

## Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness (CCFI)

**Members Present:** Michael Batz (Chair), Yanyan Huang, Laura Gieraltowski (Co-Chair), Margaret Kirchner, Ian Young, Melanie Firestone, Ruth Petran, Clair Umstead, Satori Smith, Patrick Mies, Adrienne Hill, Amarat (Amy) Simonne, Ronny Barrera, David Goldman.

**Board/Staff Present:** Manan Sharma.

**Number of Attendees:** 14.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, July 14, 2024, 8:05 a.m. Pacific Time.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Laura Gieraltowski.

**Old Business:** Minutes from the 2023 meeting were approved. The Committee discussed the Board's responses to last year's Recommendations. One of last year's Recommendations was to consider an update to the Committee's mission statement to better reflect current realities and future goals, particularly to include explicit reference to professional development. The Committee will continue to work on revising this mission statement, but do not yet have text to submit to the Board.

This year's past CCFI-affiliated webinars were discussed. The Committee was excited to learn that the Food Traceability webinar was the most attended IAFP webinar over the past year. The committee remains interested in developing an award to acknowledge the efforts of junior and mid-level career professionals in the field of outbreak response, foodborne disease epidemiology, and similar work in public health. A small group of CCFI members will further develop this idea over the next year.

**New Business:** The Committee discussed CCFI meeting format and duration. Attendees agreed that this year's format – a two-hour meeting with a projector – is preferable moving forward. The Committee reiterated interest in holding 3–4 additional virtual meetings throughout the year, tentatively to be held in September (prior to 2025 proposal deadline), December/January, and April/May.

The Committee discussed potential webinars and conference proposals for 2025. The Committee plans to use a Google docs spreadsheet to further develop proposals.

The Committee discussed drafting a Spotlight for *Food Protection Trends* and agreed to write this over the next few months.

The Committee discussed the idea of a special issue in the *Journal for Food Protection*, after the broad request made by *JFP*. Potential issues for further development include a special issue on disease burden estimates, or on foodborne illness source attribution.

The Committee discussed the manual *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness*, which was last revised in 2011 and is published by Springer. The first area of discussion was about making the current version of the book more accessible to those who may use the book, namely making it open-access or publicly available. The cost of the physical book is about \$30, the electronic version is about \$25, and some forms and annex tables are available for free as PDFs on the IAFP website. One example discussed was the utility of the book to the Conference for Food Protection (CFP), and the potential for an MOU between CFP and IAFP to enable CFP participants to use and cite this book. There was strong support from within the Committee to move towards making this a free, publicly available resource, recognizing that there may be constraints on moving in this direction in the contract between IAFP and Springer.

The second area regarding the manual is an ongoing discussion about whether and how to revise it. The current edition is almost 15 years old and does not include major subject areas such as the role of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) in outbreak investigations and traceability investigations.

Before the Committee commits to revisions, it wants to make sure there continues to be an audience and/or

market for these materials. Since the publication of the last edition of the book, there are now similar guidelines that have been published by others that are freely available and employed by public health agencies and investigators around the world. Specifically, the Council to Improve Foodborne Outbreak Response (CIFOR), a collaboration between national associations and federal agencies in the United States, publishes an open-access manual and toolkit, last updated in 2020, and now available in English and Spanish. This is focused on the U.S. context, but additionally the World Health Organization (WHO) has freely available materials, including complete guidelines published in 2008 and supplementary materials on improving outbreak investigation published in 2017. At the same time, we have heard through discussions that the IAFP manual continues to be used in trainings and as a useful resource for many who are only occasionally involved in outbreak investigations. The Committee discussed the need to further assess the status of the book in terms of sales, downloads, use, and needs that may not be being met by existing guidelines to determine if the return on investment in revisions is worthwhile. The Committee agreed on the need to engage Springer on sales, downloads, and use of the book. A survey of known and potential users was discussed as a potential avenue to improve knowledge.

This was not an election year: Chair and Vice Chair continue their terms.

### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Based on requests from members, CCFI recommends making a digital edition of the current edition of the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks* open-access and available via the IAFP website. Since this edition was published in 2011, the state of online guidance in this area has changed, with both CIFOR and WHO publishing freely available materials that somewhat overlap with this book. We request feedback from the Board and Staff on available options, including what is possible under the current contract with Springer.
2. CCFI requests data on sales and downloads of physical and electronic copies of the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks* dating to the initial publication in 2011 through the current year, so we can better understand usage of these books over its lifetime. This is necessary as we evaluate revising this book.
3. CCFI requests permission to develop and deploy a survey about the use of and potential revisions to the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks* book. CCFI is considering such a survey to better understand who is currently using the book and how, so we can make more informed decisions as we consider revisions.

**Next Meeting Date:** Saturday, July 27, 2024, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 10:03 a.m. Pacific Time.

**Chairperson Name:** Michael Batz