



International Association for  
Food Protection®

## Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2021

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2022 Affiliate Awards.)

To maintain compliance with IAFP Constitution and Bylaws, Affiliates must return this completed report. Please send by email to Susan Smith at: [ssmith@foodprotection.org](mailto:ssmith@foodprotection.org).

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 8, 2022 (late reports will not be considered for awards)**:

**REQUIRED:**

- This completed form (*in English*).
- Your Association's list of current term officers (complete Attachment A).

GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF FOOD PROTECTION (GAFFP)

Affiliate Name

### 1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Provide the information requested for your Association's current official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and official Contact for IAFP correspondence. (**Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**)

#### Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Delegate Name	Wendy White
Address 1	1771 Indian Woods Dr.
City, State ZIP Country	Greensboro, GA 30642
Phone Number	770-294-9637
Email address	<a href="mailto:wwhite@gatech.edu">wwhite@gatech.edu</a>
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

#### Official Contact for IAFP Correspondence (indicate "same" if person also serves as Delegate)

Contact Name	Same
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### 2. Membership

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association: \_\_461 (117 active, 167 inactive, 177 perspective) \_\_\_\_

b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2021? 50

### 3. Meetings: Annual Meeting/Conference, Educational, Workshops, Webinars, etc.

a. On what date(s) was your most recent general membership or major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference) during the past year? Please list number of attendees.

Jan. 13, 2022, Covid-19 Industry Roundtable. IAFP/GAFP Webcast. 417 registered and 222 attended.

c. Please provide the date(s) and location of your next scheduled major meeting (i.e., Annual Meeting/Conference):

May 17, 2022, at Eurofins Microbiology Laboratories, Inc., 2460 Mountain Industrial Blvd., Tucker, GA 30084

c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2021 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

Name of Meeting	Date(s) Held	Number of Attendees
GAFP Winter Meeting	Feb. 3, 21 Webcast	27
GA Regulatory Update: Spring COVID-19 Roundtable	April 21, 21 Webcast	53
GAFP Business Meeting	May 12, 21 Webcast	39
GAFP Fall Meeting	Oct. 19, 21 Webcast	74

### 4. Awards and Scholarships

a. List members who were honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2021. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Award Name	Recipient Name	How did recipient qualify for award?
IAFP Student Travel Scholarship	Anna Townsend	Anna is currently a PhD student at Univ. of Georgia, working under Dr. Laurel Dunn. She was selected based on the quality of her research, her cv, recommendations, and compelling letter of interest. Anna is also the Student Liaison for GAFP.

b. List scholarships awarded during 2021; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

Scholarship Name/Amount	Recipient Name	How did recipient qualify for scholarship?
Jim Ayers Young Investigator Award – 1 <sup>st</sup> place	Xinran Xu	Xinran Xu is a is a Food Science Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia under the direction of Dr. Abhinav Mishra. Her research involves the Comparison between

(\$1,000)		LASSO and Classification and Regression Tree for predicting of <i>E. coli</i> Prevalence in Pasture Poultry Farms. Xinran is scheduled to graduate in August 2022.
Jim Ayers Young Investigator Award – 2 <sup>nd</sup> place (\$500)	Derrick “Kane” Cooper	Kane Cooper is a recent graduate from Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health, where he obtained his MSPH in Environmental Health and Epidemiology under the direction of Dr. Juan Leon. His research was on Characterizing the Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Infection among Essential Food Workers: A Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment Approach.
Jim Ayers Young Investigator Award – 3 <sup>rd</sup> place (\$250)	Julia Silva	Julia Sobolik is a rising fifth-year doctoral student in Environmental Health Sciences at Emory University. Her research interests include: evaluating viral contamination of fresh produce, informing best practices for reducing farmworker exposures to enteric and respiratory pathogens, and improving pathogen detection methods from hands, foods, and environmental surfaces. Julia is scheduled to graduate in May 2023.

