Food Fraud PDG


Number of attendees: 92.

Meeting called to order: 3:15 p.m., Sunday, July 21, 2019.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Matt Igo.

1. Welcome remarks (Neil Bogart, outgoing Chair).
   a. Neil mentioned the selection of Karen Everstine and Clare Menezes to Chair/Vice Chair.
   b. Neil mentioned the successful food fraud webinar series and the approval of funding for future webinars by the IAFP Foundation.

2. PDG members introduced themselves.

3. Recording secretary was appointed (Matt Igo, Student Liaison).

4. Anti-trust guidelines were reviewed and announcements from the IAFP Executive Board were read. Karen encouraged use of the new IAFP Connect system for PDG communications. She also mentioned that Clare Menezes was not able to attend the PDG meeting in person this year, but is looking forward to working with the group and attending next year.

Old Business:

1. The previous year’s minutes were displayed on the projector and approved (Elise Forward motioned and Michael Kalish seconded the motion).

2. Mission statement was approved without edits.

3. The prior year Board recommendation was reviewed: “We ask the Board to review and approve the Food Fraud PDG student scholarship program we have developed.” Neil mentioned that the amount of the scholarship should be reduced and a new proposal submitted for approval. The scholarship may be used to fund student travel to present their research at a future IAFP Annual Meeting. Other members suggested that we would need to find funding for a scholarship and companies may be interested in having naming rights involved. Members agreed to further discuss this issue on a future PDG call.

New Business:

1. The agenda was approved (Caroline Smith DeWaal motioned, Shaun Kennedy seconded).

2. Details about the webinar series were presented for discussion. Attendance of the series was good (150–300 attendees per webinar). Neil suggested that, in the future, the PDG may want to consider hosting no more than three webinars per year.

3. 2019 food fraud-related posters and symposia were reviewed; 2 posters and 1 technical session were on the schedule for this year; all were related to analytical methods for authentication of foods.

4. 2020 symposia/roundtable ideas were discussed. The outgoing chair received one proposal suggestion (“Thoughts to ‘auditor awareness’ as it relates to food fraud ‘expectations’ vs. ‘operational reality’ of what industry is doing to decrease/minimize/control risk of an act of food fraud from occurring?”) Karen mentioned that she attended the Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG meeting earlier in the day and suggested this topic to them as a possible area of collaboration for either a symposium proposal or a webinar. Other issues discussed included whether proposals should be submitted to PDG before approval when sponsorship is involved as well as perceived difficulties in collaboration with other PDGs (how can we improve this system of collaboration?) PDG members asked if non-accepted proposals could be-re-submitted (with feedback) and also asked for further clarification of the differences between the Food Fraud and Food Defense PDGs. One member indicated that, in the past, the Food Defense PDG included a discussion of food fraud, but the decision was made to separate the topics into two PDGs. The group tabled the discussion of specific symposia proposals to prioritize a prioritization of the general topics the PDG would like to take on over the next year.

5. Members prioritized areas of focus for the PDG over the next year. A list of interest areas was created based on brainstorming from last year and new PDG member suggestions. Members then voted for the four areas they thought were the most important to address. The top four areas identified through this process were:
   a. Regulatory and other requirements and interpretation.
   b. Risk mitigation.
   c. Vulnerability assessment.
   d. Evolution of analytical methods.
6. Attendees then divided into groups to further discuss and expand on related topics to each of the four focus areas, as well as whether they may be best addressed by a symposium/roundtable proposal, webinar series, white paper, or FPT submission. This process was documented on paper and each group presented a brief synopsis to the entire group. Karen and Clare will review and summarize information from this prioritization session and distribute to PDG members after the conference.

7. Matt presented an update from the Student PDG and encouraged participation in the Student Mentoring Program.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Food Fraud PDG recommends the Executive Board approve the selection of Karen Everstine and Clare Menezes and Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Next Meeting Date: August 2–5, 2020, Cleveland, Ohio. The Chair and Vice Chair will follow up with PDG members to schedule a conference call to follow up from this meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:10 p.m.

Chairperson: Karen Everstine.