

# RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

## COUNCILS

### Affiliate Council

1. The Affiliate Council recommends that Minto Michael be appointed as the next Affiliate Council Secretary.

**Board Response:** The Board recommends that the eligibility of Minto Michael be verified before appointing him as Affiliate Council Secretary.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

None.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Food Protection Trends Management Committee

1. Appoint Connie Fisk as Vice Chair.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Make *FPT* open-access six months after the publication date.

**Board Response:** Approved. Board recommends considering a shorter “embargo” period for articles published in *FPT* and encourages the committee to re-evaluate this at their next meeting to align with *JFP* and make fully open access from date of publication.

3. Appoint an Associate Editor for *FPT*.

**Board Response:** The Board is in favor of this idea and asks for more detailed information about a timeline, responsibilities, and job description for the proposed associate editor position.

4. Appoint a consultant to support *FPT* in its strategic planning initiative.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this idea and will contact Judy Luther of Informed Strategies LLC to take on this role.

5. Honor outstanding reviewer(s); selected by the Scientific Editor/IAFP team to highlight at the Editorial Board Reception.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this idea and would suggest establishing criteria and rubric for review by the Board.

6. Modify and adopt a similar policy to Elsevier’s language for the AI policy in *FPT* (that is used by *JFP*).

**Board Response:** The Board approves this idea and will work with the Editor to update the *FPT* Instructions for Authors.

7. Allow book reviews in *FPT* under the general interest category: with approval by the Scientific Editor in advance.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this idea and would like to see the criteria established for submitting book reviews (open invitation, Editor-assigned, etc.)

### Journal of Food Protection Management Committee

1. To reappoint Marion Castle and Valentina Trinetta to another term on the *JFP* Management Committee.

**Board Response:** The Board approved these appointments in Spring 2023.

2. To appoint Alvin Lee, Erin Crowley, Sarita Raengradub, Dan Weller, and Kerry Bridges to the *JFP* Management Committee.

**Board Response:** The Board approved these appointments in Spring 2023.

3. To create a yearly award or recognition for outstanding peer reviewer(s) for the journal, which the scientific editors will develop criteria and select.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this idea and would suggest establishing criteria and rubric for review by the Board.

4. To create a statement or policy restricting and/or discouraging the use of colloquialisms or slang in *JFP*, which will be based upon the practice of the Annual Meeting Program Committee and enforced by the scientific editors.

**Board Response:** The Board approves and recommends that this guidance be incorporated into the Instructions for Authors for *JFP*.

## Program Committee

None.

## SPECIAL COMMITTEES

### 3-A Committee on Sanitary Procedures

None.

#### Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness

1. CCFI recommends Laura Gieraltowski be named Vice-Chair.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. CCFI respectfully recommends improving the webinar submission tracking through the online website. Submitters should receive a confirmation, possibly automated, that the submission was received so it can be referenced in future follow up discussion.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this recommendation and the IAFP staff will work on the acknowledgment process.

3. CCFI recommends revising the mission statement of the committee in the bylaws to better reflect the goals and current activities of the committee. The committee will provide suggested revised text prior to the Board's fall meeting.

**Board Response:** The Board looks forward to reviewing this mission statement.

4. CCFI recommends revising the criteria for the Ewen C.D. Todd Award to better reflect its original intent to primarily recognize major accomplishments in the field of foodborne disease epidemiology, outbreak investigation, and related public health work. The committee will provide the Board with suggested revised text prior to the Board's fall meeting.

**Board Response:** The Board will pass this suggestion on to the Awards Committee.

#### Constitution and Bylaws Committee

1. The committee recommends that the Executive Board review our suggestion to modify bylaws section 5c3 by adding the following text: Executive Board will appoint an Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal of Food Protection* from within the ranks of Current Scientific Editors for the *Journal of Food Protection*. The Editor-in-Chief will be appointed to a 4-year

term, renewable until the end of that Scientific Editor's term or 4 more years. The appointee should have already served at least one year as Scientific Editor. The Board will establish appropriate compensation for the Editor-in-Chief.

Explanation: The intent of the committee from this Response is that Scientific Editors will serve a maximum of 12 years. An Editor-in-Chief could serve a maximum of 16 years (including time as a Scientific Editor and time as Editor in Chief).

**Board Response:** The Board approves the modification and will announce the proposed change to the IAFP Bylaws in the *IAFP Report* in April and a vote will be held at the 2024 IAFP Business meeting.

2. Committee recommends that the Executive Board appoint Nate Anderson as Constitution and Bylaws Committee Vice-Chair.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### Foundation Committee

1. Request that we allow ADA Service Animals to be included in the Dependent Care Grant.

Board Response: Approved.