## 5. Web Communication

*Please be sure to keep the IAFP office on your mailing list for newsletters, email and other communications to your general membership.*

Please provide your existing Affiliate’s website address AND date last updated:

<https://www.gafoodprotection.org/> October 2021

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Did you launch a new Affiliate website in 2021?    Yes     No

## Attachment A (completion required)

### Association Officers List

Provide the contact information requested below for all current officers of your Association. **Please indicate if each officer is an IAFP Member (REMINDER: Your President and Delegate are required to be IAFP Members).** The information you provide is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below, or sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2021–2022) for your current Executive Board: \_\_\_Q2 2020 – Q1 2022 – Due to the pandemic, GAFFP kept the same Board in 2021 and plan to hold elections in Spring 2022 for our new Vice President.

Officer Title	President
Name	Katie Murchison
Address 1	54 Highland Away
City, State ZIP Country	Sherwood Park, AB, T8A5E8, Canada
Phone Number	587-938-6918
Email address	satchwel@ualberta.ca
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	President-Elect
Name	Jessica Chen
Address 1	117 Pattillo Way
City, State ZIP Country	Decatur, GA 30030
Phone Number	470-685-4238
Email address	Jlc232@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Vice President
Name	Charles Otto
Address 1	2427 Collins Port Cove
City, State ZIP Country	Suwanee GA 30024-2784
Phone Number	678-488-0011
Email address	<a href="mailto:charles@ottoiii.com">charles@ottoiii.com</a>
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Secretary
Name	Ynes Ortega
Address 1	1109 Experiment Station
City, State ZIP Country	Griffin, GA 30223
Phone Number	770-233-5587
Email address	ortega@uga.edu
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Treasurer
Name	Steven Fuller
Address 1	4500 Atlanta Highway
City, State ZIP Country	Flowery Branch, GA 30542
Phone Number	706-202-5589
Email address	<a href="mailto:Steven.fuller@wrigley.com">Steven.fuller@wrigley.com</a>
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Past President
Name	Cheryl Brown
Address 1	4879 Fieldgreen Dr.

City, State ZIP Country	Stone Mountain, GA 30088
Phone Number	404-200-7609
Email address	<a href="mailto:Chebrown423@gmail.com">Chebrown423@gmail.com</a>
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

Officer Title	Student Liaison
Name	Anna Townsend
Address 1	3305 Foxwood Court
City, State ZIP Country	Crestwood, KY 40014
Phone Number	502-819-7726
Email address	<a href="mailto:At09302@uga.edu">At09302@uga.edu</a>
IAFP Member? Y or N	Y

**Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:**

**✓ CHECK HERE AND RETURN ELECTRONICALLY BY 3/8/22  
IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR  
ONE OR MORE 2022 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required  
to complete Attachment B.)**

### **Attachment B (optional)**

#### **Affiliate Award Considerations**

*The Georgia Affiliate would like to be considered for these awards:*

1. Affiliate Communication Award
2. Affiliate Education Award
3. Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award
4. C.B. Shogren Memorial Award

## √ Affiliate Communication Award – GAFP

With the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and reliance on virtual networking for member engagement, GAFP has primarily provided frequent communication to members through email and newsletters. Our 2021 communications goals included retaining and broadening our membership through consistent outreach while leveraging a variety of communication platforms. Our primary correspondence was through email distributed by our secretary, Dr. Ynes Ortega, to announce and remind members of GAFP webinars and meetings.



That currently reaches 467 members Announcements communicated via email often included PDF flyers of events and schedule information.



Flyers enhanced our email communications by providing additional details relevant to member engagement and event transparency. Several events were co-hosted this year between GAFP and the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP), as well as between GAFP and the IAFP. These events enabled GAFP to expand our communication beyond our membership by leveraging the networks of our co-host organizations.



In addition to email and newsletter communications, GAFP also **increased member communication** on our LinkedIn page. Since November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, there were 549 post views on our page. Our page also gained 12 new members since December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, illustrating the significance of leveraging communication platforms outside of email and electronic newsletters. In December 2021, GAFP created social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram to further reach, engage, and interact with our members. We announced the accounts and shared their handles through a post on LinkedIn.



