

Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG

Attendees: Humberto Maldonado (Chair), Gretchen Wall (Vice Chair), Achyut Adhikari, Adam Alberson, Sarah Allard, Jamie Allen-Hitt, Peiman Aminabadi, Ted Andrew, Bassam Annous, Steve Arave, Uma Babu, Jianfa Bai, Daniel Bair, Kannan Balan, David Basinger, Pierre Olivier Beal, Larry Beuchat, Elizabeth Bihn, Rachel Binet, Bledar Bisha, Craig Bolt, Richard Brouillette, Annemarie Buchholz, Marisa Bunning, Kellie Burris, Loan Cao, Catharine Carlin, Travis Chapin, Jennifer Chase, Vijay Chhetri, Mike Clark, Shannon Coleman, Michael Cooley, Sarah Correll, Duncan Craig, Shani Craighead, Vanessa Cranford, Willette Crawford, Cecilia (Maria) Crowley, Carl Custer, Michelle Danyluk, Joseph Darden, Nathan Decker, Pascal Delaquis, Kaiping Deng, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, Claudia Diaz, Francisco Diez, Jill Dunlop, Laurel Dunn, Teri Ehlinger, Erika Estrada, Jeffrey Farber, Willis Fedio, Angela Ferelli, Emily Forauer, Gina Frontino, Tong-Jen Fu, Balasubramanian Ganesan, Samantha Gartley, Gary Gensler, Charles Giambone, Timothy Gillam, Leah Gilman, Jonathan Glynn, Bonnie Grimes, Sanjay Gummalla, Eduardo Gutierrez-Rodriguez, Gina Hall, Jeffrey Hall, Diana Hao, Christina Harzman, Fawzy Hashem, Yingshu He, Yiping He, Joe Heinzelmann, Evan Henke, Shauna Henley, William Henry, Sunee Himathongkham, Patricia Homola, Jeffrey Hutchison, Sanja Ilic, Kari Irvin, Keith Ito, Andrew Jacobson, Karen Jarvis, Alex Josowitz, Jasmine Kataria, Peter Kennedy, Annette Kenney, Karuna Kharel, Ahyoon Kim, Kalmia Kniel, Robert Koeritzer, Larry Kohl, Lori Kora, Shigenobu Koseki, Shira Kramer, Mark Kreul, Kunihiro Kubota, Pongpan Laksanalamai, Keith Lampel, Eduardo Lecea, Jeong-Eun Lee, Wan Mei Leong, Shenmiao Li, Marie Limoges, Pushpinder Kaur Litt, Teresa Lopez, Dumitru Macarasin, Humberto Maldonado, Fatemeh Malekian, Martin Martinez, Justin McConaghy, Rachel McEgan, Sherri McGarry, Patricia Millner, Buffy Montgomery, Thabang Msimango, Amber Nair, Nadia Narine, Angela Nguyen, Brendan Niemira, Sergio Nieto-Montenegro, Xiangwu Nou, James O'Donnell, Ynes Ortega, Omar Oyarzabal, Jitu Patel, Robin Peterson, Aaron Pleitner, Juan Ponce De Leon, Brian Poon, Hang Qi, Mingyu Qiao, Sarita Raengpradon, Mohsen Ranjbaran, Loandi Richter, Carrie Rigdon, Paula Rivadeneira, Mika Roberts, Channah Rock, Lindsey Ross, Gerard Ruth, Surasri Sahu, Anthony Saitta, Robert Sakata, Yasser Sanad, Diana Vanessa Sarria Zuniga, Vicki-Lynne Scott, Manan Sharma, Michelle Smith, Caroline Smith DeWaal, Sarah Speelman, Lindsay Springer, Don Stoeckel, Stacy Stoltenberg, James Stover, Trevor Suslow, Gloria Swick-Brown, Ben Tall, Sandra Tallent, Brad Taylor, Cindy Taylor, Siddhartha Thakur, Leslie Thompson-Strehlow, Virginia Till, Phillip Tocco, Ching-Yu Tu, Brian Umberson, Gretchen Wall, Morgan Wallace, Isabel Walls, Kaidi Wang, Channele White, Brooke Whitney, Christina Wilson, Catherine Wong, Randy Worobo, Mu Ye, Hsin-bai Yin, Jiaojie Zheng, and Claire Zoellner.

Number of Attendees: 182.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m., Saturday, July 8, 2018.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Sherri McGarry.

