

## Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality

**Attendees:** Humberto Maldonado (Chair), Gretchen Wall (Vice Chair), Hamada Aboubakr, Emelia Adator, Achyut Adhikari, Jeremy Adler, Basel Al Jaber, Sufian Al Khaldi, Khaled Al Marzooqi, Salman Aldosari, Ali Alkathiri, Sarah Allard, Abdullah Almulhim, Hany Anany, Brienna Anderson Coughlin, Ted Andrew, Bassam Annous, Jyoti Aryal, Samir Assar, Ashley Avilla, Uma Babu, Daniel Bair, Adam Baker, Kannan Balan, Cameron Bardsley, Ata Al Baroudi, Arlene Barrantes Romero, Avery Becker, Alexandra Belias, Larry Beuchat, Rachel Binet, Michael Botelho, Bob Brackett, David Bridges, Annemarie Buchholz, Marisa Bunning, Kellie Burris, Suyeun Byun, Christopher Callahan, Carmen Cantú, Michelle Carter, Genna Chadderdon, Anindya Chanda Vijay Chhetri, Antonio Cid, Donna Clements, Shani Craighead, Faith Critzer, Carl Custer, Alexandre Da Silva, Corinna Darelus, Taylor Davedow, Thomas De Bock, Nathan Decker, Kaiping Deng, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, Brian Dieckelman, Marie Dionne, Erika Du Plessis, Jeanne Duckett, Martin Duplessis, Mauricio Durigan, Natalie Dyenson, Kristin Esch, Blanca Escudero, Adam Esser, Erika Estrada, Jeremy Faircloth, Xuotong Fan, Khashayar Farrokhzad, Peyman Fatemi, Angela Marie Ferelli, Connie Fisk, Pina Fratamico, Julia Fritschel, T.J. Fu, Samantha Gartley, Charles Giambone, Rachel Goeiz, Lisa Gorski, Elizabeth Grasso-Kelley, Jiewen Guan, Gayathri Gunathilaka, Alan Gutierrez, Miguel Gutierrez, Jeff Hall, Yun-Yun, Diana Hao, Margaret Hardin, Dennis Harp, Sophia Harrand, Yingshu He, Runze Huang, William Huntley, Ali Hurysz, Kari Irvin, Calloway Jamerson, Dawwna James-Holly, Lynette Johnston, Ernest Julian, Jiin Jung, Issmat Kassem, Alyssa Kelly, Karuna Kharel, David Kingsley, Kali Kniel, Larry Kohl, Lori Kora, Jovana Kovacevic, Katherine Kreil, Mahipal Kunduru, Alison Lacombe, Keith Lampel, Chao Liao, Pushpinder Litt, Teressa Lopez, Wendy Maduff, Carolina Mariano Ferraz, Claire Marik, Karl Matthews, Sherri McGarry, David Melka, Janny Mendoza Mencia, Pat Millner, Abhinav Mishra, Naim Montazeri, Mark Moorman, Juan Moreira, Sudarsan Mukhopadhyay, Rianna Murray, Lillian Nabwiire, Amber Nair, Neda Nasheri, Joseph Nicholl, Brendan Niemira, Sergio Nieto-Montenegro, Xiangwu Nou, Kathleen O'Donnell, Ikechukwu Oguadinma, Alexis Omar, Stephen Ostroff, Omar Oyarzabal, Jitu Patel, Emma Patregnani, Audrey Patterson, Anne-Marie Perchec - Merien, Bridget Perry, Sophie Pierre, Alda Pires, Lori Pivarnik, Juan Ponce De Leon, Kinsey Porter, Claudette Quevedo, Beatriz Quiñones, Irwin Quintela, Sadhana Ravishankar, Karina Reyes-Gordillo, Paula Rivadeneira, Robert Roe, Catherine Rolfe, Blanca Ruiz, Robert Sakata, Joelle Salazar, Ma. Rocelle Saldúa, Yasser Sanad, Sofia Santillana-Farakos, Brooke Schwartz, Vicki-Lynne Scott, Manoj Shah, Manan Sharma, Tracie Sheehan, Shreya Singh Hamal, Natasha Sloniker, Michelle Smith, Frost Steele, Diane Stewart, Don Stoeckel, Stacy Stoltenberg, Laura Strawn, Christine Stroh, Trevor Suslow, Meredith Sutzko, Katie Swanson, Gloria Swick-Brown, Aparna Tatavarthy, Chayapa Techathuvanan, Clare Thorp, Phillip Tocco, Mary Lou Tortorello, Anna Townsend, Daniela Turcios, Tessa

Tuytschaeffer, Morgan Wallace, Freya Wang, Peien Wang, Xue (Caroline) Wang, Qi Wei, Brooke Whitney, Stefan Widmann, Xuwen Wieneke, Christina Wilson, Niradha Withana Gamage, Michael Wood, Shuang Wu, Crystal Yang, Shiyun Yao, Veerachandra Yemmireddy, Amy (Hsin-Bai) Yin, Robyn Zaches, Guodong Zhang, Lei Zhang, Jane Zheng, Jie Zheng, and Kang Zhou.

**Number of Attendees:** 213.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 21, 2019.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Gretchen Wall (Vice Chair), Cameron Bardsley (PDG Student Liaison).

### Old Business:

- The PDG welcomes Gretchen Wall as new Vice Chair of the PDG. The PDG will be holding elections for the next Vice Chair in May 2020 electronically. Contact Gretchen or Humberto with nominations and contact information. Self-nominations can be made.
- The 2018 meeting minutes were adopted without changes.
- A webinar was hosted by the PDG in June 3, 2019 and was attended by 149 individuals. The report covered key outcomes from a USDA Economic Research Service report published in August 2018 'Before Implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act's Produce Rule: A Survey of U.S. Produce Growers'. The recording is posted on the IAFP website.