As of February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we have 64 followers on Instagram (@gafpsocial), and eight followers on Twitter (@gafpsocial). Through these social accounts, we have shared the mission and purpose of our organization. Highlights from our social media engagement include member spotlights, which have been reshared by accounts such as the



University of Georgia Marine Extension and Georgia Sea Grant (@gacoast.uga).



Our **member spotlights** focus on both professional and student members to recognize their contributions to food safety, as well as provide examples of the benefits of joining an IAFP affiliate, such as GAFF. Several posts and Instagram stories have highlighted IAFP Annual Meeting deadlines, such as for abstract submissions and scholarship application deadlines.



These accounts have also been used to promote other food safety organizations and initiatives, such as the CONTACT Produce Safety Research through University of Florida Extension, Georgia Food Safety Defense Taskforce, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Stop Foodborne Illness. By resharing others' food safety-related content, we hope to also increase the visibility and availability of these resources with our followers.

## √ Affiliate Education Award - GAFP

Given the disruption that we all have faced as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, GAFP felt it prudent to recognize our members who have demonstrated immense resilience and resourcefulness in the face of such uncertainty and disruption by continuing to offer timely and relevant educational content, in particular to focus on our student members through the administration of the Jim Ayres Young Investigator Awards. At the outset of last year, we could not have anticipated that the coming months would shift our biannual educational meetings, elections, student programming, and affiliate operations into a completely virtual format. In spite of the continued upheaval of the past year, GAFP's Program Committee planned and delivered 4 engaging virtual meetings to our members on a variety of topics. The second calendar year of the COVID-19 pandemic brought continued challenges to our industry and society, including the emergence of several variants of concern and a continued inability to safely gather for in-person meetings. As such, The GAFP aimed to ensure offerings in 2021 were completely virtual to accommodate the needs of all members. GAFP hosted 4 virtual meetings in 2020, reaching a cumulative total of 193 attendees live, not including additional viewings of the recorded sessions.

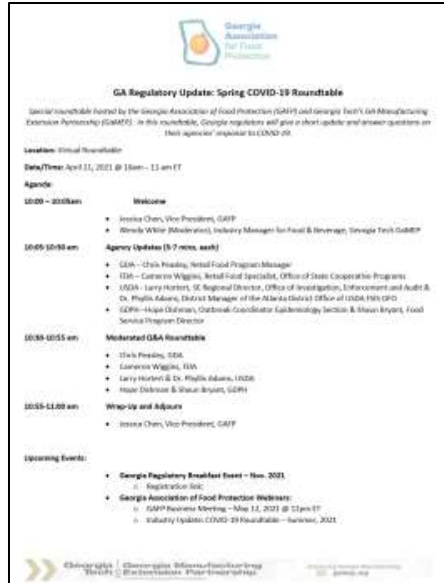
### **GAFP Winter Meeting:**

On February 3, 2021, the GAFP Winter 2021 Meeting, 27 attendees heard technical presentations from our 2020 Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award Recipients, Peien Wang, Estefania Novoa Rama, and Jasmine Kataria.



### **GAFP Spring Meeting:**

On April 21, 2021, in partnership with The Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) and Georgia Tech, GAFP hosted the Georgia Regulatory Update – Spring COVID-19 Roundtable. 53 attendees heard updates directly from the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Georgia Department of Public Health, USDA, and FDA.



**GAFP Business Meeting:**

On May 12, 2021, GAFF hosted our annual Business Meeting where 39 attendees heard updates from our Secretary, Treasurer, IAFP Delegate, and GAFF Committees. The GAFF Board also introduced the candidate nominated for Vice-President, Captain Charles Otto III (ret.) and reviewed the process for GAFF’s online elections.



