

Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG

Attendees: Achyut Adhikari, Adebayo Afuape, Sarah Allard, Maria Almeria, Theresa Almonte, Brienna Anderson, Maren Anderson, Bassam Annous, Samir Assar, Justine Beaulieu, Sylvia Bergman, Bruna Bertoldi, Larry Beuchat, Sohini Bhatia, Elizabeth Bihn, Gleynd Bledsoe, Samantha Bolten, Betsy Booren, Richard Brouillette, Robert Buchanan, Annemarie Buchholz, Marisa Bunning, Laurel Burall, Kellie Burris, Loan Cao, Catharine Carlin, Alejandro Castillo, Ann Lawrence Charles Vegdahl, Huihui Chen, Yi Chen, Shani Craighead, Vanessa Cranford, Alvin Crosby, Cecilia Crowley, Yue Dai, Michelle Danyluk, Gloria De La Garza, Tenille De Souza, Pascal Delaquis, Kaiping Deng, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, Yiran Ding, Diane Ducharme, Jill Dunlop, Laurel Dunn, Sarah Durham, Vikrant Dutta, Kim Eads, Blanca Escudero-Abarca, Jeremy Faircloth, Erick Falcao de Oliveira, Xuetong Fan, Jeff Farber, Khashayar Farrokhzad, Peyman Fatemi, Christina Ferreira, Jorge Adrian Flores, Elise Forward, Tong-Jen Fu, Brady Fuchs, Jingwen Gao, Mirijam Garske, Samantha Gartley, April Garza, Tiah Ghostlaw, Charles Giambone, Jonathan Glynn, Yaisy Gonzalez, Gustavo González, Jim Gorny, Sheri Governo, Bob Gravani, Leena Griffith, Diane Gubernot, Sanjay Gummalla, Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez, Jack Guzewich, Rasas Haji, Brenda Halbrook, Alexis Hamilton, Emma Hanson, Diana Hao, Margaret Hardin, Fawzy Hashem, Arie Havelaar, Yingshu He, Craig Henry, Sarah Hertrich, Sunee Himathongkham, Stefan Horn, Alison Hurysz, Cheng-An Hwang, Oluwatosin Ijabadeniyi, Sanja Ilic, Kari Irvin, Keith Ito, Tim Jackson, Hyein Jang, Wojciech Janisiewicz, Karen Jarvis, Tony Jin, Amy Jones, Françoise Julien-Javaux, Jiin Jung, Soontag Jung, Hillary Kelbick, Jang Ho Kim, David Kingsley, Kalmia Kniel, Larry Kohl, Shigenobu Koseki, Mark Kreul, Ploy Kurdmongkoltham, Marcus Langen, Sharan Lanini, Dan Lasic, Shrish Latch, Marla Leal Cervantes, Eduardo Lecea, Susan Leonard, Melanie Lewis Ivey, Quanhong Li, Zhe Li, Marie Limoges, Pushpinder Litt, Qin Liu, Arosha Loku Umagiliyage, Stephen Lowe, Dumitru Macarisin, Nicole Maks, Humberto Maldonado, Claire Marik, Jennifer McEntire, Sherri McGarry, Sheila Merriweather, Shirley Micallef, Yvonne Middleton, Marianne Miliotis-Solomotis, Pat Millner, Billy Mitchell, Peter Muriana, Rianna Murray, Nadia Narine, Claudia Narvaez, Jeff Nausea, Scott Nguyen, Kaylee Norris, Xiangwu Nou, Kathleen O'Donnell, Modesto Olanya, James O'Neal, Ynes Ortega, Andrea Ottesen, Jacques Overdiep, Holly Paden, Indira Padmalayam, Donna Pahl, Laura Patterson, Anne-Marie Perchec - Merien, Evelyn Pereira, Fernando Perez Rodriguez, Bridget Perry, Vera Peterson, Suresh Pillai, Alda Pires, Juan Ponce de Leon, Malynn Porayanee, Prasant Prusty, Zhang Qi, Mark Queenan, Barbara Rasco, Cari Rasmussen, John Raulerson, Dave Read, Jordan Recker, Elizabeth Reed, Robbie Roberts, Christopher Rupert, Robert Sakata, Miguel Santos, Brooke Schwartz, Tarcio Sebastiany, Jue Shah, Elisa Shannon, Manan Sharma, Angela Shaw, Shima Shayanfar, Arlette Shazer, Adrienne Shearer, Hansaem Shin, Greg Siragusa, Dara Smith, Michelle Smith, Aswathi Soni, Don Stoeckel, Jennifer Stokes, Stacy Stoltenberg, Laura Strawn, Trevor Suslow, Kristina Sweet, Gloria Swick-Brown, Aparna Tatavarthy, Siddhartha Thakur, Laura Tobilla, Phillip Tocco, Mary Torrence, Jean-Philippe Tourniaire, Socrates Trujillo, Angela Valadez, Adam Vanore, Cynthia Villacorta, Mike Villaneva, Morgan Wallace, Isabel Walls, Christina Wilson,

