

International Food Protection Issues

Attendees: Constanza Vergara (Chair), Alvin Lee (Vice Chair), Amelia Ball, Richa Bedi Navik, Les Bourquin, Jessica Burke, Erin Crowley, Sweta Deb, Nicola Dermer, Maura Di Martino, Bennett Dzandu, Jeffrey Farber, Amanda Fernandes, Elise Forward, Rashmi Gaikwad, Francisco Garces-Vega, Kelly Getty, Fabiana Guglielmone, Jean-Paul Hategekimana, Rachel Hazen, Andrea Hines, Ingrid Huntley, Indu Aashritha Idumalla, Ian Jenson, Monica Jiang, Rob Kooijmans, Bobby Krishna, Jeffrey LeJeune, Natalia Lopresti, Deon Mahoney, Yoshinori Mizoguchi, Rose Omari, Jennifer Quinlan, Christophe Quiring, Anne Rölfing, Jenny Scott, William Shaw, Aswathi Soni, Katherine Swanson, Magaly Toro, Rosalia Trias Mansilla, Laís Zanin, Xiaojing Zhou, Marcel Zwietering.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday 26 July 2026 at 3:04 p.m.

Introduction of attendees to the PDG meeting.

The meeting agenda was approved, the anti-trust guidelines were reviewed and announcements from the IAFP Board was conveyed to the members.

Objectives of the PDG and its current initiatives (Regulatory System Summaries) were explained and communicated to the members. The current state of IAFP 2026 meeting, the number of attendees (3100) and the sold out exhibit hall were communicated to the members. Also IAFP Europe will now be held on alternate years with the next meeting at Copenhagen, Denmark (28-30 April) in 2027. Proposals for symposia and roundtables are due 21 September 2026 and call for abstracts are due 19 October, 2026.

The IFPI PDG would like to thank the faculty, staff and students of LSU for their assistance at IAFP 2026.

Old Business: IAFP Executive Board approved the Vice-Chair of IFPI PDG, Alvin Lee appointment.

On the recommendation of a process to carry forward sessions of international presenters not able to get visa approval for travel to the USA – The IAFP Board understands the frustration and uncertainty of visa applications application and suggest proposals to be resubmitted the following year to ensure relevance of the topic.

On the recommendation to the IAFP Executive Board to defer symposia and roundtable submission dates to a later date – The Board decide not to change the datelines.

New Business: The sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by IFPI PDG were highlighted and the PDG has a good number of sessions that were accepted. There were also good number of submissions that were not accepted and encouraged for resubmission or can be converted to webinar.

Nominations for Vice-Chair of IFPI PDG to start during IAFP 2027 at Kansas City. Nominations considered from government or private sector so as to have balanced representation. However, all nominations are accepted.

Introduction of Student Liaison – Rashmi Gaikwad, Kansas State University.

Dr. Erin Crowley, Neogen, provided updates on the Regulatory Systems Summaries (RSS) Working Group. Dr. Crowley went through the background of how the initiative came out and the need to highlight the food safety and regulatory policies of various countries. This has been the collaborative work of the PDG members. One of the first objective is the submission of the first RSS group (USA, Canada and Mexico) to be published in *FPT*, second one will be South America, and Asia and Oceania to round up 2026 publication. In 2027, the RSS Working Group will focus on Africa, EU and UK.

One of the objective of the RSS Working Group is to have a depository for future reference and use by IAFP Members.

The PDG intends to host webinars (topics TBD) and including RSS and interested members are encouraged to submit topics and join in the effort. Once RSS is completed, the PDG will need to consider how updates will be implemented.

Dr. Quincy Lissaur presented an invited discussion topic on “The future approach of Food Safety to Support Global Trade, Food Security and Sustainability. Provided background of SSAFE and its mission.

Update of FAO/JEMRA activities and their work to support food safety and food security was provided by Dr. Jeff Lejune. Also antimicrobial resistant bacteria was recently published in *JFP* (vol. 89, Sept 2026, 100857).

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0362028X26001626>

Ideas for 2027 Program Submission due 29 September 2026 (Symposia and Roundtables) and abstracts due 10 January 2027.

September 2026 meeting to have discussion on webinars and PDG meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

Rephrase PDG previous second recommendation –

- In relation to the participation of attendees from other non-U.S. countries and who do not have visa waiver facilitation, the board could explore ways to help these people in the process, either through a letter that authorizes their participation as a speaker in IAFP, or taking the proposals of these people in their evaluation as a priority so that if they are accepted they have more time to do the visa processes. There are cases of countries where not only is the process long, but the application for a visa interview can take months to schedule and then go through the process.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:40 p.m.

Chairperson Name: Constanza Vergara

Vice Chairperson Name: Alvin Lee.