**GAFP Fall Meeting:**

On October 19, 2021, in partnership with GaMEP, 74 attendees heard technical presentations from our 2021 Jim Ayres Young Award Investigator Award Winners, Xinran Xu, Derrick Kane Cooper, and Julia Sobolik, and highlights from The Kroger Company’s Pandemic Response from Chef John Szymanski at the 2021 GAFF Fall Meeting.

While the pandemic continued to test our ability to provide a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply, GAFF is proud of the efforts of our board and


committees in accomplishing our mission through creative and diverse programs in 2021. Our board looks forward to continuing to advance our mission through the delivery of educational meetings and webinars, providing opportunities to network with food safety and public health professionals, and continuing to share information about professional development opportunities, including relevant workshops, training courses, and job postings. When the time is right, we look forward to coming back together, in person, to discuss recent developments in food safety among friends and colleagues.



## ✓ Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award - GAFP


On October 19, 2021, GAFP hosted its annual fall educational meeting virtually, in partnership with The Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) and the Georgia Institute of Technology. 74 attendees, representing local, state and federal agencies, industry, NGO and academic sectors heard technical presentations from our 2021 Jim Ayres Young Award Investigator Award Winners and highlights from The Kroger Company's Pandemic Response by Chef John Szymanski.

### 2021 Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award Recipients




**Xinran Xu**  
*University of Georgia*

Xinran Xu is a Food science Ph.D. candidate at the University of Georgia under the direction of Dr. Alfonso Salas. She is originally from China. Xinran received a master's degree in Food Science from the Illinois Institute of Technology in August of 2019, where she studied the dissemination of Salmonella on packed black pepper using pulsed light technology. Xinran worked in a frozen fruit company as a microbiology technician after her MS degree. Before that, she completed her undergraduate work at China Xiang University, where she received a Bachelor's degree in Food Safety and Quality. In her doctoral work, she focused on risk assessment and predictive microbiology. Xinran is actively associated with the Georgia Association for Food Protection and International Association for Food Protection. Xinran's long-term goal is to serve in academia in food safety and risk assessment areas. In her spare time she likes reading books, travelling, and solving puzzles.



**Kane Cooper**  
*Emory University*

Kane Cooper is a recent graduate from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, where he obtained his MSPH in Environmental Health and Epidemiology under the direction of Dr. Juan Leon. Kane is originally from Gastonia, North Carolina, and prior to attending Rollins he graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a double major in Biology and Chemistry. His undergraduate research in Dr. Rita Tanaka's lab focused heavily on C. difficile protein pathways relating to colony morphology and motility, ultimately playing a role in bacterial pathogenesis. Continuing to pursue his passion for infectious disease research at Rollins, Kane has been involved with the laboratory detection of norovirus from farmworker hand and produce rinse samples, and his thesis has focused on quantifying the risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection among essential food workers. Kane is currently applying to medical schools in the hopes of combining his public health and infectious disease research background with the primary care skills necessary to treat the patients that are disproportionately affected by these pathogens.



**Julia Sobolik**  
*Emory University*

Julia Sobolik is a rising 3<sup>rd</sup>-year doctoral student in Environmental Health Sciences at Emory University. Her research interests include evaluating viral contamination of fresh produce, informing best practices for reducing farmworker exposures to enteric and respiratory pathogens, and improving pathogen detection methods from hands, foods, and environmental surfaces. She is particularly interested in norovirus exposure pathways in the agricultural farm environment and interventions that reduce infectious risk among fresh produce consumers. Additionally, over the past year she has developed a quantitative microbial risk model to evaluate SARS-CoV-2 risks and risk mitigation strategies for essential workers in an indoor food manufacturing facility. Julia holds a BS in Biology from Oregon State University, an MPH in Global Health from Emory University, and an MS in Microbiology from the University of Washington.

