



Affiliate Annual Report for Calendar Year 2025

(Complete Attachment B to be considered for one or more 2026 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.

Please return the following items **electronically** by **Tuesday, March 3, 2026** (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).

OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Attachment B: Completion required **only** if your Association requests to be considered for one or more Affiliate Awards.
- ☐ IAFP accepts **all** Affiliate Annual Reports electronically, including those vying for one or more of the Affiliate Awards. *Affiliates seeking to present the highest quality visual presentation are encouraged to present their Annual Report in the highest quality possible for review by the Selection Committee. To avoid errors and omissions, please limit your submission to ONE email with all attachments.*
- ☐ Digital photos (with names and descriptions) to appear in the *Affiliate View* quarterly newsletter.

Indian Association for Food Protection in North America

1. Your Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council and Contact

Enter in the fields below the information requested for your Association's official Delegate to the IAFP Affiliate Council and your official Contact for IAFP correspondence. **Delegate must be an IAFP Member.**

Official Delegate to IAFP Affiliate Council

Name of Official Delegate : Vijay Krishna
Address 1: 5903 Northwood Ave
Address 2:
City, State ZIP Country: Lisle, IL 60532, USA
Phone Number: +1-614-404-8718
Email address: vkrishna@glanbia.com
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

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

Name of Official Delegate : Vijay Krishna

Address 1: 5903 Northwood Ave
 Address 2:
 City, State ZIP Country: Lisle, IL 60532, USA
 Phone Number: +1-614-404-8718
 Email address: vkrishna@glanbia.com
 IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

2. Membership List

- a. Indicate the current total number of members in your Association:
361
- b. How many NEW members joined your Association in 2025?
29

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 the number of attendees.

2025 IAFP Annual Conference, Cleveland, Ohio- July 28, 2025
No of attendees - 38

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

2026 IAFP Annual Conference, New Orleans - July 28, 2026; New Orleans, Louisiana

- c. List all other general membership meetings held in 2025 (excluding board meetings). Include title, dates and attendance numbers.

Meeting Title	Date	Attendees	Impact Statement
CAREER Talk, Q&A Session	Feb 25, 2025	20	This session supported IAFP's mission by connecting early-career professionals with established food safety scientists and practitioners, fostering mentorship, career awareness, and the development of the next generation of food protection leaders.
A Guide to U.S. Immigration Pathways: OPT, H1B, and Beyond	April 24, 2025	11	This session supported IAFP's commitment to professional development by providing international students and early-career professionals with guidance on U.S. immigration pathways,

			including OPT and H-1B processes.
IAFPNA Creative Challenge: Logo & Zoom/Teams Background Design Contest	April 30, 2025	5	The creative challenge strengthened engagement within the IAFPNA community and promoted the visibility and identity of the association, encouraging member participation and reinforcing a shared commitment to food safety outreach.
3-Minute Thesis Competition	June 30, 2025	20 submitted slides; 11 invited; Total attendees 17	The competition promoted effective scientific communication by encouraging students to clearly articulate food safety research to diverse audiences, aligning with IAFP's goal of disseminating knowledge that advances food protection.
IAFPNA – Annual Membership Meeting	July 28, 2025	38	This meeting facilitated strategic dialogue among members, strengthened professional networks, and encouraged collaborative engagement that supports the advancement of food safety research, education, and outreach (including collaboration with members in India)
IAFP Membership Dinner	July 28, 2025	18	The dinner fostered informal networking and relationship building among food safety professionals.
Professional Development: Mock Interview Session	Nov 19, 2025	5	The mock interview session focused on enhancing workforce readiness for emerging food safety professionals by providing practical career preparation, thereby supporting IAFP's commitment to professional development and capacity building in the food protection field.

4. Awards and Scholarships

- a. List members honored with an award from your Association and/or IAFP during 2025. Include name of award and qualification for award.

Sahaana Chandran Sheetal Jha	Award Name - J. Mac Goepfert Developing Scientist Award Criteria - The award is presented to students, either currently enrolled or recent graduates, who are conducting research in the field of food safety at accredited universities or colleges. To be considered, students must present their research findings, after which a panel of judges evaluates the presentations and selects the winner based on predefined criteria.
- First Place: Swara Bhatt - Second Place: Praveen Kosuri - People's Choice Award: Sheetal Jha	Award Name – IAFPNA Graduate Student Research Competition Criteria - Each student presented, and a panel of seven judges evaluated them to select the winner.

- b. List scholarships awarded during 2025; include recipient and qualification for scholarship.

