

**Affiliate Council Meeting
IAFP 2025 – Cleveland, Ohio
July 27, 2025**

Affiliate Delegates Present:

Africa	Joseph Odumeru
Argentina	Fabiana Guglielmone
Arkansas	Jennifer Acuff
Alabama	Neil Bogart
Bangladesh in NA	Salina Parveen
Brazil	Caio Carvalho
Capital Area	Jenny Scott
Florida	Morgan Madison
Georgia	Dina Scott
Hong Kong	Terence Lau
Indian in NA	Arshpreet Kaur Khattra
Indiana	Amanda Deering
Japan	Shige Koseki
Kentucky	Eric Martin
Mexico	Maria-Teresa Jimenez Munguia
Minnesota	Ruth Petran
Nepalese	Kharuna Kharel
New York	Steve Murphy
New Zealand	Aswathi Soni
Ohio	Connie Freese
Ontario	Ellen Gravi
Quebec	Julie Jean
SE Asia	Alvin Lee
Taiwan	Shihyu Chuang
United Arab Emirates	Bobby Krishna
United Kingdom	Helen Taylor
Upper Midwest	Dan Erickson
Washington	Kent Dowding
Wisconsin	Takiyah Ball

IAFP Board/Staff Present: Mark Carter, Tim Jackson, Manpreet Singh, Manan Sharma, Lisa Garcia, Susan Smith.

Visitors/Guests: Achyut Adhikari (Nepalese), Pranam Adhikari (Student), David Blomquist (Minnesota), Jessica Burke (Ontario), Faith Critzer (Georgia), Nicola Dermer (New Zealand), Aakankshya Dhakal (Student), Julia Fukaba (Student), Kristen Gibson (Arkansas), Erin Headley (Wisconsin), Derek Hladki (Michigan), Kristen Houck (Wisconsin), Aaron Huckabee (Florida), Sharon Humphries (Kentucky), Snehal Jadhav (Australia), Ian Jenson (Australia), Govindaraj Dev Kumar (Indian in NA), Kunihiro Kubota (Japan), Nelly Lam (Hong Kong),

Quanhong Li (New Jersey), Yuqi Luo (Ohio), Nathan Mirdamadi (Missouri), Juan Moreira (Colorado), Luis Augusto Nero (Brazil), Tania Nur (Ohio), Kavita Patil (Indian in NA), Gale Prince (Ohio), Carrie Rigdon (Minnesota), Diego Romulo (Argentina), Kristin Sanders (Kentucky), Neelam Sharma (Student), Pratiksha Shrestha (Student), Kristin Schill (Wisconsin), Dikshya Shilpakar (Student), Francisco Garces-Vega (Colombia), Nathaniel Wilson (Kentucky).

Meeting Called to Order: 7:37 a.m. (U.S. Eastern Time), Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Helen Taylor

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Approval of 2024 minutes: A motion was made to approve (Jennifer Acuff) and seconded (Joseph Odumeru).

Report from Affiliate Chairperson: Caio Carvalho provided the following updates:

1. Attendees were reminded to get badges scanned.
2. Affiliate 2025 milestone anniversaries: Florida (80 years); Colombia (50 years); Argentina (10 years). Caio thanked the Affiliates for their continued contributions to food safety.
3. The Kentucky Association for Food Protection and the Nepalese Association for Food Protection both joined IAFP in late 2024 and will formally receive their Charters at the Opening Session. The Nepalese Affiliate met earlier in 2025 with 85 attendees; the Affiliate is planning an online symposium for later in 2025 which can be accessed worldwide. Both Affiliates were welcomed.
4. Webinar suggestions are welcomed. Affiliates are encouraged to share their webinar proposals at the PDGs taking place today or email the IAFP office to ensure suggested subjects are relevant to IAFP Membership. It is a great way to share updated technical information.
5. There were three Affiliate Council Virtual Meetings held during the past year. Participation of Affiliates and Affiliate members has been active with invitations for the three meetings sent in advance from Susan Smith. The attendees were reminded that meeting recordings are available on *IAFP Connect* for those who are unable to attend. Also, they were encouraged to send agenda topics in advance to be discussed in upcoming meetings.
6. A brief overview of IAFP's Latin American Symposium 2024 was given. Organized by the Brazil Association for Food Protection, the meeting had 600 attendees. The next Latin American Symposium will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 28–29, 2026.
7. The first FoodMicro Latino conference will take place October 25–28, 2025, in Aracaju, Brazil.

