

Physical Hazards and Foreign Materials

Names of Attendees: Sandy Adams Hildebrand, Adejare Adegbuyi, Justin Ai, Amberlyn Akin, Nonyelum Anumba, April Bishop, Ledon Black, Aaron Cadotte, Troy Corley, Irina Craft, Casey Gallimore, Victory Igwe, Amanda Jones, Kunihiro Kubota, Craig Lorei, Yuqian Lou, Christopher McNamara, Swapnika Medikonda, Gerald Miller, Jacob Mitmoen, Paola Moncada, Jamie Mueller, Adeniyi Odugbemi, Monica Pava-Ripoll, Brian Perry, Keith Rhoades, Janet Rowat Kraiss, Paula Schwarz, Tom Sidebottom, Ryan Simmons, Ivy Smith, Sarah Smith-Simpson, Laurie Steed, Rick Stokes, Shreya Talan, Wladir Valderrama Barandiaran, Tom Weaver, Jason White, Romy Yu.

Total Number of Attendees:38

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, at 3:00 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Swapnika Medikonda, Shreya Talan.

Old Business: The previous year's meeting minutes were approved. Five abstracts were submitted (4 RT and 1 short symposium) for the 2026 meeting. Initially none were accepted for the second round. One RT proposal was accepted in collaboration with Retail and Foodservice PDG after revision later. No feedback was received after multiple requests. One webinar planned from last year was given in June! The second is scheduled for August.

The meeting also featured a guest presentation by Keith Rhoades, Intertek.

New Business: The committee discussed recruiting a secretary – all members voted yes. We will proceed with an election. The group agreed to have a secretary for the duration of 1 year with the opportunity to transition to Vice Chair.

Continued efforts will focus on increasing visibility and participation within the PDG. The group agreed we do not have the recognition that microbiology and chemical safety are given.

Multiple ideas for future symposia and round tables were suggested for the 2026–2027 cycle: Limited availability of standardized physical hazard data. Difficulty in establishing regulations due to insufficient industry-wide data. Need for stronger scientific justification when incorporating physical hazards into food safety plans. Physical hazard regulations remain an evolving area requiring additional research and data collection. Existing regulatory thresholds are largely based on industry data and available evidence. Therefore, there is a need for industry to set acceptable thresholds. Utilizing hygienic design for equipment to reduce physical hazards. Linking the concepts of food safety plans, HACCP, and hazard analysis to the lack of physical hazard regulations. The topic of physical hazards through a medical lens will be revisited by Amanda Jones. The impact on cost due to physical hazards, including rework, inspection, audits, etc. Contacting medical and veterinary students to discuss the impact of physical hazards from a different perspective. The marketplace could be utilized. Data modelling and the use of AI were major topics of discussion. Aaron volunteered to take the lead on this. The Food Laws PDG can be a co-

sponsor for a symposium. Melanie agreed to have a discussion with the PDG and provide more information.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Consider that within Food Safety there are 3 hazards recognized: Microbiological, Chemical, and Physical. Please recognize the Physical.

2. Communication is key – help us promote PDGs and share what a “marketplace” is? There is a lot of confusion there. Also can there be a feature in IAFP Connect to send meeting invites for virtual meetings in between the annual meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 18, 2026, Kansas City, MO.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT).

Chairperson Name: Sarah Smith-Simpson.