

Data Management and Analytics PDG

Attendees: Matthew Stasiewicz (Chair), Gustavo Reyes (Vice Chair), Carrie Rigdon (Secretary), Melanie Abley, Yagya Adhikari, Amberlyn Akin, Angela Anandappa, Nathan Anderson, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Fernando Avelleyra, VM Balasubramaniam, Robert Barlow, Cecil Barnett-Neefs, Deanna Brown, Brett Burkard, Michelle Catlin, Jelf Celestin, Irina Craft, John David, Sabahnur Demirci, Yihong Deng, Augustine Dinovo, James Doyle, Erin Dreyling, Michael Eastwood, Mark Enninga, Sanjit Fernandes, Melanie Firestone, Mark Flanagan, Neal Fredrickson, Ariel Garsow, Kathleen Glass, Michele Gorman, Eduardo Gutierrez Rodriguez, Dave Hill, Samantha Hobart, Minji Hur, Sima Hussein, Indu Aashritha Idumalla, Justyce Jedlicka, Cindy Jiang, Amanda Jones, Don Jones, Chris Jordan, YeonJin Jung, PETER KENNEDY, Myungji Kim, Elma Kontor-Manu, Julie Kuruc, Karen Lechuga-Nevarez, Lorenzo Lee, Lorenzo Lee, David Legan, Daniel Leiva, Yiyi Li, Jingqiu Liao, Dave Luedeke, Alejandro Mazzotta, Jeff Nauseda, Ramin Nemati, Melanie Neumann, Sipei Ouyang, Chris Paradise, Mehul Patel, Caitlin Po, Laure Pujol, Luke Qian, Amber Richards, Karina Rodriguez, Michael Rybolt, Luis Salazar, Mark Salter, Sam Santiago, Buddhi Sapkota, Amreeta Sarjit, Deborah Sattely, Jason Scheffler, Nikki Shariat, Arlette Shazer, Katherine Sierra, Calvin Slaughter, Giannis Stoitsis, Stacy Stoltenberg, Nilsson Toro, Tushar Verma, Yiqing Wang, Brett Weed, Julie Weller, Martin Wiedmann, Weifan Wu, Jiyeon Yi, Shuang Yu, Bonnie Zhu, Asun Zhu.

New Members Present: Jelf Celestin; Indu Aashritha Idumalla; Cecil Barnett-Neefs; Deanna Brown; Brett Weed; John David; Alexandra Calle.

Board/Staff Present:

Number of Attendees: 93.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 3:02 PM

Minutes Recording Secretary: Carrie Rigdon.

Old Business:

July 2025 minutes approved with corrected PDG title.

New Business:

Executive Board updates and Student PDG updates were provided. Over 3,000 attendees are expected at this year's conference. The acceptance rate for submitted symposia and roundtables was 33%. The acceptance rate for DMA PDG-sponsored proposals from 2022 to 2026 was presented. The highest rate was 52.6% of 19 proposals in 2023, and the lowest rate was 38.9% of 18 proposals in 2026. It was agreed to use the term "not accepted" rather than "rejected" for the proposals that were not accepted in a given year. Additionally, it was suggested to contact the authors of the proposals not accepted in 2026 to see if they would like to present their topic as a webinar.

The Chair presented an update on the proposal sponsorship review process initiated last year. In 2025, the PDG made the following recommendation to the Executive Board:

Ask the Program Committee to adopt uniform criteria for PDG sponsorship. To facilitate this, the DMA PDG will draft criteria for its own sponsorship of proposals for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting, apply those criteria to 2026 submissions, and provide a report to the board with recommendations.

The aim was to provide sponsorship for proposals that aligned with the DMA PDG's mission and scope. There were two proposals for IAFP 2026 that sought but did not receive sponsorship for this year. Both were on the topic of artificial intelligence but did not relate to data management and analytics; only that data were used in the AI approach.

It was decided to continue requesting that those seeking DMA PDG sponsorship submit a brief form for review. The Chair presented the current sponsorship form, which includes a primary contact, session format, session name, primary and secondary PDG sponsorship, the area of data management and analytics this proposal addresses, and why this proposed session fits the DMA scope. The question of whether this topic had been presented before was removed. The sponsorship review deadline is September 22, 2026, one week prior to the proposal submission deadline for 2027 IAFP symposia and roundtables.

There was discussion about recommending that the board adopt uniform sponsorship. Some see value in coordinating among PDGs and avoiding duplication before submission to avoid duplication. There was recognition that it takes a certain amount of energy to do this, and to be successful, it would need to keep the burden of review low. It was decided to bring the idea to the Tuesday PDG Chairperson meeting rather than include it as a recommendation to the Executive Board.

Luke Quan presented results from last year's AI benchmarking student competition. The top three winners from the competition will be presenting during a symposium at the 2026 IAFP. Food AI Nexus, an open platform for publishing benchmark datasets was also created. A paper is also being drafted summarizing the key lessons. There will be a similar student competition in 2027.

The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to open discussion. Proposal ideas for 2027 were captured on a common spreadsheet. There was a suggestion to create guidance and best practices that the food safety community needs (similar to the HACCP PDG). Attendees also mentioned that there are existing statistical guidelines that can be used to elevate best practices on data quality. The group then broke into four discussion groups: Applied (salt), Publishing (machine-readable data), Validation, and larger context questions (what do I need to know before I start?). There was a brief report-out from each group before the meeting adjourned.

There will be a virtual meeting scheduled for late August 2026 to further discuss proposals and other possible PDG work products.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Review our report applying formal criteria for DMA PDG sponsorship for 2026 annual meeting proposals.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 18, 2027, Kansas City, Missouri.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 PM.

Chairperson Name: Matt Stasiewicz.