Thanks to our meeting host, GaMEP, Registration for the Fall Meeting was free for attendees. Following a welcome message from GAFP President, Katie Murchison, Wendy White introduced and moderated questions for the presenters for the recipients of the 2021 Dr. Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award Winners. Xinran Xu, PhD Candidate from the University of Georgia, presented a technical talk entitled “Comparison between LASSO and Classification and Regression Tree for predicting of E. coli Prevalence in Pasture Poultry Farms”. Next, Derrick “Kane” Cooper, MSPH from Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health, presented, “Characterizing the Risk of SARS-CoV-2 Infection among Essential Food Workers: A Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment Approach. Julia Silva Sobolik, PhD Candidate from Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health from presented “SARS-CoV-2 Transmission Risks and Risk Mitigation Strategies Among Essential Workers in an Indoor Food Processing Facility”. Following the technical presentations from the 2021 Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award winners, Capt. Charles Otto, GAFP Vice President, introduced and

moderated John Szymanski with The Kroger Company's talk "COVID-19: An Industry Perspective...A Year Later," highlighting efforts the grocery retailer has made in navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

GAFP Secretary, Dr. Ynes Ortega, handled all the direct publicity mailings regarding the meeting on behalf of association and additional reach to other food safety professionals was achieved through use of cross-marketing endeavors through contacts with Georgia Manufacturer Extension Partnership, Georgia Food Safety Task Force, and the Association of Food and Drug Officials of the Southern States. Georgia Department of Agriculture also included a surprise announcement of the webinar in their weekly food recall alert email the week preceding the meeting. The Fall Meeting announcement was also posted on the International Association of Food Protection's Events Calendar and announced on the GAFP website. The pre-registration for the GAFP Virtual Fall Meeting was 92 individuals. The actual attendance was 74 including the program participants and Georgia Tech webinar support staff. Production staff was amazed at the high attendance rate compared with webinar registration, which was at 80%. Those in attendance at the webinar included 29 (39%) current members and 45 (61%) were guests or prospective members.

A member survey submitted following the 2021 Fall Meeting revealed that 100% of survey respondents (n=7) were very satisfied or satisfied with the virtual meeting and all respondents found it extremely or very informative. The Fall 2021 GAFP Meeting was also featured in the Winter 2022 Edition of IAFP's Affiliate View, including a link to the meeting recording. While the pandemic continued to test our ability to provide a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply, GAFP is proud of the efforts of our board and committees in accomplishing our mission through creative and diverse programs in 2021, in particular, our efforts to highlight and support our student members.



## √ C.B. Shogren Memorial Award - GAFP

### GAFP Membership:








At the end of 2021, we had 461 members (active and inactive) and **added an impressive 50 new members!** We've been able to grow our membership throughout both years of the pandemic. This has been in a total virtual environment due to case numbers and local mandates. This is truly a testament to our member engagement and strong virtual meeting content (membership picture, 2018). This was driven by cross-promotional marketing with different **collaborative partners** such as: CONTACT Produce Safety Research through University of Florida Extension, Georgia Food Safety Defense Taskforce, Georgia Department of Agriculture, and Stop Foodborne Illness, exposing the benefits of GAFP membership to an entirely new audience.



### GAFP Board:

This GAFP board is one of the strongest we've ever had, and the addition of Captain Charles Otto as GAFP Vice President in early 2021, has given the board a strong bolster of enthusiasm and helped continue the high level of educational meetings throughout the second year of the pandemic. The GAFP board currently contains members from industry, government, and academia and has decided to allow the Student Liaison more access to attend all board meetings. Our current Student Liaison has taken-on many duties around member outreach and has greatly increased GAFP's social media engagement to members. **Lastly, 100% of the GAFP Board are IAFP members, highlighting our commitment to the organization.**

## GAFP Executive Board 2021-2022

 <b>Past-President</b> <b>Cheryl Brown</b> Starbucks	 IAFP Delegate <b>Wendy White</b> Georgia Tech	<b>President</b> <b>Katie Murchison</b> Prev. The Coca-Cola Company 
 <b>President-Elect</b> <b>Jessica Chen</b> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	 Student Liaison <b>Anna Townsend</b> University of Georgia	<b>Vice President</b> <b>Capt. Charles S. Otto, III</b> REHS, USPHS (Ret.) 
 <b>Secretary</b> <b>Ynés Ortega</b> University of Georgia		<b>Treasurer</b> <b>Steven Fuller</b> Mars Wrigley Confectionary 

