



Data Management and Analytics Professional Development Group

Data have become a driving force in decision-making across the public and private sectors. The potential power of data to improve food safety and prevent foodborne disease is largely recognized but leveraging the full potential of data value chains remains a challenge in the food safety arena. Increasing the capacity of food safety professionals to manage and analyze data is critical to drawing meaningful and timely insights that can be used to address food safety challenges across the farm to fork continuum.

The Data Management and Analytics Professional Development Group (PDG) was established in Fall 2021, with the mission to provide a multidisciplinary forum for advancing the application of data management and analytics in food safety and quality. The PDG currently includes approximately 100 members from diverse backgrounds and professions, including industry, government, and academia.

In the next year, the Data Management and Analytics PDG plans to sponsor webinars on topics ranging from data governance and sharing to best practices for working with messy data. The PDG invites ideas for future symposia and webinars. The first annual PDG meeting will be held at 9 a.m. on July 31, 2022 at the IAFP Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA, USA. The PDG is also sponsoring the following sessions:

- *[Development of Standardized Metadata for Machine-Readable Swab Site Descriptions That Support Digitization of Environmental Monitoring Data](#)*
- *[Data-Driven Discovery of Novel Polymer Coatings for Biofilm Reduction](#)*
- *[Evaluation of Growth in Independent Submissions to the Genotracker Network](#)*
- *[Public-Private Data Sharing: A New Opportunity for Risk-Based Decision-Making in Food Safety](#)*

The Data Management and Analytics PDG welcomes new members and ideas and invites all IAFP Members to join and engage via PDG meetings and the IAFP Connect Community PDG page. Please contact Barbara Kowalcyk (kowalcyk.1@osu.edu), Sarah I. Murphy (sim39@cornell.edu), or Daniel Weller (daniel.weller@urmc.rochester.edu) if you would like to learn more or become a member.

Barbara Kowalcyk, Chairperson
Sarah Murphy, Vice Chairperson
Daniel Weller, Secretary