

Webinar Committee

Names of Members Present: Joshua Gurtler (Chair), Michael Batz, Alvin Lee, PC Vasavada, Humberto Maldonado

New Members Present:

Board/Staff Present: Manan Sharma, Dina Siedenburg

Visitors: Betsy Craig, Aaron Patch

Number of Attendees: 9

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 26, 2026 at 10:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Dina Siedenburg

Old Business: Discussed creating webinar guidelines and having Webinar Committee approve before sending to the Executive Board.

New Business: Manan discussed having partnerships (outside associations) for webinars.

Manan suggested developing a *Cyclospora* outbreak update webinar for September.

Discussion on specific ways to solicit webinars from unrepresented IAFP PDGs, including asking PDGs to assign a Webinar Liaison. Joshua mentioned this underrepresentation at the Committee/PDG Chair breakfast on Tuesday and will follow up with the PDG leadership on getting more PDGs involved.

Recommended additions to the webinar submission form that includes the questions: *“Have you presented this information at IAFP?”* and *“How many webinars have you been involved with in the last year?”*

Discussion on whether we’re becoming too top-heavy with some topics, and/or if we should set limits on the number of annual webinars that can be presented by the same panelist. Further discussion is needed at the next virtual meeting.

Discussion on issue pertaining to industry speakers and consultants using webinars as a commercialization platform (e.g., speakers are sometimes including company names or logos either on (1) their slides, or (2) on their virtual video background). Angela Annandapa (Vice Chair) submitted non-commercialization guidelines that she developed, which we could modify for webinars.

Recommended IAFP-branded slide template for webinar presentations.

Discussion on issues that have been seen relating to webinar attendees making unauthorized recordings of webinars. The suggestion was made to add a copyright symbol on IAFP-branded webinar slides.

Discussed bringing 1-3 additional Webinar Committee Members in to review proposed webinars for approval, modification, or rejection.

Discussion on receiving the list of rejected symposia/roundtables to reach out directly to the ones who did not say, *“would be willing to present this as a webinar”* to see if they have changed their minds and would now be willing to submit as a webinar proposal.

Discussed the drafted *“official webinar guidelines for creating effective webinars”* that Dina wrote (reviewed/edited by Joshua and Angela). Joshua will send this again to the rest of the committee for final feedback before Executive Committee review and potential implementation.

Discussed exploring AI content-checking systems and their application to webinars. Elsevier indicates that their best detectors still have a $\geq 20\%$ false-positive rate, thus the practicality of using such a tool is questionable. We may table this issue for now.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend creating an IAFP-branded slide template slide template for webinar presentations.
2. Recommend adding the questions to the submission form: *“Have you presented this information at IAFP or another meeting,”* and *“How many webinars have you been involved with in the last year?”*.
3. Recommend asking the PDGs to assign a webinar liaison who can work with the webinar committee to balance webinar topics, especially from underrepresented PDGs.
4. Recommend the committee review the Policy on Commercialism that Angela Andappa created for another purpose to potentially model these guidelines for webinar organizers.
5. Recommend creating IAFP-branded slides to use as a template and adding a copyright symbol on these slides.
6. Recommend adding Betsy Craig to the committee.

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

Meeting Adjourned: *12:04 PM*

Chairperson Name: Joshua Gurtler