Dorothy Wrigley, Aixia Xu, Wenqing Xu, Mu Ye, Christine Yu, Hyun-Gyun Yuk, Alex Zeman, Guodong Zhang, Xuan Zhang, and Zijin Zhou. **Number of Attendees:** 225.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 9, 2017.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Humberto Maldonado.

Old Business: Minutes from 2016 meeting were adopted without changes.

New Business: Chairperson Sherri McGarry thanked the PDG for their participation on the two brainstorm sessions that took place during the week previous to the IAFP meeting and introduced Humberto Maldonado as Vice Chair. No additional issues were added to the agenda.

Sherri McGarry shared some statistics with the PDG and congratulated them for the high level of acceptance on symposia and roundtable submission.

Historically, the FVSQ PDG provides a series of updates to the members, which are outlined below.

1. **Regulatory Update:** The regulatory update was provided by Samir Assar (FDA CFSAN). Produce continues as a top priority for FDA. FDA has a new Commissioner who is interested in what has been done until now and supportive of efforts moving forward. Compliance dates for Produce Rule are coming. Actually, first compliance date for sprouts was on January 2017, and for produce in general will be in January 2018. The Agency is continuing to look for opportunities foster compliance with the produce rule through education, training and other activities. The Sprout Safety Draft Guidance was issued on January 2017 and the FDA is still looking for comments. The Produce (in general) Draft Guidance is intended to be published before January 2018. NASDA, ASTHO, and AFDO are involved in this Draft Guidance. Agricultural water will likely not be covered in the guidance in detail because Compliance dates on Agricultural Water will be extended. A notification from the FDA will come shortly about this extension. USDA and FDA have partnered to coordinate education/training cooperative Agreements through the FSMA training collaborative training forum. FDA has granted \$21.8 million to 42 different states (<https://www.fda.gov/ForFederalStateandLocalOfficials/FundingOpportunities/GrantsCoopAgrmnts/ucm517991.htm>) to conduct inspectional and/or educational activities.
2. Diane Ducharme, FDA, presented the Produce Safety Network (<https://www.fda.gov/food/guidanceregulation/fsma/ucm510261.htm>), a new network that is currently staffed by seven produce safety experts and one team leader from FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN), and 11 investigators and two branch chiefs from the FDA's Office of Regulatory Affairs (ORA), that will work closely with key produce stakeholders, such as state produce safety programs, to provide regulatory support and technical assistance. They are open to collaboration opportunities.
3. **Sprout Safety Alliance (SSA) Updates:** Kaiping Deng, Ph.D., IFSH/IL Institute of Technology commented that the biggest accomplishment for the SSA in the past year is launching the training program. In August 2016, the 1st edition of the SSA curriculum was finalized. Right after