IAFPNA Logo and Background Contest/\$100	Sahaana Chandran, qualified by submitting a logo design and got evaluated as the best logo design by the IAFPNA leadership team
Graduate Student Competition/\$500	Swara Bhatt, First Prize Student presented, and a panel of seven judges evaluated them to select the winner.
Graduate Student Competition/\$300	Praveen Kosuri, Second Prize Student presented, and a panel of seven judges evaluated them to select the winner.
Graduate Student Competition/\$100	Sheetal Jha, Third Prize Student presented, and a panel of seven judges evaluated them to select the winner.

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 Web site address AND date last updated:

www.iafpna.org

Date last updated – 01/13/2025

Website visitor number- 881

No. of mass emails sent to members- 13 (approximately 1 email per month)

Started with the first IAFPNA newsletter for the membership

Provided technical assistance to students applying for travel awards (2025 Term)

Did you launch a new Affiliate Web site in 2025? Y ☐ N ☒

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 here is published on our website and in select membership materials. The information may be typed in the fields below or may be sent to our office by email, fax or regular mail.

Indicate the term dates (e.g., 2025–2026) for your current Executive Board:

2025-2026

Past President

Dr. Manreet Bhullar
22201 W Innovation Dr
Olathe Kansas 66061 USA
615-944-1715
manreet.bhullar@gmail.com
IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☐

Secretary

Harsimran Kaur Kapoor
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Athens, Georgia, 30605, USA
8069395369
hk45596@uga.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☐

President

Vijay Krishna
5903 Northwood Ave
Lisle, IL 60532, USA
6144048718
vkrishna@glanbia.com
IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☐

Student Liaison

Bhaswati Chowdhury
Virginia Tech
Blacksburg, VA 24061
nhaswatic@vt.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Vice President

Kavita Patil
4045 Needham Road,
Bailey, NC 27807, USA
4794800518
kavitap@uark.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☐ N ☐

Student Liaison

Anjana Thankachan
Connecticut
USA
anjana.thankachan@uconn.edu
IAFP Member? Y ☒ N ☐

Before continuing, please check one of the boxes below:

☒ **CHECK HERE and return electronically by 3/3/26 IF YOUR AFFILIATE REQUESTS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR ONE OR MORE 2026 AFFILIATE AWARDS. (You are required to complete Attachment B.)**

☐ **CHECK HERE IF YOUR AFFILIATE DOES NOT WANT TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A 2026 AWARD. (You are done! It is not necessary to complete Attachment B.)**

Attachment B (optional)

Affiliate Award Considerations

*To be considered for one or more of the five Affiliate Awards to be presented at IAFP 2026, Affiliates are **required** to check the box next to the award(s) for which you wish to be considered and provide the related criteria (in English). (REMINDER: Please confirm IAFP Membership of your Affiliate President and Delegate **before** completing Attachment B to avoid award disqualification.)*



Affiliate Membership Achievement Award

How did your Affiliate grow **AND** retain members during the past year? Please provide details on:

- **how new members were recruited throughout the year;**
Our Affiliate continued to actively recruit new members throughout the year activities in 2025, primarily through IAFPNA events, including the annual meeting at the IAFP Annual Conference. Attendees were encouraged to join both IAFP and IAFPNA, leading to increased interest and membership growth, with a strategic emphasis on improving student engagement in IAFPNA activities. Responding to membership interests (gathered through membership survey), we launched our very first newsletter to share updates on IAFPNA activities and upcoming events, encouraging members to share continuous feedback.
- **the number of new members joining the Affiliate;**
In 2025, 29 new members joined our Affiliate, after we had a great year of increasing our membership by 84 members in 2024, demonstrating strong engagement and outreach efforts.
- **the percent increase in membership from 2025 to 2026;**
Our membership increased by 8.7% in 2025
- **specific efforts on how you retained existing members; and**
Last year, we implemented a strategic approach to retain existing members of the IAFPNA by identifying and addressing the membership needs. We conducted a **membership survey** to understand expectations and used the survey responses to organize IAFPNA event. We continued to organize the student activities including the 3-minute thesis competition that improves participation at the annual meeting. Three top performing students were awarded with cash prizes (\$500, \$300, and \$100). The event was recognized well by the membership, and it encouraged the leadership team to continue organizing the student competition in the future. Also, our engagement through the **IAFPNA website** (www.iafpna.org) significantly improved as members frequently visited the page for event information (881 visitors in the last 12 months) and direct communication with the leadership team. Also, the addition of newsletter helped engage with the membership and meet their expectations.
- **other methods related to helping grow and maintain your membership.**
We continue to offer support via website and emails. Also, with support IAFP staff members, we opened a bank account for members from India to pay their dues and engage with IAFPNA members.

