

Food Law PDG

Names of Attendees: April Bishop (Chair), Jennifer McEntire (Vice Chair), Maryam Ajasa, John Allan, Nas Chaudhary, Hanyu Chen, Troy Corley, Ada Cowan, Betsy Craig, Vanessa Cranford, Sabahnur Demirci, Carol Dlima, Mary Donaldson, Melanie Downs, Monijesu Fadamiro, Christina Ferreira, Sean Foster, Steven Gendel, Alison Griffino, Sanjay Gummalla, Anushuya Guragain, Leslie Hintz, Taryn Horr, Farnaz Izadi, Justyce Jedlicka, Monica Jiang, Peter Kennedy, Jens Kjaer, Vijay Krishna, Glenda Lewis, Quanhong Li, Vanessa Lindstrom, Craig Llewellyn, John LoPorto, Jeff Lucas, Deon Mahoney, Ixnorisilda Matthews, Rachel McEgan, Steven Mesia, Benjamin Miller, Paola Moncada, Emily Moyer, James Nasella, Melanie Neumann, Sergio Nieto Chávez, Katie Overbey, Akenio Patterson, Grishma Prabhukhot, Ruby Ragland, Vasuki Ramakrishnan, Karina Rodriguez, Christopher Rupert, Pratiksha Shrestha, Julie Simcox, Ivy Smith, Nakia Smith, Matthew Stasiewicz, Janiah Thomas, Angela Valadez, Wladir Valderrama Barandiaran, Akhila Vasan, Tammy Walsky, Tom Weaver, Amy Wise, Beth Wittenauer, Jamie Woodside, Xiaojing Zhou.

Total Number of Attendees: 66.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:00 p.m., Sunday, July 26, 2026.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Pratiksha Shrestha.

Old Business: The meeting commenced with a call to order, and a welcome was extended to all attendees. Antitrust guidelines were reviewed. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share how many years they have participated with IAFP. Minutes from the 2025 annual meeting were reviewed and approved, with no recommendations to the Board.

New Business: All sessions sponsored by the Food Law PDG this year were shared with the group. The new Vice Chair, Jennifer McEntire, was announced and introduced.

Student Liaison Pratiksha presented slides on the activities and initiatives of the Student PDG during the 2025 to 2026 year and the scope to collaborate with the Food Law PDG. The main discussion this year centered on chemical hazard enforcement, with the group exploring how the food industry can approach chemical hazards with the same rigor applied to microbial hazards, including building programs, conducting risk analysis, and determining appropriate responses when a hazard or elevated risk is identified.

The discussion noted that action levels have not been established for many heavy metals, and that whether a level is considered too high can depend on the intended consumer, since a level acceptable for adults may be unsafe for children. Arsenic and pending infant formula legislation were cited as examples, along with the challenge of defining the target population and the related liability and supply chain concerns. The group agreed that chemical hazards are equally important as microbial hazards and deserve a similar level of understanding and concern for food safety, and discussed collaborating with other PDGs, such as the Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy Professional Development Group. The group also discussed the intersection of state and federal law, noting a rise in state level bills to ban certain ingredients and the growing influence of state activity on federal policy, and the role of artificial intelligence, noting that AI cannot perform a complete hazard analysis or replace verification and should be used wisely.

The group then broke into small groups to develop session ideas for the 2027 annual meeting. Groups brainstormed for approximately 30 minutes, focused on chemical hazards, understanding risk by intended use, visibility to liability, state versus federal law, and the use of AI. The breakout topics and suggested program formats reported back to the PDG are summarized below:

Chemical hazards and understanding risk by intended use: Symposium; roundtable case study.

Visibility to liability: Discussion panel, workshop, or roundtable, State versus federal law: To be determined, Use of AI: Webinar, symposium, or roundtable.

Key dates noted were the next PDG submission meeting in August, the roundtable and symposium submission deadline of September 30, 2026, and the abstract submission deadline of January 12, 2027. The group then took a group picture together.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend Jennifer McIntire as incoming Vice Chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 18 to July 21, 2027, Kansas City, MO.

Meeting Adjourned at: 2:30 p.m. Sunday, July 26, 2026.

Chairperson: April Bishop.