2. Request that we allow last-minute entries for emergency situations be included in the Dependent Care Grant.

**Board Response:** Approved.

3. Request to add Laura Strawn and Claire Murphy as members of the Foundation Committee.

**Board Response:** The Board will take this into consideration when Committee appointments are made.

#### Membership Committee

None.

#### Nominating Committee

None.

#### Past Presidents' Committee

1. The Committee recommends that IAFP policies outlining membership continuity requirements for IAFP Fellows and Honorary Life Membership Awards be amended to remove the word "continuous." Should there be a break in membership during the required time period, the

Committee recommends that the Awards Committee consider the contribution of the nominee to IAFP or affiliates prior to and after the break when evaluating the strength of the nomination.

**Board Response:** The Board will provide this recommendation to the Awards Committee for its consideration.

2. The Committee recommends that the Board consider recognition at the Opening Ceremony of Past Presidents who have passed away during the previous year; the means of doing so being the prerogative of the Board.

**Board Response:** The Board will incorporate a "moment of silence" into the Opening Session for recognition of IAFP members who have passed.

3. Given the extent of enhanced food safety regulations and food safety certification over the last 10 years, the Committee recommends that the Board continue to evaluate innovative means to encourage membership by young professionals such as, for example, provision of member-sponsored and funded "certificates with a one-year introductory membership."

**Board Response:** IAFP staff will examine methods to track and recognize introductory memberships sponsored by current IAFP Members.

### Webinar Committee

1. Mechanism to provide submitters with a way to get assistance with webinar submission. We suggest a webinar on webinars, or direction to other written content to aid with submission and a check box on the submission form to specifically request help in a nearly finished proposal.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this Response and suggests working with the DEI Council on a "webinar-on-webinars."

2. Consider accessibility for webinars (e.g., closed captioning) and consider changing the platform for webinars to something other than GoToMeeting due to lack of accessibility features.

**Board Response:** IAFP staff will investigate if closed captioning and translation is available on GoTo Meeting, and examine other platforms for Webinars.

3. Receipt of submission of webinar form to inform submitters that their request has been received.

**Board Response:** The Board approves this recommendation and the IAFP staff will work on the acknowledgement process.

4. Providing increased publicity of IAFP and webinar programming on LinkedIn to help reach international audience.

**Board Response:** IAFP staff will focus on marketing and promotional efforts for webinars on LinkedIn.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

#### Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG

None.

#### Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG

1. If we are to propose a workshop (1 to 2 days), would there be funding and support from IAFP?

**Board Response:** IAFP does provide funding for workshops. Contact the IAFP staff for assistance with developing a workshop proposal.

2. Understandably, animal food is not traditionally a focus of IAFP. The PDG members showed great appreciation for the establishment and healthy growth of this PDG and would appreciate very much that the Board promotes this PDG whenever possible.

**Board Response:** IAFP does promote the activities of all Professional Development Groups and encourages participation. Please provide your ideas for increased promotion and involvement with other partners.

#### Applied Laboratory Methods PDG

1. Recommend that the Board approve Dan DeMarco as Chair and Julie Weller as incoming Vice-Chair for the Applied Laboratory Methods PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Recommend that the Board Announcements take place at a time different than the beginning of each PDG meeting. For people attending multiple PDG meetings, this information is repetitive, delays the PDG in getting into the official business, and takes up a significant amount of time.

**Board Response:** The Board will work on creative methods to distribute the updates to the Professional Development Groups.

3. Recommend that the Board improve the functionality of the IAFP Meeting App.

**Board Response:** If there are specific issues to be addressed, please share these with the IAFP staff.

4. Recommend to the board that the Annual Meeting location includes more international destinations. According to the first word in its name, IAFP is an international association and therefore should include more international locations for the annual meeting.

**Board Response:** The Annual Meeting is traditionally held in North America and we hold IAFP-sponsored meetings outside of the U.S. and Canada (European Food Safety Symposium, The Latin American Symposium, the Asia-Pacific Symposium). IAFP encourages our affiliates to be active around the world.

#### **Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG**

None.

#### **Dairy Quality and Safety PDG**

None.

#### **Data Management and Analytics PDG**

None.

#### **Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG**

None.

#### **Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG**

1. The FCHFA PDG had great participation at the 10 AM session. All the chairs were filled and we had another 20+ standing in the back of the room. Next year, we are requesting a larger room with more seating.