Report from IAFP President: Mark Carter, IAFP President, thanked attendees for being active in their Affiliates and IAFP. He announced that more than 3,000 attendees were registered for IAFP 2025. He thanked the Ohio Association for Food Protection volunteers for serving as this year's Local Arrangements Committee. He reminded attendees to download the App and visit with this year's exhibitors and stop by the Welcome Booth organized by the DEI Council. He noted that IAFP webinars are important and contribute to engagement.

Report from IAFP Executive Director: Lisa Garcia commented that IAFP is still recovering post-Covid, and expenses have increased to run a meeting. We want to keep meeting costs low, but attendees have seen small increases year after year. Affiliate meetings have continued throughout the year. Webinars are reaching our Membership and beyond, with open

access to non-Members during the month of June.

Report from IAFP Staff Liaison:

Susan Smith commented that 40 of 55 active Annual Reports were submitted for 2024 activities, an increase of 9% from last year's submissions. According to the IAFP Bylaws, Affiliates must submit an Annual Report, regardless of activities. Susan sends monthly reminders to all Affiliate Officers. All reports are electronically submitted. Affiliates should read the description to choose the most appropriate award(s) for their activities. This year we had many strong applications, which made it difficult for the Award Selection Committee to determine the winners. Affiliates should apply for as many awards as they think they qualify. The Affiliate Awards application process will be discussed later during this meeting to better define the criteria. She reminded attendees that the Affiliate President and Delegate must be active IAFP Members at the time of application. A few Affiliate websites aren't being updated on a regular basis, so she encouraged them to keep websites updated to access upcoming meetings, Affiliate officers, etc.

Forty-two Affiliates held meetings in 2024 but not all of them requested speaker support from IAFP. The IAFP Board Speaker and Expanded Speaker Programs are available, and 19 Affiliates benefited from using it in 2024. IAFP pays the speaker's travel to and from the meeting; Affiliates only pay onsite expenses. This is a great resource to schedule high-level speakers for Affiliate meetings. Speakers can also present remotely at no cost for the Affiliate or the Association. Those Affiliates that collect dues through IAFP should inform the Association if dues are increased. Affiliate members were encouraged to register on *IAFP Connect* to receive communications from IAFP. Two new charters will be presented at the Opening Session on Sunday night.

Discussions: The New Zealand Affiliate greatly benefited with Kali Kniel speaking as part of the IAFP Speaker Program.

The question was asked if Roy Betts' (UK Affiliate) retirement has been recognized.

The question was asked about how Affiliates determine their dues. Susan answered that Affiliate dues are determined by the individual Affiliate.

A suggestion was made that the Affiliate Annual Report submission form be updated for ease of use by Affiliates. This led to a discussion by attendees regarding the application process for some of the Affiliate awards, particularly the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award. The question came up, "Should an Affiliate applying for the Shogren be required to apply for and receive one of the other awards as part of the Shogren criteria?" The following discussion took place on the floor:

Jenny Scott: The Best Overall Affiliate Meeting description including the criteria, "a wide range of topics is required," needs to be better defined.

Jennifer Acuff: The Best Overall Affiliate Meeting should meet the needs of Affiliate Members and not just one company. If an Affiliate wishes to receive the Shogren Award and is required to receive at least one other award, it is seen as unfortunate to give two awards to one Affiliate. Does winning one other award qualify them to receive the Shogren Award?

Questions: What are the criteria/rationale behind these awards? What is stopping Affiliates from applying for multiple awards?

Caio Carvalho: The Shogren Award is presented for outstanding Affiliate performance throughout the previous year. The criteria stating an Affiliate needs to contribute to the Foundation should be removed. Should an increase in membership be considered? Should the

top three Affiliates applying for awards be considered for the Shogren? The scope of the meeting should be considered – can a lunch meeting qualify vs. a two-day meeting? Will an Affiliate hesitate to apply for one or more awards if they don't meet the current criteria? The Shogren's eligibility paragraph and selection criteria need more clarification and be better defined. Review the criteria where "Affiliate Officers need to be IAFP Members."

Manpreet Singh: Task the Awards Committee to review and better define the awards criteria.

Caio: To be considered for the Shogren Award, the Affiliate must be ranked first in at least one of the other award categories.

Ruth Petran: I thought you had to be a previous award winner to be considered for the Shogren.

Jennifer: Longevity is considered as an aspect for the Shogren Award.

Jenny: Affiliates often don't have time to apply for multiple awards. If you want to be considered for the Shogren Award, do you have to apply for one other award and then indicate if the Affiliate wants to be considered for the Shogren?

Ellen Gravi: As the Communication Award recipient, the Ontario Affiliate can offer suggestions about using photos; summarizing information with photos within it. Ontario is a more active Affiliate and we are happy to help other Affiliates apply for awards.

