

Meat and Poultry PDG

Names of Attendees: Alexandra Calle (Chair), Jose Emilio Esteban (Vice Chair), Seth Adesope, Selim Alarape, Mary Anne Amalaradjou, Ryan Arsenault, Cynthia Austin, Sherry Bansal, Eniola Betiku, Amy Bosco, Mick (Joseph) Bosilevac, Alex Brandt, Hannah Brown, Alana Bryant, Alexander Cheah, Mike Clark, Pamela Coleman, Ada Cowan, Maria Dolores (Lola) Crespo, Mary-Grace Danao, Dinithi De Silva, Prantho Malakar Dipta, Maria Duarte, Patrick FACH, Casey Gallimore, Brandon Gartman, Halle Greenbaum, Alison Griffino, Upasana Hariram, Vannith Hay, John Jarosh, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Jace Jordan, Patrick Kachelmeier, Jens Kjaer, Chi-An Lee, Stefhanie Loaiza, Jeff Lucas, Tyson Mauser, KatieRose McCullough, Patrick Mies, Razieh Sadat Mirmahdi, Diana Mora-Lee, Amit Morey, David Mugabo, Yhuliana Nino Fuerte, Tomi Obe, Gabriela Oliva Coba, Amin Omairi Nasser, Aryany Pena Gomez, Sophie PIERRE, Bill Potter, Clay Quassa, Justin Ransom, Dheeraj Reddy, Marco Reina, Maria Salazar, Anru Shen, Subash Shrestha, Robbie Smith, Rick Stokes, Kassim Sulleyman, Jaya Sundaram, Ana Tejeda, Nilsson Toro, Afrina Akter Turna, Adebimpe Vaughan, Morgan Welch, Jason White, Vanessa Whitmore, Meri Beth Wojtaszek, Jamie Woodside, Season Xie.

Total Number of Attendees: 72.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 3:00 PM.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Maria Camila Duarte and Maria Jose Salazar.

Old Business:

Dr. Alexandra Calle, Chair of the Meat and Poultry PDG, called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees, reminding them to scan their badges to record attendance. The agenda, which had been posted earlier that morning, was reviewed by Dr. Calle, who noted that the meeting would include updates from USDA FSIS, an international food-safety presentation from the FAO, and a discussion of future symposium and webinar proposals. Dr. Calle also noted that although IAFP is an international organization, the Meat and Poultry PDG has historically focused primarily on U.S. regulatory topics, and that this year's agenda intentionally included a stronger international perspective in response to previous recommendations that the PDG provide greater international representation. No modifications to the agenda were proposed, and a motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded by Stevie Hretz; the agenda was approved as presented. The minutes from the previous year's meeting, which had been made available to members for review, were approved without corrections upon a motion made by Laura J. Garner and seconded by Amit Morey. Dr. Calle announced that this was her final year serving as PDG Chair, and that Dr. Emilio Esteban, the current Vice Chair and Chair-Elect, will assume the role of Chair during the following year; members were informed that nominations for the next Vice Chair would likely be requested in August or September. Two student liaisons, Camila Duarte and Maria Jose Salazar, both of Texas Tech University, were introduced to the group.

New Business:

Dr. Esteban reviewed expectations for PDG activities and reminded attendees to follow IAFP policies, including avoiding conflicts of interest and inappropriate negotiations related to meeting programming and sponsorship. In the absence of an Executive Board member, Dr. Esteban shared several announcements: PDGs are encouraged to submit symposium proposals for upcoming IAFP meetings; the next IAFP European Symposium is expected to be held in April 2027 in Copenhagen, Denmark, with proposals due in October 2026; IAFP 2027 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, with symposium and abstract deadlines following a timeline similar to

previous years; and members were encouraged to develop internationally relevant topics and consider submitting proposals through the Meat and Poultry PDG.

Dr. Justin Ransom, Administrator of USDA FSIS, provided a regulatory update describing the agency's approximately 7,000 personnel supporting roughly 7,000 regulated establishments nationwide. He discussed FSIS's efforts to improve use of data within its Public Health Information System to support risk-based, insight-driven inspections, citing the agency's *Listeria* control efforts involving more than 120,000 ready-to-eat environment questionnaires as an example. Dr. Ransom described a pilot program using smart glasses to enable remote veterinary support for carcass disposition decisions, with an expanded rollout planned for the Denver District beginning around October 1, 2026, using approximately 150 pairs of glasses. He also described FSIS's exploration of camera-assisted inspection technologies to support inspectors in high-speed poultry and livestock establishments, emphasizing that such tools are intended to assist rather than replace inspectors, guided by principles of scientific evidence, transparency, credibility, and risk-based decision-making. Dr. Ransom further described a new national food safety training center under development in Urbandale, Iowa, in collaboration with Iowa State University and Drake University, intended to strengthen and standardize training for FSIS personnel. In response to audience questions, Dr. Ransom encouraged researchers and technology developers to engage with FSIS's chief information officer's office regarding new tools, and indicated that additional states are expected to join the Cooperative Interstate Shipment program based on state interest and readiness.

Dr. Jeffrey LeJeune, Food Safety Officer with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, provided an international food-safety update, describing FAO's approximately 15,000 personnel worldwide and its mission connected to Sustainable Development Goal 2 on ending hunger and improving food security. He outlined FAO's three pillars of food-safety work, namely scientific advice, capacity development, and foresight on emerging issues, and described FAO's role supporting Codex Alimentarius through joint scientific advisory work with the World Health Organization, including recent risk-assessment topics such as Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli*, *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* control in poultry, foodborne viruses, and antimicrobial resistance. Dr. LeJeune also described FAO capacity-building initiatives, including food-safety projects with Indigenous Arctic communities and antimicrobial-resistance projects funded by the Republic of Korea, and noted opportunities for researchers to participate through expert calls, consultancies, or academic sabbaticals. In response to questions, Dr. LeJeune discussed how FAO addresses gaps in surveillance data from lower-resource countries by seeking diverse expert representation and tailoring recommendations to varying resource levels, described additional pathways for outside experts to collaborate with FAO beyond its six standing scientific advisory groups, and noted that two-tier food-safety systems, in which export products are held to different standards than domestic products, remain a significant international challenge.

Dr. Calle opened the floor for proposals for IAFP 2027 symposia, webinars, and future PDG presentations, noting that approximately one-third of submitted symposium proposals had been accepted during the previous cycle. Suggested topics included an international symposium on *Salmonella* Enteritidis outbreak response in poultry, proposed by a representative from New Zealand Food Safety; a session on the use of artificial intelligence, machine learning, imaging systems, and large language models in meat and poultry inspection and processing; a possible biomonitoring symposium or webinar addressing environmental-monitoring data and predictive microbiology; the inclusion of brief student presentations based on accepted abstracts, modeled on a format used by another PDG; and a session to help the poultry industry respond to anticipated changes in FSIS's approach to *Salmonella* control, with an FSIS representative confirming that additional announcements on this topic were expected during the conference.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Explore formal collaboration with related professional organizations, including those focused on poultry science, meat science, and reciprocal meat conferences, with the goal of expanding IAFP's professional network, increasing participation by experts in related food-safety and processing fields, developing joint sessions or collaborative programming, and reducing duplication while strengthening interdisciplinary engagement.

Next Meeting Date: IAFP 2027 Annual Meeting, Kansas City, MO.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:46 PM.

Chairperson Name: Dr. Alexandra Calle.