### New Business:

Kali Kniel provided the Executive Board Report. Historically, the FVSO PDG provides a series of updates to the members, which are outlined below.

1. **Regulatory Update: FSMA Produce Rule Implementation – Dr. Samir Assar.**  
General inspection approach: education focused while regulating. Fostering consistency is very important and accomplished through communication and proper training (shadowing), to ensure a consistent roll-out across all farms. FDA will be addressing common issues going forward and making information available through informed research and policy development decisions. For example, challenges have been noted in grower's compliance with Subpart L (equipment, buildings, tools, and addressing harborage sites) and recordkeeping requirements. Disseminating training and outreach to international audiences remains a priority for FDA, including the development of PSA Trainers and Lead Trainers. Several policy decisions are still in deliberation by FDA including Subpart E (agricultural water), Subpart F (biological soil amendments of animal origin), farm definitions, and written assurances for processing activities. In addition, FDA is continuing to refine the Produce Safety Rule and Fresh Cut Produce draft guidance's released based on stakeholder feedback.
2. **Sprout Safety Alliance Update – Dr. Kaiping Deng.**  
Over 90 sprout operations have been trained, including 138 individuals, 61 federal regulators (1

international), and 3 supermarket chain food safety managers. A focus has been placed on developing materials in other languages, including Spanish. The first Sprout Grower Training was conducted in Spanish in January 2019. No Spanish manuals are available yet, but the presentation slides are ready. Bilingual growers were asked to become trainers and to help identify other growers who needed to be trained. The SSA now has Spanish and Chinese trainers, but are currently in need of trainers with Vietnamese and Korean proficiency. On April 15, 2019, SSA partnered to host a webinar for water testing lab personnel titled "Water Testing Requirements of the Produce Safety Rule." Going forward, SSA plans to have a second webinar for testing labs as well as webinars with the International Sprout Growers Alliance (ISGA). SSA is also focusing on training for retailers and support for small sprout growers.

3. **Produce Safety Alliance Update – Dr. Betsy Bihn (unable to attend, provided by Gretchen Wall).**

The PSA will be hosting a special session on Monday, July 22 from 5:30–7 p.m. where additional information and updates will be provided. Training reports were reviewed; a total of 42,578 participants have attended PSA Grower Trainings and 2,672 individuals have attended the PSA Trainer the Trainer Course. Reports are conducted quarterly and available by request

on the PSA website. All 50 states have hosted PSA Grower Trainings. The PSA will be hosting fewer PSA Train-the-Trainer Courses due to lack of demand, so interested individuals are encouraged to attend the courses currently registered. New team member, Dr. Laura Acuna-Maldonado, was hired in October 2018 as the Spanish Extension Associate for the PSA and has been working on initiatives for Spanish-speaking audiences domestically and internationally. She recently translated and helped to launch the PSA's website in Spanish ([es.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu](http://es.producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu)). The PSA will be announcing the availability of a manual Version 1.2 shortly (currently in English, soon to be translated in Spanish). There has been significant progress in disseminating training, but there are still many growers who need trained. In addition, FDA updates, announcements, and the commencement

of inspections underscore the need for educators to continue providing outreach to the growing community. International training has been progressing and the PSA has plans to translate curriculum materials in Mandarin Chinese, Haitian Creole, and through collaborator proposals, Korean and Thai/Ilocano. In the next year, PSA will be focusing on developing advanced training materials and workshops for PSA Trainers and Lead Trainers. The PSA thanks all individuals for their efforts in providing education and outreach to produce growers.

4. **Overview of Foodborne Outbreaks since last IAFP meeting – Kate Kreil:**

Since the last meeting, there have been 26 outbreaks, with 10 linked to produce commodities. Seven of these outbreaks had known vehicles and three were unknown. One outbreak of interest was the *E. coli* O157:H7 in romaine which trace-back identified a reservoir sample with a strain very similar to outbreak strain. There also was a *Cyclospora* outbreak associated with salads and veggie trays. The salad was determined to be grown locally, and carrot samples were determined to be grown internationally. *Listeria monocytogenes* was also found in avocados and *Salmonella* outbreaks occurred in cucumber, papaya, melons, onions, cilantro, and basil. PDG members will be delivering presentations at the Annual Meeting on several of these outbreaks.

**Other New Business:**

- Reminder to log in to IAFP Connect as the PDG will be using the online platform more in the future for PDG communications. Next year, the PDG will also be pursuing a remote way to participate in the PDG meeting (e.g., Zoom) for those who are not able to attend the Annual Meeting.
- If there are any specific webinar ideas or suggested speakers, please reach out to Humberto or Gretchen to coordinate. The PDG no longer needs to find sponsorship to host webinars as the IAFP Foundation now assumes this cost.
- It was proposed and agreed upon by the PDG to host a teleconference in early September to discuss and refine PDG symposia and workshop proposals. Gretchen will follow up with more information after the annual meeting.
- Cameron Bardsley, the PDG's student liaison, provided an update on behalf of the IAFP Student PDG. Participation in the student mentoring program was successful in 2019 and continues to match professionals in the industry with students for the upcoming year.
- At the end of the meeting, PDG members brainstormed ideas for symposia and roundtables and broke out into groups for further discussion. See Addendum A for preliminary topic ideas. These topics will be refined during the September 2019 conference call.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. The PDG would like to propose to the Board that the IAFP Connect online platform be developed into an app for use on cell phones and tablets. This could be sponsored by industry to off-set the costs of development and make the platform more likely to be used by members.

**Next Meeting Date:** August 2–5, 2020, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:40 p.m. (break out groups continued to meet).

**Chairperson:** Gretchen Wall.

