

Low Water Activity Foods PDG

Attendees: Shirin Abd, Gary Acuff, Nora Adams, Timothy Adams, Pablo Alvarez, Nathan Anderson, Elba Arias Rios, S. Balamurugan, Pierre-Olivier Beal, Junia Beaubrun, Daniel Belina, Larry Beuchat, Tom Black, Nicolas Braun, Richard Brouillette, Sarah Buchholz, Stephen Burbick, Oscar Caballero, Joanna Carroll, Erdogan Ceylan, Suchart Chaven, Stella Chen, Zhao Chen, Anne Chi, Rocelle Clavero, Frederick Cook, Sally Crowley, Ashley Cunningham, Carl Custer, Gordon Davidson, Kelly Dawson, Thais De Melo Ramos, Daniel Demarco, Muthu Dharmasena, Brian Dimenna, Nancy Dobmeier, Martin Duplessis, Michele Evans, Jeffrey Farber, Peyman Fatemi, Carrie Ferstl, Kyle Ganz, Francisco Garces-Vega, Gopal Gopinath, Monica Guzman, Margaret Hardin, Melinda Hayman, Yingshu He, Ian Hildebrandt, Amber Hoskins, Virginia Hughey, Atef Idriss, Keith Ito, Rhoma Johnson, Don Jones, Sophia Kathariou, Susanne Keller, Stephen Kenney, Ramin Khaksar, Karim-Franck Khinouche, Kalmia Kniel, Yasu Komoto, Jeffrey Kornacki, Shigenobu Koseki, Jeffrey Kuehm, Saurabh Kumar, John Larkin, Soon Kiat Lau, Quanhong Li, Ye Li, Jiang Liang, Pichamon Limcharoenchat, Shuxiang Liu, Antonio Lourenco, Lisa Lucia, Lisa Lucore, Martha Maradiaga, Bradley Marks, Mayra Marquez, Molly Mills, Nathan Mirdamadi, Mahta Moussavi, Latha Murugesan, Nadia Narine, Quynh-Anh Nguyen, Taylor Oberg, Belem Ontiberos, Ynes Ortega, Yanying Pan, Alma Perez-Mendez, Shannon Pickens, Monica Ponder, Laurie Post, Florence Postollec, Gale Prince, David Rasmussen, Frank Ridgley, Julianny Rivera Calo, Luis Sabilln, Sofia Santillana-Farakos, Kristin Schill, Jay Schuman, Brooke Schwartz, Manoj Shah, Arlette Shazer, Weilin Shelver, Tracey Sinclair, Philip Steinbrunner, Jeyamkondan Subbiah, Quincy Suehr, Ke Sui, Ben Tall, Carmen Tartera, Aparna Tatavarthy, Abdullatif Tay, Koi Techathuvanan, Zeynal Topalcengiz, Lubomir Valik, Malcond Valladares, Mariana Villarreal-Silva, Morgan Wallace, Hongye Wang, Xinyao Wei, Pamela Wilger, Edith Wilkin, Tamara Wood, Jian Wu, Jin Xu, and Yue Zheng. **Number of Attendees:** 129

Meeting Called to Order: 2:08 p.m., July 31, 2016.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Nadia Narine.

Old Business:

- Student Liaisons – Ian Hildebrandt, Manoj Shah and Soon Kiat Lau
- Laurie Post was introduced as incoming Vice Chair elected by Survey monkey voting in the last 30 days. Laurie replaces Edith Wilkin, who has assumed Chair position. We thank Elizabeth Grasso for her service to the PDG these last two years.
- 2015 meeting notes were accepted by procedure.

- Reviewed 2016 submitted symposia. Those submissions were not accepted. It was agreed at the Chair/Vice Chair meeting on July 30 that program committee feedback will be disseminated at some time. This would be timely as we begin to work on 2017 proposals.

New Business:

- Kali Kniel welcomed members on behalf of the Board. There are 3,400 attendees as of July 31 and more are expected to register Monday. A new rule for PDGs submitting programming for 2017 Annual Meeting need to ensure all presentations are 30 minutes in length.
- Members were reminded to update their information and preferences at the IAFP member site.
- Melinda Hayman spoke on the recent *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination in low-moisture foods, sunflower seeds and some of the questions surrounding industry challenges and regulatory posture. Key points:
 - Infectious dose – still not known.
 - Do you need growth to cause?
 - What is the significance of sporadic levels of *Lm* in frozen and dry foods?
 - *Lm* regulatory and policy developments, particularly around positive environmental findings on food contact surfaces. Information is expected from the Alliance to prevent listeriosis and FDA's food advisory.
 - GMA is about to begin research of *Lm* in low moisture foods, looking for ideas and also whole-genome sequencing.
- Sofia Santillana-Farakos presented a review of FAO's 2014 work on pathogens in low moisture food seeds, nuts, flour, herbs and tea). Key points:
 - Top three pathogens being *B. cereus* (highest prevalence), *Salmonella* and *E. coli* (lowest prevalence).
 - Route of contamination.
 - More data needed on concentration levels.
 - High relative variability in prevalence.

This presentation generated a lot questions and discussions around the issue and the challenge in making a determination on prevalence prior to designing inactivation studies.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend approval of Laurie Post as Vice Chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 9, 2017

Meeting Adjourned: 3:55 p.m.

Chairperson: Edith Wilkin.