

Pre Harvest Food Safety PDG

Members Present: Divya Jaroni (Chair), Achyut Adhikari, Soohyoun Ahn, Bassam Annous, Robert Buchanan, Carl Custer, Maria Estrada, Paula Fedorka-Cray, Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez, David Gombas, Jack Guzewich, Atef Idriss, Kwang Cheol Jeong, Kalmia Kniel, Sharan Lanini, Jeffrey LeJeune, Li Ma, Patricia Millner, T. G. Nagaraja, Rajesh Nayak, Patrick Spaninger, Sid Thakur, Mike Villaneva and Claudio Zweifel.

Board/Staff Members Present: Linda Harris.

New Members: Rishi Banerjee, Mandy Carr Johnson, Diane Ducharme, Lorna Graham, Dorey Gray, Ganyu Gu, Dayna Harhay, Joe Holt, Thomas Ingram, Buddhini Jayasundera, Karim Khinouche, Pushpinder Litt, Tong Liu, Leo Mitchell, Stephanie Nadya, Cladia Navvacz, Stephanie Pollard, Gireesh Rajashekara, Pragathi Belagola Shridhar, Meghan Styke, Sara Swanson, Ewen Todd, Qing Wang and Yeru Wang.

Meeting Called to Order: 3:00 p.m., Sunday, August 3, 2014.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Buddhini Jayasundera.

Divya Jaroni (Chair) called the meeting to order. Buddhini Jayasundera was appointed the recorder of the meeting minutes. Sign-up sheets were passed around for new and existing members and visitors. The meeting started with Divya Jaroni welcoming the new and existing PDG members and introducing Linda Harris (Secretary) from the Executive Board. Dr. Harris talked about the importance of PDGs and mentioned three new PDGs this year: 1) HACCP Utilization and Food Safety; 2) Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design; and 3) Low Moisture Foods. She also talked about one of the options for more members to be able to attend the various PDG meetings was to increase the number of PDG meetings on Saturday afternoon. This was followed by the announcement for vice chair election for the Pre Harvest Food Safety PDG (2 year term, 2014-2016) and ballots with names of each nominee were passed around to members and attendees. A call for any new nominations besides those already on the ballot was made; no new nominations were put forward. This was followed by a speech from the outgoing chair Dr. Sid Thakur.

Old Business: The meeting minutes from last year were approved without any modifications. Divya Jaroni went over the symposium topics discussed in the last meeting. A total of 6 symposia/roundtable topics were submitted, out of which two were submitted from the Pre Harvest PDG and four were submitted in collaboration with other PDGs (shown below). Divya Jaroni introduced the symposia to the PDG and briefly explained the significance and the sub-topics of the symposia. Sid encouraged the members to resubmit the symposia proposals which were not accepted after suitable modifications. Accepted symposia include:

- a. As The World Turns: A 360 Point: Counterpoint of Global Issues as Expressed by Those with Differing Views: Roundtable. Primary sponsor: Pre Harvest PDG. Organizers: Paula Fedorka-Cray and Sid Thakur.
- b. Update on the Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* Coordinated Agricultural Project (STEC-CAP): Full Symposium (3 h). Primary sponsor: Applied Laboratory Methods Organizer: Rodney Moxley.
- c. Development and Applications of Advanced Spectroscopic Techniques in Food Safety and Defense: Full Symposium (2 h). Primary sponsor: Applied Laboratory Methods PDG. Organizer: Lili He.

- d. *Cyclospora*: Recent foodborne outbreaks and challenges. Full Symposium (3 h). Primary sponsor: Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG. Organizers: Robert Tauxe and Ynes Ortega.
- e. Microgreens and Sprouts under Microscope: Similarities and Differences in Botanic Structure, Agricultural Practices, and Food Safety Risks. Full Symposium (3 h). Primary Sponsor: Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG. Organizers: Yaguang Luo, Michelle Smith and Tong-Jen Fu.

New Business:

- I. Elections for the new vice chair for the PDG were held by asking the members to submit their votes on the ballot. Each nominee for the vice chair was introduced by Divya Jaroni. The nominees were as follows:
 - 1. Keith Warriner, Professor, University of Guelph.
 - 2. Monica Ponder, Assoc. Professor, Virginia Tech.
 - 3. Ravirajsingh Jadeja, Postdoctoral Research Assoc., University of Georgia.
 - 4. Li Maria Ma, Asst. Professor, Oklahoma State University.
 - 5. Bassam Annous, Research Microbiologist, Eastern Regional Research Center, USDA-ARS – NAA, Wyndmoor, PA.