Affiliate Communication Award

How did your Affiliate communicate information to your Members during the past year? Please provide a description of the types of communication sent to your general membership and include samples with your Annual Report. Samples can be printed copies/screen shots of blast emails, website (include frequency of updating), electronic/print newsletters, brochures, etc., along with respective dates sent. If available, provide how effective specific communication was toward meeting your goals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type.

Access supporting documents:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HINmN9mj0QfV8iA5Kz71bCoeowl1UOpB?usp=drive_link

In 2025, IAFPNA continued to focus strategically on effective communication to listen to the members and improved delivery of the membership expectations. We used the below list approaches to reach our membership.

- a. Email communications and Newsletter:
We sent frequent email updates to our members (approximately 1 email per month – see supporting documents), providing information about upcoming events, key announcements, and important organizational updates. Event reminders were sent closer to major activities, such as the IAFPNA Annual Meeting and our second Student Competition to encourage participation.
- b. IAFPNA Website helps engage the membership:
Our website serves as a central hub for information for our members updated based on events and announcements, at least once a month. The website received 881 visits in the past 12 months, indicating engagement and interest from the membership.
- c. Social Media Engagement:
We actively used LinkedIn and Instagram to disseminate information and advertise events to our membership. Please see the screenshots of the pages in the supporting documents.
- d. Membership Survey to gauge interest in events
We conducted multiple surveys to gather insights on member needs, which helped shape our activities throughout the year. The feedback from the survey directly led to initiatives like the IAFPNA Annual Student Competition, CAREER talk addressing questions that guide the agenda for the events.
- e. Virtual and In-person meetings:
To effectively engage our diverse membership, including a significant number of members from India, we strategically scheduled our virtual events and meetings to accommodate different time zones. Given the substantial time difference between North America and India (ranging approx. 12 hours), we prioritized scheduling our meetings in a way that maximized participation from both regions. We ensured that our international members, especially those from India, felt heard, included, and empowered to actively participate in IAFPNA's initiatives.

Affiliate Education Award

What types of food safety education program(s) did your Affiliate provide to its members during the past year? Provide the following details on all technical meetings, educational conferences, webinars, workshops, classes, and other methods pertinent to the interests of the membership:

- Background;
- Objectives;
- Agenda;
- Target audience;
- Dates held; and
- Numbers of attendees.

Describe any awards provided to students or young professionals. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

IAFPNA successfully organized multiple events in 2025, focusing on critical topics in food safety, career development, and immigration pathways. Below is a summary of the key events conducted:

1. CAREER Talk, Q&A Session

Panelists: Manreet Bhullar, Manan Sharma, Deepti Salvi, Pranav Vashisht

Background: Members from academia, industry and government organizations shared advise with students, the future workforce in food protection, aligning well with the goals of the IAFP.

Objectives: To discuss best practices when deciding on career opportunities.

Agenda: The session featured 5-minute talk by all panelists followed by Q&A session

Target Audience: Students, and researchers in food science, public health, and nutrition

Dates held: Feb 25, 2025 (Virtual)

Number of attendees: 20

2. A Guide to U.S. Immigration Pathways: OPT, H-1B, and Beyond

Background: This session was organized to address common questions among international students who seek clarity on visa options.

Objectives: Provide an overview of key U.S. immigration pathways

Agenda: The session included an informational presentation covering OPT, STEM extensions, H-1B processes, and common timelines, followed by an interactive discussion and Q&A session.

Target Audience: All IAFPNA members

Date held: April 24, 2025

Attendees: 11

3. IAFPNA Creative Challenge – Logo and Virtual Background Design Contest

Background: The IAFPNA Creative Challenge was organized to enhance the visual identity and engagement of the IAFPNA community

Objectives: To encourage membership participation engagement.

Agenda: Members were invited to submit original designs for an IAFPNA logo concept and a branded Zoom/Teams background. Submissions were reviewed by the leadership team.

Target Audience: All IAFPNA members were invited to participate

Dates held: April 30, 2025
Number of attendees: 5

4. 3-Minute Thesis Competition

Background: The IAFPNA 3-Minute Thesis Competition was organized to encourage students to communicate their food safety research in a clear, concise, and engaging manner.

Objectives: Promote effective communication of food safety research

Agenda: Students submitted presentation slides summarizing their research in a 3-minute format. A total of 20 submissions were received, and 11 finalists were invited to present their work to a judging panel and audience.

Target Audience: Open to all IAFP student members

Dates held: June 30, 2025 (Virtual)

Number of attendees: 17

4. IAFPNA Annual Membership Meeting and IAFP Membership Dinner

Background: IAFPNA annual meeting is held during the IAFP conference to strengthen engagement within the IAFPNA community and provide opportunities for members to connect and share updates.

