Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG

Attendees: Xiangyu Deng (Chair), Jasna Kovac (Vice Chair), Amanda Manolis, Angie Nguyen, BledarBisha, Caleb Richter, Candace Barnes, Catharine Carlin, Celina To, Daniel Demarco, David Legan, Doug Marshall, Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, Hasan Nur, Jie Zheng, Joelle Salazar, John David, Jose Luis Rangel Gomes, Joseph Meyer, Kolawole Banwo, Laura Rolon, Luca Cocolin, Maria Hoffmann, Nada Alasiri, Naim Montazeri, Pina Fratamico, Pushpinder Litt, Raj Rajagopal, Ramin Khaksar, Richard Higby, Shaohua Zhao, Sid Thakur, Siman Liu, Sophie Pierre, Ted Gatesy, and Tricia (no last name provided).

Board/Staff Present: Michelle D. Danyluk, Didi Loynachan, and Dina Siedenburg.

Number of Attendees: 40.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Laura Rolon.

Old Business: A motion was made and passed to accept the 2019 meeting minutes with no revisions.

Updates from the Chair: The previous recommendation to the Executive Board was accepted. A total of 19 proposals were submitted in 2019 by AMA PDG members and 9 were accepted (71.4% success rate with AMA PDG as the primary sponsor). Members were encouraged to update their contact information on IAFP Connect.

Technical updates from three speakers: 1. Controlling SARS-CoV-2 infections in food processing and retail settings, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, University of Georgia; 2. Functional genomics toward precision food safety, Jie Zheng, FDA; and 3. Getting to the source: real-time pathogen monitoring using next generation sequencing, Ramin Khaksar, Clear Labs.

New Business:

IAFP Symposia/Workshop/Roundtable proposals were discussed. The deadline for proposal submission is November 10, 2020. Attendees identified several topics of interest, including a 2-day WGS and metagenomics workshop (Maria Hoffmann), and symposia on the following topics: microbiome metadata standardization (Chris Grim), COVID-19 - lessons learned, the role of advanced molecular analytics, impact on the food security and food safety (potential for collaboration with Applied Laboratory Methods PDG) (David Legan, Doug Marshal, Ramin Khaksar), protecting food industry from impacts of future pandemic(s) (Ramin Khaksar), sampling techniques and testing of human touch surfaces or food contact surfaces for SARS- CoV-2 and the effect of organic food residuals on virus persistence (potential for collaboration with the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG) (Naim Montazeri), NGS-based rapid detection, identification and characterization of SARS-CoV-2 virus from raw metagenomics, metatranscriptomics data (Hasan Nur), challenges with direct detection of pathogens using metagenomics, connection between environmental microbiota and pathogens, application of meta-omics to better understand behavior of pathogens in food (Lucca Cocolin), workshop on machine learning/data analytics and its application in food safety.

Other announcements included the (i) *JFP* request for invited review articles (interested individuals can contact *JFP* scientific co-editors for more information) and (ii) Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems special topic "Using genomics to inform food safety inspection" (submissions are welcomed until January 14, 2021).

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG recommends Jasna Kovac as the PDG Vice Chair.
2. The members recommended increasing the number of PDG co-sponsors for proposal topics that are multidisciplinary and relevant to multiple PDGs.

Next Meeting Date: July 18-21, 2021, Phoenix, Arizona.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:33 p.m. EST.

Chairperson: Xiangyu Deng and Jasna Kovac, Vice Chair.