srikanth, Luciana Luz, Nate Bauer, Cindy Austin, Pat Millner, Kisun Yoon, Walid Alali, Vidya Ananth, Carrie Ferstl, Heidi Weinkauff, Sarah Cahill, Sa Xu, Molly Mills, Rhonda Fraser, Ali Al-Sakkaf, Hiroshi Asakura, Timothy Clouse and Jane van Doren.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:03 p.m., Sunday, August 1, 2010.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Leon Gorris (supported by Mickey Parish).

Welcome by IAFP Board Liaison Don Schaffner. To support the Executive Board's long range strategic plan, Don asked for feedback on the following: costs possibly levied for educational Webinars, use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), ways to raise IAFP's brand visibility, ways for IAFP to add value to members on data/knowledge gaps in food safety, and compiling a top-100 food safety tips list for next year's 100th anniversary meeting. Feedback to David Tharp and/or Don Schaffner.

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

New Business:

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

• S7: Government, Academic and Industry Collaborations to Advance the Development and Use of Microbiological Risk Assessments.

• S8: Less Recognized and Presumptive Pathogens: What Now, What Next?

• S15: Risk-based Design of Microbiologically Safe Foods.

• S33: Tools for Predictive Microbiology and Microbial Risk Assessment.

• S34: WHO's Epidemiological Approach to Estimating Foodborne Diseases – WHO FERG.

• S36: Risk Benefit Analysis of Food Production and Consumption.

• RT1: Research Needs Roundtable: Retail and Foodservice Food Safety.

• T7: Risk Assessment and Epidemiology Technical Session.

Discussion highlighted the need for the PDG to be kept informed on the status of PDG proposals to the Program Committee (PC), and on feedback from the PC when proposals were rejected or needed amendment for further consideration by PC. It was agreed to make a recommendation to the Executive Board regarding this (see below).

2. International IAFP Meetings of interest:

• Latin America Symposium on Food Safety: 21–24 September 2010, Bogota, Colombia (<http://www.acta.org.co/Congreso2010%20Ingles.php>).

• 4th China International Food Safety & Quality Conference + Expo (CIFSQ) – 10–11 November, 2010, Shanghai (<http://www.chinafoodsafety.com>).

• Following IAFP's successful 6th European Symposium (9–11 June 2010, Dublin, with about 300 people attending), next year's meeting may be in The Netherlands. Associated to this meeting, ILSI Europe may sponsor a (closed) workshop on role of genomics in microbiological risk assessment. Experts with expertise in this area interested to be kept informed on this should inform John Bassett (john.bassett@unilever.com). Info on IAFP Europe meetings (incl. presentations for download) on <http://www.foodprotection.org/events/european-symposia>.

• 7th International Conference on Predictive Modeling in Foods: 12–15 September 2011. Dublin, Ireland (<http://www.icpmf.org/2011>).

3. PDG initiatives for IAFP 2011 Annual Meeting (deadline October 18, 2010). The following ideas were raised:

Symposia

• European Project "Biotracer" would like to present a symposium and a program had been drafted. The PDG would like to support submission to the PC. Contact person for this: Panos Skandamis.

• It would be of interest to present on the new generation of tools for risk assessment, e.g., genomics, systems biology, network science in a dedicated symposium. Contact: John Bassett. Anna Lammerding and Jozsef Baranyi will support.

- Models used in predictive microbiology and MRA studies need validation. The practice and challenges to food safety professionals of this were proposed as the theme of a symposium. Contact: Jeff Farber. Supporting: Don Schaffner, Dick Whiting and Cindy Stewart.
 - Risk communication within organizations (e.g., management or marketing for companies) and between organizations and consumers, as well as risk communication of risk assessments were signaled as of interest from the PDG point of view. There could be a collaboration with the International Issues PDG (contact: Jeff Farber) that had ideas on a risk communication symposium. Contact: John Bassett.
 - Roundtable discussions.
 - A roundtable could be dedicated to the process of establishing “acceptable risk” levels related to microbial or chemical hazards. Obviously a difficult risk management aspect with an important risk communication angle. Could lead to a white paper for *FPT* after the round table meeting in 2011. Contact: Leon Gorris. Juliana Ruzante, Mickey Parish and Dick Whiting will support.
 - Workshops.
 - By 2011, it will be 4 years since a “hands-on” micro risk assessment (MRA) workshop has been held at IAFP. It was proposed to re-run the workshop in an updated format. Resources from previous workshop can be shared (contact Leon Gorris). ILSI Europe work on “tools for MRA” could be part of workshop. Workshop proposal contact: John Bassett. In support: Tim Clouse, Ewen Todd, Rosalind Robertson, Dick Whiting.
4. Interactions between Meetings – Support, ideas, format, etc.

Deon raised the issue that the PDG was largely inactive in between Annual Meetings and suggested that it should be investigated whether interaction could be facilitated via IAFP, possibly linking to the Board’s interest in social media. LinkedIn could for instance be used to have a PDG subgroup to exchange info and discuss specific topics. At least, E-mail could be used about 3 times a year to update PDG members on meetings, activities, PDG proposals, etc. In discussion, it was concluded that this was a general IAFP issue and that a dedicated content management system might be established for this. Juliana Ruzante suggested that FoodRisk.org could be hosting a space on their Web for the PDG to exchange information, when this was of interest to the PDG. A small committee will investigate options and report back by end of October: Alejandro Amezcuita (lead), Juliana Ruzante, Gary Barker, Walid Alali and Peter Ben Embarek. A recommendation would be made to the Executive Board on it as well (see below).

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

Alejandro Amezcuita was nominated as Vice Chair. No one in the meeting opposed and the nomination received strong support from the meeting. Alejandro graciously accepted the assignment.

6. Any Other Business.

Leon Gorris inquired after the meeting venues foreseen for the series of International Conferences on Predictive Modeling in Foods, of which the next edition is planned for 12–15 September 2011 in Dublin, Ireland. Jozsef Baranyi, who is one of the steering committee members of ICPMF mentioned Copenhagen and Budapest as possible venues in 2013 and suggested that they could be scheduled back-to-back with the IAFP European symposium, such that the ICPMF could benefit from PDG/IAFP resources in preparation of the meeting and participants could save on travel costs.

Recommendations to Executive Board:

1. Recommendation regarding the process of Annual Meeting proposals submission and selection: The PDG would ask the Executive Board to encourage the Program Committee to (1) provide proposers with more specific feedback when proposals are rejected such that learnings can be taken into account by proposers and PDG, (2) to arrange for a mechanism through which the Chair and Vice Chair of a PDG are kept informed by the Program Committee about proposals from the PDG being submitted and rejected or accepted.
2. Recommendation regarding PDG interaction in between Annual Meetings: The PDG asks the Executive Board to set-up a mechanism for PDGs to interact and communicate in between Annual Meetings; this could be through one of the new social media or a dedicated content management system, but would preferably be one system for all PDGs.
3. Approve Alejandro Amezcuita as Vice Chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 31, 2011, Milwaukee, WI.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 p.m.

Chairperson: Deon Mahoney.