Sid Thakur (out-going chair) counted the paper votes. Bassam Annous was elected for the position.

- II. New areas for symposia topics for next year were discussed.
 - 1. Steve Gandolph (FDA) proposed the development of an assessment document looking at how climate change can have an impact on food safety. It was also suggested that all PDGs could work together on the topic. The primary goal of such a topic would be to raise awareness and to work out any preventive measures that may help combat or reduce any negative impact that climate would have on food safety. Scott (FSIS) addressed the importance of the topic of climate and its impact on food safety especially in grow-out facilities, orchards, and pre-harvest food safety in fresh produce.
 - 2. Caroline Smith DeWaal proposed a look into meat inspection systems in use in other parts of the world (outside North America). How do these systems impact meat safety? Some of the systems involve animal ID systems that track animal life cycles. These methods impact the way that animals are slaughtered and the order in which they are processed (cleanest first, for example). Can these meat inspection systems become an advantage with regards to traceability? Specific topics dealing with the issue suggested were:
 - a. Animal and international ID systems
 - b. Traceability and fresh produce
 - c. Regulatory (USDA/FDA) aspect

It was also suggested that the Pre Harvest Food Safety PDG collaborate with the Meat and Poultry PDG on this one.

- 3. Divya Jaroni brought up last year's topic of animal welfare and food safety and called for new ideas – no new ideas or suggestions were brought up.
- 4. Epidemiological studies with fresh produce and microbial studies. It was suggested that support be sought from the Fresh Produce PDG.
- 5. The previous year's submission 'Appearing From Nowhere, They Seem to Surprise: Emerging Antimicrobial Resistance' (submitted by Paula Cray) was

brought up, however, there was no further discussion on the topic.

Divya Jaroni then announced the submission deadline of October 14 for roundtable, symposium, workshop and/or webinar topics for IAFP 2015.

- III. Presentation: Important topics and new challenges in pre-harvest food safety: Presentation by Atef Idriss, MEFOSA (sarl), Middle East North Africa Food Safety Associates. Title: Food Safety and Pre/Post Harvest Handling & Storage in Middle East and North African region. Issues of food safety in the MENA region were addressed, including the lack of food safety education in the region and the need to implement standardized and updated laboratory testing procedures, as well as enforcement of good manufacturing/farming practices, taking into consideration the cultural, socio-economic, and regional criteria.
- IV. Sid Thakur then opened the floor for the Pre Harvest Food Safety panel discussion. The following topics were discussed:
 - a. Import/export of food safety and how to manage pre-harvest safety on an international scale – It was stressed that farm level testing needs to also be introduced in the United States. It was suggested that the role of international food safety laws and FSMA needed to be addressed in an attempt to manufacture safer food products at an international level.
 - b. Water use at the pre-harvest level – It was proposed that the topic be addressed as a symposia topic for the following year. It was also suggested that water use at the pre-harvest level could be a topic that could be tied in with the climate change issue addressed earlier in the meeting.
 - c. Role of buffer zones in agriculture. The role of climate as a buffer zone and its impact on food safety was addressed.
 - d. Pre-harvest challenges in sustainable farming systems: “Grow local, eat local.” Under this topic, it was suggested that urban gardening farming be an element of education that could be introduced into schools. It was also suggested that the unavailability of fresh produce into inner city areas be a subject that is tied in with the topic in question.
 - e. Antimicrobial use and the impact of their elimination/reduction from animal industry on pre-harvest food safety. The implications of using inter- national systems (such as those employed by the EU) in the United States were discussed. It was also suggested that host-pathogen interactions and alternative antimicrobials be touched upon under this topic. A member of the audience suggested a potential speaker for the topic in question: Emilio Esteban, US Department of Agriculture FSIS-OPHS-EALS.
 - f. Role of parasites at the pre-harvest food safety level.

Recommendations to the Executive Board

1. The Pre Harvest PDG committee recommends Dr. Bassam A. Annous as the new Vice Chair for 2014-2016.
2. As a solution to getting equal representation by all PDGs on symposia, it was suggested that at least one symposium by each PDG be selected for presentation. Selections are to be made after ranking all presented topics per PDG, and the most popular topic will be picked for presentation. Dr. Paula Cray suggested that the solution proposed may pose to be a difficult model.

Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:45 p.m.

Chairperson: Divya Jaroni.