Objectives: Facilitate dialogue on ongoing and future IAFPNA initiatives.

Agenda: It included updates on association activities, discussion of strategic priorities, and opportunities for members to share perspectives and ideas for future programming. The IAFP Membership Dinner (18 attendees) followed as an informal networking event.

Target Audience: All IAFPNA members

Dates held: July 28, 2025

Number of attendees: 38

5. Professional Development Mock Interview Session

Background: The session aimed to provide practical exposure to professional interviews

Objectives: Provide practical interview experience

Agenda: Due to low attendance, participants had more time to ask questions on the interview processes.

Target audience: IAFPNA students and professionals

Date held: November 19, 2025

Attendees: 5

☐ **Best Overall Affiliate Meeting Award**

Did your Affiliate hold an outstanding food protection meeting (not sponsored/co-sponsored by IAFP*) which you consider 'over and above' those normally held? If so, provide the following details, if applicable, on what led to a highly successful meeting:

- Type of meeting and the value it brought to Affiliate Members/attendees (does not need to be your Annual Meeting);
- Objective for the meeting (if relevant);
- Activities/Topics (e.g., poster competition, vendor tech talks; a printed copy of the agenda may be included with your award application);
- Numbers of attendees:
 - Number of and overall percentage of Affiliate Members (for example, 100 total attendees with 75 of them being Affiliate Members = 75%)
 - Number of Guests (non-dues-paying Affiliate Members) and their relationship to the Affiliate Chapter and/or meeting's topic(s);
- Audience participation (through roundtable discussions, exercises, etc.);
- Student involvement;
- Partners (e.g., other associations or affiliates);
- Speakers and their affiliations (if available);
- Sponsors;
- Engagement of attendees with exhibitors;
- Diversity of meeting participants (range of sectors represented, e.g., students, academia, extension, government, NGO, industry representatives, etc.), which can be broken down into services (e.g., retail, education, research, manufacturing, etc., if available); and
- Other information (e.g., whether the meeting included a celebration of a milestone Affiliate anniversary and related activities).

You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use a separate page if necessary; please limit your explanation to 500 words or less in 12-point type. *(Do not submit copies of speaker Power Point slide presentations.)*

**Does not include funds provided under the IAFP Executive Board Speaker/Expanded Speaker Program*

C.B. Shogren Memorial Award

NOTE: Applying for the Shogren Memorial Award does not automatically include your application for any of the other Affiliate awards. If applying for this award, you must apply separately for one or more of the other Affiliate awards which may have contributed toward meeting the criteria of the Shogren Award. (Note: Your Affiliate is not required to win one of the other Affiliate awards.)

How did your Affiliate demonstrate exceptional overall achievement during the past year in promoting the mission of IAFP (*“To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply”*)? The judges will also consider how the Affiliate has demonstrated its commitment to food safety over the years. “Overall achievement” should encompass at least several of the following activities/accomplishments of your Affiliate:

- Exceptional achievement in membership;
- Types and effectiveness of communication and education;
- Awards and scholarships presented;
- Attendance numbers at meetings;
- Collaboration with other professional organizations;
- Whether the Affiliate has been considered for and/or won other Affiliate awards in the past;
- Involvement in the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting (e.g., participation at the Affiliate Council Meeting held during the IAFP Annual Meeting and in online Affiliate Council meetings throughout the year; submissions to the *Affiliate View* newsletter, sharing Affiliate Council information with Affiliate members); and
- Other pertinent information.

While not a requirement, strong consideration will be given to an Affiliate whose officers (beyond the requirement for the President and Delegate) are also IAFP Members. Provide a description and include any supporting documents. You may cut and paste copy in the space below or use separate pages if necessary; please limit your explanation to 1,000 words or less in 12-point type.

Response:

In 2025, the IAFPNA demonstrated exceptional overall achievement in advancing the mission of IAFP by continuing to grow its membership, strengthening communication and education efforts, hosting high-impact events, and fostering collaboration among food safety professionals worldwide. The IAFPNA activities from 2025 reflect a deep commitment to providing a platform for knowledge exchange, professional development, and industry engagement, making us a strong and deserving candidate for the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award.

Membership Growth: In the year 2025, the IAFPNA membership grew by 8.7% continuing the trend from the year 24 where we observed 33.33% growth in membership numbers, marking the highest growth rate in IAFPNA’s history.

