

Plant-based and Alternative Products Quality and Food Safety

Names of Attendees: Lily Yang (Chair), Deepa Thiagarajan (Vice Chair), Hiroki Abe, Nonyelum Anumba, VM Balasubramaniam, Nate Banner, Adriana Belas, April Bishop, Hanyu Chen, Bhaswati Chowdhury, Toni de Senna, Heidy den Besten, Mary Donaldson, Martin Duplessis, Natoavina Faliarizao, Razieh Farzad, Tong-Jen Fu, Jossie Garthoff, Steven Gendel, Ingrid Huntley, Chyer Kim, Martha Kimber, Christian Kreuter, Sanjay Kumar, Markus Lacorn, Chi-An Lee, Xiang Li, Ingrid Lima, Ana Lima, Yinqing Ma, Richard Magney, Leticia Mallmann, Alejandro Mazzotta, Tomas Moita, Amit Morey, Kristi Muldoon Jacobs, Mike O'Rourke, Sipei Ouyang, Bhavini Patel, Monica Pava-Ripoll, Aaron Pleitner, Brett Podoski, Ruby Ragland, Victor Reyna, Lisa Ross, Mansour Samadpour, Brian Schaneberg, Aditya Sharma, Arlette Shazer, Adrienne Shearer, Ellen Shumaker, Panos Skandamis, Catarina Sousa, Lauryn Strong, Janiah Thomas, Evangelia Tsara, Ron Van Santen, Irit Weiser, Xinran Xu, Marcel Zwietering.

Total Number of Attendees: 59

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026, 10:30 AM CT

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lily Yang, who welcomed participants and provided time for opening introductions. Attendees were reminded to download and sync the conference app, follow Robert's Rules of Order, use microphones for accessibility, and attend the New Member Information Session. Updates were provided on staying connected through IAFP Connect and weekly communications. The PDG mission statement and scope were displayed and reviewed. The minutes from the previous meeting, led by Aaron Pleitner, were reviewed and key topics highlighted. Lily Yang moved to approve the previous year's meeting minutes; the motion passed unanimously. The group then reviewed the current mission statement, discussing potential revisions regarding label claims, functionality, nutritional and health benefits, and clarification on cell-cultured products. Deepa Thiagarajan agreed to draft the updated scope for further discussion. Lily Yang moved to close old business, seconded by Deepa Thiagarajan and Steve Gendel, and the motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

The group reviewed session proposal outcomes, noting a 42% acceptance rate for submitted proposals. Highlights were shared for upcoming poster sessions, technical talks, and specific roundtable and two-hour sessions (RT17, RT19, S62, S63, S64) covering ingredient

sourcing, FSIS risk assessment, and regulatory oversight. Members with postponed sessions were encouraged to adapt them into webinars or resubmit for IAFP 2027 in Kansas City. Requirements for webinar proposals and international listening/discussion sessions were presented. Following agenda updates, breakout discussions were conducted across four main thematic areas: Test Method Validation, Cell-Cultured Products, Microbial Risk and Hazards, and Chemical Risk and Hazards. Summary reports from the breakout groups emphasized developing webinars and roundtables on time-temperature controls, mathematical modeling, cumulative ingredient risks, heavy metals/mycotoxins, allergen risks, matrix extraction challenges in partnership with the ALM PDG, Clostridium botulinum risk assessment, and bridge building between academic education and industry practices.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the approval of Deepa Thiagarajan as Vice Chair of the Plant-Based and Alternative Products Quality and Food Safety PDG.
2. Recommend that IAFP explore ways to promote information and research updates from student members across IAFP communication channels.
3. Recommend considering starting the official IAFP Annual Meeting conference program on Saturday (rather than Sunday) to ensure maximum attendance and participation in PDG meetings.

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

Chairperson: Lily Yang

Meeting Adjourned: 12:30 PM CT

Chairperson Name: Lily Yang