### Outreach, Collaboration, and Communications:

In 2021, GAFP leveraged many new cross-promotional partners to market GAFP meetings. The Spring Meeting was held in conjunction with GA Dept. Ag, GA Dept. Public Health, local USDA, and FDA speakers. These organizations also advertised this roundtable, which brought GAFP to the attention to new potential members. Georgia Tech’s GA Manufacturing Extension Partnership continued to be our webinar host sponsor and aided in marketing efforts as well.



### GAFP Spring Meeting Agenda


- 10:00 am            Welcome
  - Jessica Chen, GAFP President
- 10:05am            Agency Updates
  - Moderated by Wendy White, Georgia Tech GaMEP
  - **GDA** – Chris Peasley, Retail Food Program Manager
  - **FDA** – Cameron Wiggins, Retail Food Specialist
  - **USDA** - Larry Hortert, SE Regional Director & Dr. Phyllis Adams, District Manager of the Atlanta District Office
  - **GDPH** –Hope Dishman, Outbreak Coordinator Epidemiology Section & Shaun Bryant, Food Service Program Director
- 10:30 am            Moderated Q&A
  - Moderated by Wendy White, Georgia Tech GaMEP
- 10:55 am            Wrap-Up and Adjourn
  - Jessica Chen, GAFP President

The GAFP board has created a shared drive to collect historical documents and ease



collaborative activities. We also did research and created a list of past GAFP Presidents, which are posted on the website. **Social Media outreach has increased**, primarily from: Face Book, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Our Student Liaison, Anna Townsend, has helped supplement our social media efforts and helped our student engagement initiatives.



We've also used social media as a means to **spread important IAFP information** to our membership.



### Georgia IAFP Leadership:

The GAFP Delegate, Wendy White, served as the 2020-2021 Affiliate Council (AC) Secretary and is currently serving as the 2021-2022 **Affiliate Council Chairperson**.

During her leadership, the AC has created a three-year strategic plan to improve the overall AC experience for delegates, increase value to the affiliates, and induce involvement and collaboration across affiliates and with different IAFP groups (PDGs and committees).

Other GAFP members are very involved in IAFP, participating in **PDGs**, and serving on

important committees such as the **Program committee** and **Foundation committee**. Wendy White has also been invited to give the 2022 keynote address at the IAFP **Student Luncheon** during the annual meeting.

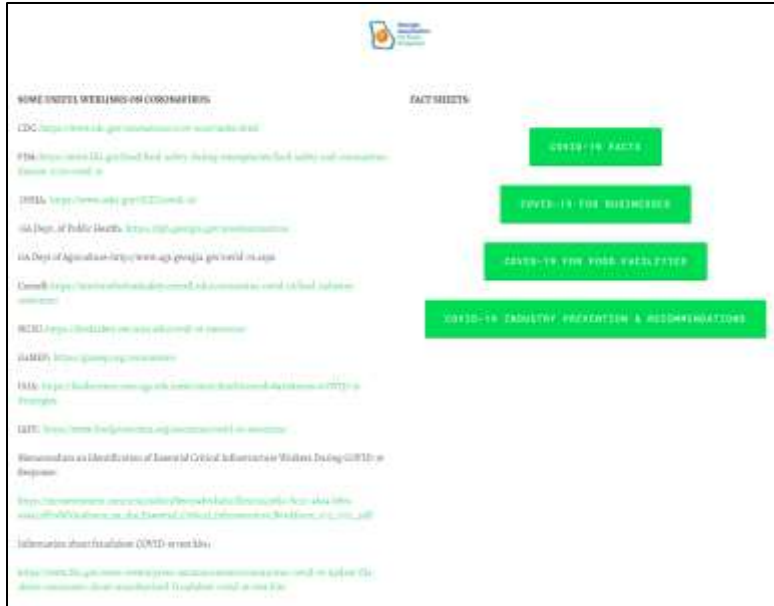


### Education:

Due to the continued pandemic, GAFP has continued to offer all educational webinars free to all members and has **extended invitations to non-members** as well to expand outreach efforts and expand membership. The four GAFP meetings in 2021 were all virtual and recordings were distributed to members and registrants:

