



Food Packaging Professional Development Group

The Food Packaging Professional Development Group mission is to provide a forum to discuss issues of interest to the food packaging industry. As you may imagine, this mission has grown exponentially in recent years as the food industry has become more interested in intelligent packaging, active packaging, recycling and renewable packaging, and food packaging safety. The Food Packaging PDG has grown steadily since its inception, as our members from all areas of academia, government, and industry tackle the issues of how best to package food in a manner that is commercially attractive and informative while also being safe and environmentally responsible.

Originally a part of the Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG, the Food Packaging PDG formed a separate group in 2010. Members realized that the issues surrounding food packaging merited a separate focus. Expanding regulatory requirements, increasing toxicological safety concerns, and exponential growth in the types of food packaging available converged and expertise in food packaging regulatory compliance and safety was demanded.

In 2019, The Food Packaging PDG sponsored a symposium titled “The Impact of Packaging Materials on Food Safety: Testing, Modeling and Regulation” that embodies many of

the interests of this PDG. Packaging materials are recognized for their critical role in maintaining food quality and safety. Research and applications are continuously developing and improving packaging that offers protection from oxygen, light, heat, and microbial growth, for example via nanomaterials, antimicrobial coatings, and metal alloy-infused foils. However, advances in analytical methods and testing models in toxicology and the concomitant formulations improvements also come with concerns: concern about unintended consequences of packaging chemical migration to food during use and concern about potential effects of chemicals on the environment upon packaging disposal.

Despite our serious focus, the Food Packaging PDG is a good-humored and enthusiastic group that welcomes new members of all levels of knowledge and abilities! Our Annual Meeting was “Virtual” this year rather than “face-to-face” on Thursday 24 September 2020 at 4PM EST (2PM MTN). Please contact Kim Yeager for further information about the Food Packaging PDG and about getting involved at Kimberly.yeager@abbott.com.

Kim Yeager, Chairperson