To stay engaged with the membership, IAFPNA Leadership Team implemented several approaches to recruit and retain members, including:

- Continued annual membership surveys to align activities with member expectations.
- Efforts to improve student engagement by conducting the 3-Minute Student Research Competition (**open to all IAFP students**), significantly boosting participation.
- Conducted a non-scientific student competition to design IAFPNA logo and Zoom background, contributing to increased engagement and collaboration among the members.
- Continued to expand membership accessibility by establishing an Affiliate bank account, making it easier (and accessible) for individuals from India to join.

Communication & Education: Meaningful channels of engagement were implemented to hear membership voices and deliver to their expectations, including but not limited to:

- Listserv emails with event updates, announcements, and food safety resources
- Website engagement: www.iafpna.org received 881 visits in the past year
- Open chat feature on the website makes it easy to connect with leadership
- Social media presence: Regular engagement via LinkedIn and Instagram to share event highlights
- Provided guidance to students applying for the 2025 IAFP Travel awards
- Continued sharing a newsletter with the membership to stay engaged with membership

Education & Training Initiatives: The IAFPNA team organized several professional engagement and professional development activities in 2025 that collectively advanced the IAFP mission by strengthening mentorship, scientific communication, professional networking, and workforce readiness within the food safety field. These events provided meaningful opportunities for students, early-career professionals, and established scientists to engage, share knowledge, and build professional connections. See www.IAFPNA.org under events for more details.

- **CAREER Talk and Q&A Session (February 25, 2025; 20 attendees):** Connected early-career professionals with established food safety scientists and practitioners, fostering mentorship, career awareness, and professional guidance aligned with IAFP's goal of developing the next generation of food protection leaders.
- **A Guide to U.S. Immigration Pathways: OPT, H1B, and Beyond (April 24, 2025; 11 participants):** The discussion enhanced participants' understanding of career opportunities and regulatory considerations, helping them better navigate employment pathways in the food safety.
- **IAFPNA Creative Challenge (Logo and Virtual Background Design Contest) (April 30, 2025; 5 participants):** Encouraged member engagement and creativity while strengthening the visual identity and visibility of the IAFPNA community, supporting broader outreach and community building.
- **3-Minute Thesis Competition (June 30, 2025; 20 submissions, 11 finalists):** Promoted effective scientific communication by challenging students to clearly present complex food safety research to diverse audiences, supporting IAFP's mission of knowledge dissemination. This event was open to all IAFP students.
- **IAFPNA Annual Membership Meeting (July 28, 2025; 38 attendees):** Facilitated strategic discussions, strengthened professional networks, and encouraged collaboration among members, including engagement with professionals connected to the food safety community in India.
- **IAFP Membership Dinner (July 28, 2025; 18 attendees):** Provided an informal setting for relationship building and networking among food safety professionals, strengthening the sense of community within the association.
- **Professional Development Mock Interview Session (November 19, 2025; 5 participants):** Focused on workforce readiness by providing practical interview experience and career preparation for emerging professionals in food protection.

Collectively, these activities strengthened professional capacity, enhanced engagement within the food safety community, and supported IAFP's broader mission of advancing food protection through education, collaboration, and professional development.

Awards and Scholarships Presented

Student Research Competition Awards

- Recognized three outstanding student researchers with cash prizes (\$500, \$300, and \$100) and certificates for their contributions to food safety research.

- IAFPNA Students, Sheetal Jha (Poster) and Sahaana Chandran (Technical) received the J. Mac Goepfert Developing Scientist Award
- \$100 award was given to the best logo and Zoom background design created by Sahaana Chandran

Attendance at Meetings & Representation at the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting

Affiliate Council Representation:

- IAFPNA actively participated in the IAFP Affiliate Council Meeting on July 27, 2025 (Kavita Patil, IAFP Delegate), ensuring our members' voices were heard.

Attendance at Meetings:

- Total event attendees in 2025: 100+ across four major events, including the Annual Meeting attendance of 38 participants, making it the most attended event in 2025.

Collaboration with Other Professional Organizations

- Collaborated with Murthy Law Firm for expert-led sessions on Immigration
- Engaged with faculty and researchers across multiple universities (Kansas State University, North Carolina State University, Tennessee State University, University of Arizona, University of Georgia, Oklahoma State University) to promote student participation.
- Partnered with industry professionals to provide career guidance and research insights.

Commitment to IAFP's Mission

IAFPNA's exceptional growth in membership, leading communication, education, and collaborative efforts reflect a strong commitment to the IAFP mission of providing food safety professionals worldwide with a forum for knowledge exchange. We have significantly contributed to advancing global food safety awareness and professional development by expanding membership, organizing impactful events, and fostering industry-academia-government collaborations.

We believe our exceptional membership growth, strong educational initiatives, and commitment to professional engagement make us a deserving recipient of the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award.