- **Winter Meeting** highlighted our 2020 Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award Recipients: Peien Wang, Estefania Novoa Rama, and Jasmine Kataria. February 3, 2021, Webcast with 27 attendees.
- **Spring Meeting** was a GA Regulatory Update: COVID-19 Roundtable with updates from GDA, GDPH, USDA and FDA on April 21, 2021, with 53 attendees.
- **GAFP Business Meeting** with reports from our Secretary, Treasurer, Delegate, and updates from our Awards & Nomination, PR & Membership, and Program Committees. We also introduced our Vice President nomination, Captain Charles Otto III. This meeting was held on May 12, 2021, with 39 attendees.
- **GAFP Fall Meeting** highlighted our 2021 Jim Ayres Young Investigator Award Winners with Xinran Xu, Derrick Kane Cooper, and Julia Sobolik giving 15 min presentations on their research. Chef John Szymanski then have a talk about The Kroger Company's pandemic response. The virtual webcast was on Oct. 19, 2021; 92 registered and 74 attended, an 80% attendance rating. 40% were current members and 60% were guests.

We kept our members up to date on updates and resources to aid them in managing COVID-19 in the workplace and created a special resources page to collect this information and make it easily accessible to our entire membership.



Giving:

GAFP has gifted the **IAFP Foundation** with a **\$1,000 donation** to support outreach efforts on a national scale.

On a local level, this was our **10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, awarding the Jim Ayers Young Investigator Award** to promising students. This award, \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second, and \$250 for third, and plaque is awarded to students by an objective, non-Georgia, panel of judges based on that student’s research abstract. Only students that have been accepted to present either technical abstracts or posters at IAFP are eligible, and the travel award is given to help pay the costs of their trip to IAFP. Winners are also invited to speak at a GAFP meeting, sharing their research with our entire membership and allowing us the opportunity to celebrate their achievements.



## Concluding Statements:

GAFP continued to be extremely active during this challenging second year of the pandemic, giving three student scholarships, and holding four educational webinars. We've expanded engagement for local members by promoting involvement with our committees: Program, PR/Membership, and Awards/Nominations. The GAFP board and membership remain committed to excellence in food safety, both in Georgia and internationally through our IAFP involvement.

We've already started making future plans, planning a cross-promotional webinar with IAFP in January 2022. Although, GAFP has kept the superior meeting content that our members expect throughout the pandemic, we are looking forward to holding our Spring 2022 meeting in-person to reconnect with friends and **celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

### News from the Executive Board

Following our latest business meeting on May 12, 2021, Cheryl Brown completed her term as President, and has transitioned to Past-President, Katie Murchison now serves as GAFP's President, Jessica Chen now serves as GAFP's President Elect. Capt. Charles S. Otto, III, REHS, USPHS (ret) was elected as Vice President for the 2021-2022 term by our membership, and Ynes Ortega, Steven Fuller, and Wendy White continue in their roles as Secretary, Treasurer, and IAFP Delegate, respectively.



### Want to get more involved with GAFP?

Did you know that GAFP has 3 committees which play an essential role in our organization?



The **Membership & PR Committee** chaired by Ynes Ortega (GAFP secretary) seeks to expand GAFP's membership, identifies ways to encourages active participation in GAFP, and develops newsletter content. The **Program Committee** chaired by Charles Otto (GAFP Vice President) plans GAFP's educational meetings. The **Awards & Nominations Committee** Chaired by Cheryl Brown (GAFP Past President) administers GAFP's awards programs and nominates members to serve on GAFP's executive boards.

E-mail Ynes Ortega, GAFP Secretary,  
for more information  
gafp.secretary@gmail.com