

Food Safety Education

Name of Attendees: NA

Total Number of Attendees:

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 8:32 AM.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Andrea Cerrato.

The Chair, Dr. Ellen Shumaker, welcomed everyone and began with introductions from the attendees. Betty Feng was introduced as the incoming Chair of the Food Safety Education PDG. Dr. Shumaker reviewed the IAFP antitrust guidelines and the meeting agenda.

Old Business: The 2025 PDG meeting minutes were approved by a motion from Jennifer and a second from Wendy White.

New Business: Wendy White, IAFP Executive Board Representative, welcomed attendees and provided updates from the Executive Board, including record conference attendance, opportunities to become involved through volunteer committees, the importance of submitting high-quality symposium proposals, reminders about the IAFP Europe 2027 meeting, and member resources such as the conference app, quiet room, affiliate organizations, and IAFP communications.

Andrea Cerrato presented updates from the Student PDG, highlighting activities conducted throughout the year, including the Meet Your Favorite Scientist series, the Three-Minute Thesis Competition, the Food Safety Flash Competition, student representative opportunities, and upcoming student networking events. Members were encouraged to volunteer as speakers, judges, mentors, and proposal collaborators to further engage students in IAFP activities.

Dr. Ellen Shumaker announced the leadership transition, recognizing Dr. Betty Feng as the incoming Chair and requesting nominations for the Vice Chair position, with elections planned for the fall. The nomination deadline is September 30, 2026. Members also reviewed the increasing competitiveness of symposium and roundtable proposal submissions. This year, approximately 35% of proposals were accepted, a lower acceptance rate than in previous years, likely due to the increased number of submissions. Strategies to improve proposal acceptance were discussed, including collaboration among PDGs, the inclusion of international perspectives, student participation, diverse speakers, and emerging topics.

Vanessa Coffman from STOP Foodborne Illness shared information on food safety culture resources, mentorship programs, recall modernization efforts, Cyclospora education, and upcoming webinars. Brittany Saunier, Executive Director of the Partnership for Food Safety Education, discussed educator resources, needs assessments, newsletters, webinars, and the National Food Safety Education Month Day of Action. Tony Flood from IFIC presented updates on consumer research, educational resources, food safety communication efforts, and preliminary findings from the 2026 Food and Health Survey.

The remainder of the meeting focused on brainstorming potential symposiums, roundtables, webinars, and technical session topics for IAFP 2027. Suggested themes included food waste

and food donation safety, recall modernization, food safety communication through social media, artificial intelligence in food safety education, digital education effectiveness, climate change, disaster preparedness, K-12 food safety education, and other emerging topics. Members emphasized the importance of beginning proposal development early and collaborating with other PDGs to strengthen submissions.

The meeting concluded with a reminder of the upcoming sessions scheduled during the conference.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend Approval of Betty Feng as Chair of the PDG.

Next Meeting Day: Sunday, July 18, 2027. Kansas City, MO.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:57 AM.

Chairperson Name: Dr. Ellen Shumaker.