Alvin Lee: If an Affiliate wants to be considered for the Shogren, check the box on the form.

Manpreet: We need to firm up the language, using correct language, and circulate it to the Affiliates for input.

Mark Carter: Perhaps process something visual, like a flowchart.

Susan Smith: No decisions can be made today, but let us know what you think about awards and the criteria so we can redefine the criteria over the next few months before Annual Reports are submitted for 2025. There is a table of Affiliate Annual Reports from 2024 submissions that is outside the meeting room for all Affiliate Officers to review.

Election of Affiliate Secretary: Caio called for nominees from the floor. Potential candidates were reminded they need to serve as their Affiliate Delegate for the next two years, and be an active IAFP member. One candidate volunteered to stand for election: Takiyah Ball, Wisconsin Affiliate Delegate. Caio asked her to introduce herself and provide a brief summary that included number of years with her respective Affiliate and as Affiliate Delegate, and the number of IAFP Annual Meetings she has attended.

Takiyah summarized that she works for Sargento Foods as a Food Safety Microbiologist; was awarded the 2016 Student Travel Scholarship; has chaired the Diversity Committee and the Nomination Committee; and has mentored several students. She has been a Wisconsin Affiliate Member for five years and has attended most Annual Meetings during the past 10 years.

The candidate left the room while Delegates voted. Takiyah Ball was elected by a majority vote.

2025 Affiliate Awards Presentation: Caio highlighted the achievements of the award recipients and presented the 2025 Affiliate Awards as follows:

Affiliate Membership Achievement: *Brazil Association for Food Protection* – The Affiliate had a 47% increase in membership throughout 2024, in part due to a defined campaign and participation of a newly hired communication expert.

Affiliate Communications Materials: *Ontario Food Protection Association* – The Affiliate demonstrated a strong communication campaign based on monthly webinars and its monthly newsletters; several e-blasts; LinkedIn activity with 7,852 followers; posts on Facebook,

YouTube, Instagram, X, and TikTok platforms; and a very active website.

Affiliate Member Education: *Turkish Food Safety Association* – The Affiliate organized monthly webinars with a total of 571 attendees; sent monthly e-blasts and an annual newsletter; and held an annual conference with 168 attendees.

Best Overall Affiliate Meeting: *Hong Kong Food Safety Consortium* – The Affiliate held a relevant two-day meeting with “Food as Medicine” theme. It included 35 speakers, an Exhibition Hall, and a strong number of sponsors and organizations to support the meeting.

C.B. Shogren Memorial: *Indian Association for Food Protection in North America* – The Affiliate met most of the criteria requirements for this award with a 33% increase in Membership (84 new members); established a student competition with prizes for winners; improved communications through emails and newsletter to members; updated its website monthly, with more than 1,400 visits; held two virtual and one in-person meetings; and had relevant activity on social media, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. The Affiliate will formally receive the award at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday night.

Old Business:

The Executive Board approved Helen Taylor as Affiliate Council Secretary for 2025–2026.

New Business: A new collaboration was initiated between the Brazil Affiliate and the African Affiliate. Joseph Odumeru commented that the objective was to establish a partnership and collaboration with others to hold joint educational sessions in Africa. Many scientists from Brazil worked on food safety projects in Africa. June 1 saw the first session take place, which was a webinar on aflatoxin in nuts. It was a very special session with Mark Carter, IAFP President, in attendance. The presentations can be accessed on YouTube. Both Affiliates are enthusiastic and happy to progress with this partnership. Caio asked attendees to notify the IAFP staff if they are interested in partnerships and/or collaborations.

Representatives from the Student PDG spoke to attendees and look forward to continue working with Affiliates. Please connect with them (as they’ve received few responses when reaching out). They can be contacted via LinkedIn.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Affiliate Council recommends that Takiyah Ball, Delegate for the Wisconsin Association for Food Protection, be appointed as the next Affiliate Council Secretary.
2. The Affiliate Awards Committee will create a flow chart to help Affiliates with the award application process and better define the criteria for some of the awards.

Passing of gavel: Chairperson Caio Carvalho passed the gavel to Helen Taylor, Secretary, signifying the beginning of Helen’s term as Affiliate Council Chairperson, official after the completion of IAFP 2025.

Next Meeting Date: Virtual meetings will continue with dates and times scheduled well in advance to allow attendees to get them on their calendars. The next in-person meeting is Sunday, July 26, 2026, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 a.m. (U.S. Eastern Time)

Chairperson Name: Helen Taylor