



The Food Law Professional Development Group

The IAFP Food Law PDG's mission is "to provide an international forum for the exchange of information on the scientific issues associated with food laws, regulations and policy." We enjoy networking and sharing thoughts on developments and how to advance this area as well as ideas for sessions for IAFP's Annual Meeting, webinars, and other activities. For example, several years ago members of the group were instrumental in producing a series of articles on FSMA. Entitled "The Food Safety Modernization Act – A Series on What is Essential for a Food Professional to Know," the Special Interest Papers were published in *Food Protection Trends* in 2013 and 2014. With FSMA turning 10 this year, two PDG members organized a 2021 Annual Meeting PDG-sponsored symposium – "FSMA Turns 10! Achievements, Compliance, and the Future of Food Safety." The HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG was the secondary sponsor.

The Food Law PDG is collaborating with the International Food Protection Issues (IFPI) PDG on a special new project called "Regulatory Systems Summaries." Initiated by IFPI PDG Past Chair Ian Jenson, the project gained traction when the idea was shared with the Food Law PDG. Feedback about the project was received from members of both PDGs

during virtual annual PDG meetings and via online polls, and the responses were quite positive.

The vision for the project is to develop brief (approximately two pages in length) food-safety focused overviews of the regulatory systems of several key countries and to house the summaries in a library on the IAFP website. Members of both PDGs have volunteered to participate in creating the summaries.

The first meeting of the project group will be held this summer. The project group will: (1) identify and agree on which countries to prioritize first, (2) agree on a standardized summary format, and then (3) divide the work among those who volunteered to contribute. If you would be interested in being a resource for this project and have not yet let either of the PDGs know, please get in touch with us (DeAnn Benesh, IFPI PDG Chair, and myself). You and your expertise could be valuable to the project, as a content contributor, reviewer, or in other ways. Your engagement in this initiative would be most welcome and appreciated.

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