

Program Committee

Members Present: Francisco Diez (Vice-Chair), Pam Wilger (Outgoing Chair), Faith Critzer, Vikrant Dutta, Paul Hanlon, Maria Hoffmann, Ramin Khaksar, Lauren Jackson, John Jarosh, Lone Jespersen, Ben Miller, Angela Shaw, Don Stoeckel, Matt Taylor, and Xianqin Yang.

Members Absent: Andrew Clarke, Abani Pradhan, Anderson Sant'ana.

Board/Staff Present: Michelle Danyluk, Mark Carter, Manan Sharma, Tim Jackson, Tamara Ford, and Lisa Hovey.

Number of Attendees: 21

Meeting Called to Order: 7:30 a.m. Eastern Time, Wednesday, August 19, 2023

Minutes Recording Secretary: Tamara Ford.

Old Business: The outgoing committee members Pam Wilger, Angela Shaw, Ramin Khaksar, Manan Sharma, and Paul Hanlon were recognized for their service.

New Business: The meeting began with introductions. New members, Ben Miller, Lauren Jackson, and Matt Taylor were welcomed to the committee. Tamara explained the process for the 2023 submissions and the timeline was reviewed. The review process will be adapted to meet the growing number of session proposals. Both of the items given to the Executive Board for approval were passed at the May Board Meeting.

1. Tamara Ford discussed the current Program Committee process and the concern over proposals not getting proper review due to the volume of proposals and the tight clustering of scores. A sub-committee of the Program Committee submitted a proposal that includes a two-phase system of review and evaluation. This adds an extra layer to the reviews in the fall.

2. Food Protection Resource Marketplace Proposal, Tamara presented a proposal from a group of Program Committee Members for a new category of abstract submissions for IAFP 2024. The "Food Protection Resource Marketplace" is for displaying newly developed and free resources. These items must be freely available and not commercialized or for-profit.

The overall evaluation of the IAFP 2023 scientific program was positive. No significant changes need to be made next year. The Program Committee heard a few complaints of overlap of topics. The Committee discussed the difficulty in avoiding overlap, but will always try to take a careful look at the final schedule.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: TBD (Fall Conference Call)

Meeting Adjourned: 8:28 a.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Francisco Diez.