that, they conducted the 1st TTT pilot, obtained constructive feedback and finalized version 1.1. In November, the 1st combo course was held for growers and SSA received plenty of comments; the discussion on a 2nd edition was initiated. FDA draft sprout guidance was released on January 2017. Information from FDA's sprout guidance was incorporated throughout the SSA material for consistency with current regulatory thinking. The 2nd edition was finalized in April this year. After a few trainings, the SSA manual has evolved to version 2.3 and the online module development started in May. There might be ~200 sprout operations in the US. Trainings were held in IL, CA, TX, FL, MA, and Victoria Canada. To date, 53 sprout operations from 20 states have sent their staff to the SSA training. Lead instructor training and Combo course were held in Chicago and California and approved 28 SSA Lead Instructors application. Lead Instructors are extension specialists from universities, sprout growers, and regulators. They are located in 16 states in the US. The SSA training is a prerequisite training of the regulator training. Therefore, FDA inspectors and state regulators also attended the SSA training. The SSA online modules are being developed by the alliance and IFPTI. The 12 modules of the SSA curriculum will be available online.

4. Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) Updates: Betsy Bihn, Ph.D., Cornell University, provided the update on the PSA (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>). PSA has conducted 31 PSA Train-the-Trainer Courses. There are 1,012 TTT Participant Trainers (28 are international) and 146 PSA Lead Trainers (42 state and 11 international). There have been 176 PSA Grower Training Courses in the U. S. covering 36 States with 4,205 Grower Participants. There have been 8 international grower trainings. While the PSA TTT launch was delayed, a massive PSA TTT effort followed it. Also, initially there was a delay on the PSA Lead Trainer Review Process, but the backlog has been resolved. There's a concern about denied applications; collaborative solutions are being considered, without compromising the process integrity. The PSA Manual was released to the public. There were concerns from PSA about quality printing, so the release is including printing specifications. As a reminder, all PSA GT participants must have a printed manual in a language they understand. The PSA Manual translated in Spanish is now public and translation other languages is underway. International training collaborations are on-going.

5. Outbreak Update: The outbreak update was given by Diane Gubernot, Ph.D., Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation, FDA. It included a summary of pathogen and foods involved in multistate outbreaks that FDA was involved. Since last year's IAFP meeting, there were 34 outbreaks, 14 of them related to produce, including sprouts (5), leafy greens (2), pistachio (1), strawberry (1), cucumber (1), papaya (1) and an unknown (1). Seven outbreaks involved a food that was traced to a domestic source and 7 involved imported food items. The pathogens included *Listeria*, pathogenic *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, *Cyclospora*, and Hepatitis A virus. Information was shared about several outbreaks – Hepatitis A outbreak that involved frozen strawberries from Egypt and FDA prevention efforts, an outbreak of *Salmonella* infections linked to alfalfa sprouts where seed was tested and found positive, and the *Cyclospora* outbreak where the vehicle was not identified. CORE is working toward more trend analysis and sharing of information to aid in industry prevention efforts.
6. Other Topics: None.

New Business: The Chair shared information on symposium and topics sponsored and co-sponsored by this PDG, information on joining this PDG, and the plan to hold more conference calls and at least one webinar this year. Additionally, there would be an email asking for nominations followed by voting on a new Vice Chair.

Kali Kniel and Michelle Smith suggested exploring ways to enhance students' participation and involvement in the PDG, including incentives such as sponsorships.

Melanie Avey asked for time to discuss the proposal and potential collaborations between the Fruit and Vegetable PDG and the APS-FSIG (American Phytopathological Society – Food Safety Interest Group).

PDG members expressed continued interest in webinars. Sherri McGarry recalled the topics that were suggested on last PDG meeting and asked for new suggestions.

PDG members brainstormed topics for symposia/roundtable and broke into smaller groups to help connect PDG members by topic areas. Plan is to have conference calls following IAFP meeting to further this initial work and before deadline to submit symposia/roundtable ideas in October.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: July 8, 2018, Salt Lake City, UT.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Sherri McGarry.