

## **Pre Harvest Food Safety PDG**

**Members Present:** Divya Jaroni, Bassam A. Annous, Achyut Adhikari, Pragathi Belagola Shridhar, Mandy Carr, Diane Ducharme, Paula Fedorka-Cray, Carl Custer, Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez, John J. Guzewich, Fawzy Hashem, Sanja Ilic, Li Ma, Karl Matthews, Patricia Millner, T.G. Nagaraja, Jitu Patel, Gireesh Rajashekara, Sara N. Swanson and Siddhartha Thakur.

**Board/Staff Members Present:** Linda Harris.

**New Members:** Phillips Tocco, Malak Esseili, Juan Leon, Abani Pradhan, Gordon Davidson, Donna Pahl, Claudia Coles, Laura Strawn, Alice Wei, Michelle Danyluk, Angela Fields, Daniel Weller, Katie Shiraishi, Matthew Taylor, Marcos Sanchez, Jorge Mosqueda, Amber Nair, Michele Williams, Breki Magunga, Aparna Tatavarthy, Jie Zheng, Radhika Kakani, Hudaa Neetoo, Betsy Booren, Shivaramu Keelara Veerappa, Zheng Jiang, Jagpinder Brar, Harold Ewell, Modesto Olanya, Daniel Wing, Brooke Whitney, Alex Wladyszewski, Laura Mrachek, Deog-Hwan Oh, Mark Kreul, Elba Arias, Mariana Villarreal Silva, Songsirin Ruengvisesh, Suresh Pillai, Laura Matthias, Stacey Vaughan, Anna Aceituno and Justin Brooks.

**Visitors/Guests:** Anil Persad, Marion Castle, Luis Cervantes, Colin Choy, Maxwell Hand, Eva Lauve, Katherine Mieszkowski, Jerrey Priebe, Stephanie Defibaush-Chavez, Ingrid H, Gao Setlmare, Buffy Montgomery and Daniel Mason.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 3:00 p.m., Saturday, July 25, 2015.

**Recording Secretary of Minutes:** Radhika Kakani.

Divya Jaroni (Chair) called the meeting to order at 3 p.m. Radhika Kakani was appointed the recorder of the meeting minutes. Sign-up sheets were passed around for new and existing members and visitors. Meeting agenda was distributed. The meeting started with Divya Jaroni introducing Dr. Bassam Annous (Vice Chair) and welcoming the new and existing PDG members and visitors. She mentioned that last year's (2014) meeting minutes were emailed to all the members and were also available online at IAFP website. Bassam Annous mentioned that last year meeting minutes were already approved and this year meeting minutes will be approved on this Monday. Divya Jaroni went over last year's symposium topics. Out of six submitted symposia last year, only one got accepted as a roundtable: "Pre-harvest Control of Zoonoses: Opportunities and Hurdles". This round table is scheduled for July 26, 2015 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. and interested members can attend the event. She briefly outlined the 2015 meeting agenda about discussion topics, new challenges in pre-harvest food safety, international perspectives, ideas for workshops, creating webinar series or just webinars and increasing communications with the PDG members.

Divya Jaroni introduced Dr. Linda Harris from the IAFP Executive Board. Dr. Harris welcomed all and talked about the importance of PDGs. She is a participating member for the past 28 years and found greatest value, connections and collaborations. She called for more active involvement of the members. She asked about student members and mentioned about strong encouragement from student PDGs. She also talked about how PDGs are reaching out and doing very well and how the membership was increased in the last 10 years. She encouraged members to attend upcoming Sunday and Monday lunch time talks.

Divya Jaroni thanked Dr. Harris and the floor was opened for discussion of topics for next year's IAFP. Carl Custer talked about how symposia topics submitted have been rejected and

suggested the members to submit again providing new data and information. Linda Harris talked about PDGs submitting six or seven symposia and expecting all to be accepted. She suggested submitting one or two strong symposia or webinars instead of submitting six or seven. Bassam Annous agreed to that and suggested submitting a strong one about hot or current topics of the year. Symposia got rejected 2 or 3 times a year can also get accepted that year if the topic is good and relevant. Divya Jaroni agreed to that and she suggested combining ideas from other PDGs and submit as a strong one. Bassam Annous mentioned that they couldn't find a speaker to talk at this meeting and he asked the members to provide or suggest any speaker names for next year. Bassam Annous asked the members to submit a topic so that it can be decided to seek it further or not. He asked about the new ideas or topics to bring to the floor for next year.