Old Business: Minutes from 2017 meeting were adopted without changes.

New Business: Outgoing Chair, Sherri McGarry, thanked the PDG for the opportunity to serve as Chair and welcomed Humberto Maldonado as Incoming Chair. The Chair provided the CV of the two nominees, Channah Rock and Gretchen Wall, and asked for any additional nominations. No additional candidates were nominated. The two nominees introduced themselves and gave an overview of their experience. The PDG members elected Gretchen Wall as the new Vice Chair.

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

Regulatory Update: The regulatory update was provided by Michelle Smith, FDA CFSA. An overview of the organizational structure of the two Branches in the Division of Produce Safety was provided with the Produce Safe Branch (PSB) dealing more with implementation of the Produce Safety Rule and the Processed Produce Branch working with the Preventive Controls Rule though there is some overlap. Three draft guidance documents are under development. One is intended to aid industry in complying with the Produce Safety rule and that draft guidance should be published soon. There plans to be four regional public meetings held

once that guidance is published; feedback on the draft guidance requested. An extension for compliance of Ag water requirements in the PSR should issue soon; FDA using enforcement discretion. Produce Safety Network (PSN) is also under purview of the PSB; primary responsibilities of PSN staff is education, outreach, building knowledge of local production practices, and promoting compliance with PSR. Also, PSN staff in the FDA field offices (ORA) primary responsibilities are to conduct farm inspections with state partners, where applicable, also they are key to gaining insights needed to develop Fact Sheets (more to be published).

Produce Safety Alliance Updates: Betsy Bihn, Cornell University, provided the update. (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>). Over 1000 grower trainings held, 288 international training, and about 1800 PSA trainers trained. Trainings held in almost every state. PSA continues to work on capacity building, expanding collaborations, and mentoring professionals interested in becoming a trainer. PSA continues to serve as a resource clearinghouse and facilitate gatherings (ex., soil and water summits) of key partners and conduct focus groups. Also, they help growers maintain market viability. PSA maintains a national listserv; join from website or contact Betsy. Funding for PSA will be running out soon; grants alone won't keep them afloat. PSA to publish schedule of trainings from now until end of their funding. Advanced training, in collaboration with Trevor Suslow, is under development.

Sprout Safety Alliance Update: Kaiping Deng, IFSH/IL Institute of Technology, provided the update. (<https://www.ifsh.iit.edu/ssa>) After initial launch of SSA training materials they received feedback and issued revised training materials April 2017 with the online version finalized in December 2017. Piloted training course in February 2018. Four courses planned this year with last one next week. Feedback from participants suggests developing virtual course instead of in-person sessions. Focus of training will be small growers. Thirty-two trainers trained. Sprout producers requested video to better understand how to perform a risk assessment (relevant to Rule) and also sampling issues. SSA technical assistance launched last year; additional outreach efforts took place.

Outbreak Update: The outbreak update was given by Brooke Whitney, FDA CORE. Overview of CORE's organization structure and how they work collaboratively with states and CDC. Summary of pathogens (*E. coli* O157, *Salmonella*, *L.m*) and produce items associated with multistate outbreaks that FDA was involved along with general product source information, if available. Highlighted a few outbreaks of particular interest, such as *Salmonella* outbreaks linked to shredded coconut and papayas. MMWR publication this year on outbreaks linked to coconuts. CORE's website: www.fda.gov/Food/recallsoutbreaksemergencies/outbreaks.

Other New Business: Members approved a motion to hold webinars next year and to encourage greater participation of students in the PDG. One idea was to offer students mentorship opportunities; members commented that there's an existing IAFP mentoring program. It was suggested that either at next year's PDG meeting or before, to share information on the existing mentoring program. Humberto Maldonado will contact the Student PDG.

PDG members brainstormed topics for symposia/roundtable as a group, and then at 2:30 p.m. broke out into groups by topic areas for the remainder of the meeting.

- Produce Traceability: Where We are and Where We Want to Go.
- Global Ag Water Challenges and Methods to Overcome Them.
- Packing RACs: Challenges to Sanitation and Equipment Design.
- What's Changed: 2018 *E. coli* O157 Outbreak Linked to Leafy Greens Produced in Yuma.

Kali Kniel provided the Executive Board Report.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend to the Board that the Gretchen Wall, Cornell University, be approved as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Next Meeting Date: July 21, 2019, Louisville, KY.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Humberto Maldonado.