**Board Response:** IAFP staff will certainly take this into account for IAFP 2024. The Board is excited to learn of the strong support and participation within the Food Chemical and Hazards and Food Allergy PDG.

#### **Food Defense PDG**

None.

#### **Food Fraud Prevention PDG**

None.

#### **Food Hygiene and Sanitation PDG**

None.

#### **Food Law PDG**

1. The current mission statement for the Food Law PDG is, "To provide an international forum for the exchange of information on the scientific issues associated with food laws, regulations and policy." After discussion, the Food Law PDG voted to edit the mission statement as follows:

"To provide an international forum for the exchange of information on the risks and scientific issues associated with food laws, regulations and policy."

**Board Response:** The Board would like to ask for clarification on the language. Is the PDG discussing actual risks associated with actual law/regulation, or the risk addressed by the law?

#### **Food Packaging PDG**

None.

#### **Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG**

1. Betsy Craig is recommended for approval as Vice-Chair. Jennifer Lott is recommended to progress from Vice Chair to Chair effective at the close of the meeting.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### **Food Safety Culture PDG**

1. Recommend the approval of Tia Glave to Vice-Chair of the PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### **Food Safety Education PDG**

1. Dr. Ellen Shumaker recommended as the Vice-Chair of the Food Safety Education PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Since IAFP and IFT take place at the same time, members request that the Board avoids conflicts for other major associations' meetings in the future.

**Board Response:** IAFP has always considered the timing of other scientific meetings in the Annual Meeting planning process and shares timing with other organizations.

3. Members would like the Association to support students traveling to IAFP when they have to acquire a visa.

**Board Response:** IAFP routinely provides a letter of support to assist attendees in attending the Annual Meeting.

4. A member suggested that the Education PDG have a stronger focus on university students in Food Science and developing their education skills.

**Board Response:** The Board would like more clarification on what the PDG is requesting.

5. A PDG member asked that the Board consider scheduling sponsored symposia/roundtables at different times from each other. This year, two PDG-sponsored symposia are at the same time.

**Board Response:** We will do our best to avoid conflicts with simultaneous sessions sponsored by the same PDGs and addressing the same topics.

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG**

1. PDG Members support the continued implementation of the breakout portion of the meeting and therefore would like the board to consider the room configuration for the PDG. Roundtables with areas to move around would be beneficial.

**Board Response:** Due to limited space and logistics in convention centers, it is not possible to alter the configurations of meeting rooms during PDG sessions. There may be other / alternative spaces in the convention center to utilize.

2. Consider organizing a local tour (with registration cap) to showcase a food facility, farm, or business that provides food safety services in each host city during the annual meeting.

**Board Response:** The PDG is welcome to organize a tour of a facility or farm on their own or as a part of a Workshop.

#### **HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG**

1. Appoint Dr. Lone Jespersen as the new Vice-Chair of the PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Introduce HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG Student Award for IAFP 2024.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### **International Food Protection Issues PDG**

1. Recommend approval of Constanza Vergara Escobar as Vice-Chair of the International Food Protection Issues PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Take initiative to speed-up visa applications for many international participants, either as IAFP or jointly with other scientific associations.

**Board Response:** IAFP routinely provides a letter of support to assist attendees in attending the Annual meeting. IAFP staff will investigate other routes to support these applications and appreciate any initiatives of which the PDG is aware.

3. Ask the Executive Board to host a session where is possible to connect PDGs where broader links can be made, including the high-level views across the board.

**Board Response:** The Board would like clarification on this recommendation. We currently hold the Chair/Vice-Chairperson Meeting and the Chairperson Breakfast to provide networking and sharing of best practices

4. Compliment the Executive Board for the initiatives of making the webinars available in June for free which gave access to less privileged people and for making *JFP* open access.

**Board Response:** Thank you!

#### **Low-Water Activity Foods PDG**

None.

#### **Meat and Poultry Safety and Quality PDG**

1. The PDG recommends approval of Dr. Alexandra Calle as Vice-Chair of the Meat and Poultry PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### **Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG**

1. We are writing to request your consideration in approving a change to the Microbial Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG, as discussed during our last

Professional Development Group (PDG) meeting in Toronto. The PDG membership voted overwhelmingly in favor of expanding the scope of this group by renaming it to Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG, over 80% of PDG members agreed to this name change, with a strong turnout of over 83% participation. This change will allow the PDG to apply its expertise beyond microbial hazards to other areas like chemicals. Given this PDG's specialized knowledge in modeling and risk analysis, we believe broadening its purview will provide value. On behalf of the PDG, we kindly ask that you formally consider and approve this name change at the upcoming board meeting to align with the group's expanded focus. The PDG leadership is confident this change will enable the group to better serve the organization and its members.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### Physical Hazards and Foreign Material PDG

1. Recommend appointing Byron Chaves as the Chair and Gale Beard as the Vice-Chair

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### Plant-Based Alternative Products Quality and Food Safety PDG

None.