1. Juan Leon proposed a symposia topic about challenges and opportunities about viruses and parasites in produce from farm to fork. What are the guidelines to be followed, how to sample and detect viruses and parasites especially at pre-harvest level.
2. Multiple routes of contamination including soil, water and hands. Hygiene and hand washing are important factors in the contamination of fresh produce. Agricultural community has unique needs around hand-hygiene. Symposia topic suggested: "Hand hygiene and forming guidelines on the farms." This symposium would discuss best practices in produce production, including hand hygiene, to reduce contamination and improve food safety in fruits and vegetables.
3. Jack proposed how to measure the impact of food safety regulations already in place. How do we know that they are making a difference?
4. Carl Custer talked about how FSIS standards lower the incidence of salmonellosis in beef, pork and poultry, but produce is left out. More incidences were reported in produce. Is it because of better detection and case controls? We got more cases detected in muscle foods. How to detect in produce? How much contamination is coming from animal production? It is complex process.
5. Dr. Oh from Korea talked about the importance of combining together "pre-harvest and post-harvest control measures from farm to table" from other PDGs. In IAFFP, only U.S. and European countries food safety regulations are talked about and other countries food safety policies are left out. He proposed to have combined information on food safety policy from pre-harvest to post-harvest in terms of Asian perspective, U.S., European and other countries. International perspective on management policies. Bassam Annous elaborated on international policies. He invited international scientists to come and talk about the policies in a round table. Differences in each country program and how to meet U.S. or European standards could be discussed at that roundtable. Linda Harris mentioned about "Food law PDG" and suggested that pre-harvest interface policy could be a lively discussion. Other members agreed that round table is a good idea and suggested to get guest speakers from different parts of the world like South America, Australia, New Zealand, etc. Jack mentioned about difficulties in identifying right people as speakers. He suggested getting speakers from FAO instead from individual countries.
6. Dr. Suresh Pillai talked about how Department of Defense and Homeland Security detected extremely low infectious doses of new pathogens in air samples throughout the world. They found virulence sequences of pathogens that don't exist before. What are we embarking upon? Personality disorders are also linked to gut microbiota. Gut microbiota is influenced by air pollution and surrounding environment. He proposed a symposium which questions the value of technology in use today and how to be ready to face new infections?
7. Paula Cray proposed a symposium about emerging pathogens of global significance on farm and how these emerging pathogens are contributing in development of

antimicrobial resistance. She also suggested getting international speakers. Divya Jaroni thanked and asked for further comments. Carl Custer agreed and mentioned that antimicrobial resistance is a hot topic. Divya Jaroni asked Paula Cray which pre-harvest system she would like to take it up – produce or animal systems? Paula Cray replied that it is an ecological perspective; and produce, soil and animals are related to each other. Sid and Paula are involved in projects in different countries like India, Africa, China, Brazil. It is no longer just animals or produce. Everything is related. Bassam Annous asked if she is interested to take a lead in putting forward for this symposium and she said yes. She suggested to high light U.S. perspective in the first half of the symposium and shifting globally in the second half.

Divya Jaroni called for further new ideas for symposia or any other ideas for next year's IAFP and PDG meeting. Bassam Annous announced that October 6 is the due date to submit a symposium, but asked the members to come up with topics by Monday, July 27, 2015. Jack suggested prioritizing the symposia topics. Divya Jaroni went over the suggested symposia topics again and asked for further thoughts on creating webinar series. Bassam Annous informed that webinars are free for PDG members, non-members should pay \$25. He suggested having at least two webinars each year and asked about getting speakers.

#### **Recommendations to the Executive Board**

1. Recommend having new, upcoming, young scientists as speakers to give them platform for exposure. It will also capture the attention of the program committee.
2. Suggest having a session on international food safety policies.
3. Suggest sending a copy of the finalized symposia topics to the student PDG members so that they also can look at them and have a chance to participate in symposia.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 31, 2016, St. Louis, Missouri.

**Chairperson:** Divya Jaroni.