#### Pre-Harvest Food Safety PDG

1. Recommends Dr. Camila Rodrigues (Auburn University) to serve as the PDG Chair for the next 2 years. There is a call for Vice-Chair nominations.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### Retail and Foodservice PDG

1. The Retail and Foodservice PDG would like to avoid overlapping with Food Safety Culture PDG and Data Management and Analytics PDG.

**Board Response:** All efforts will be made to avoid this scheduling conflict.

#### Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design PDG

1. Recommend to approve the appointment of Jason White to the position of Vice-Chairperson.

**Board Response:** Approved.

#### Seafood Safety and Quality PDG

1. Approve Jacqueline Woods and Evelyn Watts as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Recommend the Board avoid scheduling student events during the 1 p.m. PDGs to ensure appropriate dissemination of information and record keeping or provide a volunteer. For example, provide a student scan badges upon entry into PDG and provide a student to give the student PDG updates.

**Board Response:** To accommodate all the PDGs and to allow students to be involved in all student-related activities, IAFP staff will make alternative arrangements for badge scanning.

#### Student PDG

1. Recommend approval of Ivannova Lituma for Vice-Chair of the Student PDG.

**Board Response:** Approved.

2. Recommend having a medium affordable luncheon rate for new professionals along with promoting the inclusion of new professionals in luncheon and mixer.

**Board Response:** IAFP has worked extremely hard to keep the luncheon affordable for students.

3. Recommend providing guidelines or maybe a social media series for first-time attendees at IAFP on getting more involved with SPDG and other networking opportunities at IAFP.

**Board Response:** IAFP is investigating options to provide more guidance for first-time attendees and encourage students to submit ideas to IAFP staff and Board.

4. Recommend a webinar on career-related visas, building on a previous visa-related webinar for professional scientists.

**Board Response:** Please submit a webinar to the Webinar Committee, and if suggestions are needed for speakers on specific topics, contact IAFP staff.

5. Recommend a webinar on providing valuable tips and information on how to attract and engage audience specially focused for those students without teaching backgrounds.

**Board Response:** Please submit a webinar to the Webinar Committee, and if suggestions are needed for speakers on specific topics, contact IAFP staff.

6. Recommend webinars for new professionals discussing how to continue maintaining networking with IAFP.

**Board Response:** Please submit a webinar to the Webinar Committee, and if suggestions are needed for speakers on specific topics, contact IAFP staff.

7. Recommend webinar on writing manuscripts and ideas on networking opportunities with prominent industry professionals.

**Board Response:** Please submit a webinar to the Webinar Committee, and if suggestions are needed for speakers on specific topics, contact IAFP staff.

8. Recommend to issue certificates for the 3MT competition winners and finalists.

**Board Response:** IAFP staff are happy to provide certificates to the 3MT winners.

### **Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG**

1. Sonia Almeria was elected Vice-Chair of the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG on April 19, 2023. We recommend that this is approved by the Executive Board.

**Board Response:** Approved.

### **Water Safety and Quality PDG**

1. Can we have a way for the recordings and presentations from the Annual Meeting to go into a single folder after the conference?

**Board Response:** The platform IAFP uses does not allow recordings and presentations to be organized this way.

2. Offer options to rejected symposium/roundtable at earlier decision-making timepoints so that rejected symposium/roundtable can be turned into webinars throughout the year to avoid the majority of webinars being submitted in spring.

**Board Response:** IAFP will work with the Webinar and Program Committees to provide timely communication.

3. Pro-rated registration for individuals travelling from developing economy countries.

**Board Response:** The Board is exploring ways to support reduced registration costs for attendees from countries with developing economies.

4. Avoid having cross-cutting meetings during the other PDG meetings (e.g., editorial board meetings).

**Board Response:** IAFP tries to avoid conflicts as much as possible during Annual Meeting.

5. Can we update the schedule, so we spread PDGs/Committees across the conference (e.g., split them and the sessions across Sunday-Wednesday).

**Board Response:** In-person PDG meetings will remain on Sunday. PDGs are free to meet virtually throughout the year.

6. Could PDG meetings be an hour (e.g., some updates and procedural activities are done via email or pre-meeting Zooms), change some PDGs to every other year.

**Board Response:** IAFP will be offering different lengths of meeting times for PDGs in 2024.