VIEW FROM THE CHAIR: Recent and Upcoming Events!

The first 2024 Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting took place on March 19.

I want to apologize for my last-minute absence for this meeting due to a flight reschedule. However, I listened to the recording, and received feedback from some of the attendees, so I must say that the meeting was quite productive! We received lots of good input from the Delegates and participants who joined from various time zones.

There was continued discussion regarding those Affiliates who continue to struggle to remain active, especially after the recent dissolution of the Texas Association for Food Protection. This is very sad, and we must realize that additional efforts must be made to help our Affiliates stay healthy and active. Tim Jackson, IAFP President, took part in this meeting and provided good suggestions about career development regarding Affiliate Membership in trying to gain more involvement. Recruiting students and young professionals is one of the top ways to assure the continuity of our Affiliates. But to do that, we need to be proactive and perhaps change the ways in which we communicate (more digitally and interactively as the younger generations do). We know some Affiliates are doing an excellent job regarding communications, and I encourage them to share their best practices with all of us in future meetings. If you’re an IAFP Member and are on IAFP Connect, you can review the recording for this meeting.

Next, we are approaching the celebration of World Food Safety Day. Celebrated every June 7 since 2019 and jointly facilitated by WHO and FAO, this international day aims to draw attention and inspire action to help prevent, detect, and manage foodborne risks, contributing to food security, human health, economic prosperity, agriculture, market access, tourism, and sustainable development. This year’s theme, “Food Safety: Prepare for the Unexpected,” draws attention to food safety incidents and underlines the importance of being prepared for them, no matter the severity, no matter the part of the food chain in which we are involved. From farm to fork, everyone has a role to play, everyone should be a risk manager, and we should all ask if we are prepared to deal with unexpected threats to food safety in an increasingly interconnected (and complex) global food supply.

It was interesting while exploring WHO’s website to review the toolkit prepared to support this year’s celebration. But I want to reinforce some elements that are key when we face the ‘unexpected.’

(Continued on page 2)
It’s mandatory to have a validated Food Safety Management System (FSMS) covering all necessary elements to prevent consumer safety incidents. And the FSMS must be alive and verified constantly through an audit program. It’s also important to be prepared to act in case of failure, so preparedness to respond to a consumer safety incident is also key. To do so, it is necessary to develop an incident management procedure with detailed information on key stakeholders, communication rules (internal and external), and step-by-step processes to perform a complete and fast risk assessment. When an Incident Management Team is created to deal with a potential incident, rapid exchange of information can save lives. Transparent and effective communication among all the stakeholders helps food businesses make the right decisions and implement necessary actions.

In celebration of World Food Safety Day and reinforcing IAFP’s strong commitment to food safety, IAFP’s webinar archive will again be available at no cost to all non-Members throughout the month of June. Feedback received in 2023 was very positive, with more than 9,000 views, and we hope 2024 finds even more professionals and students taking advantage of this great benefit! Please share this news among your colleagues!

Another point is a reminder to all Delegates and other interested Affiliate Members to join us for our next Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting, rescheduled for Thursday, May 30, 3:00–4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), which is a change from the original date of May 28. An agenda and instructions on how to join will be sent prior to the meeting through IAFP Connect (are you a Member yet?). If you have a specific topic for discussion, please send it to me or Susan Smith (ssmith@foodprotection.org). I hope you can attend on May 30!

In closing, please register for IAFP 2024 in Long Beach, California, July 14–17. Early registration rates end June 17, so save some significant money by registering by then (especially if you’re an IAFP Member). We’re also seeking items to be included in the Silent Auction that takes place at every Annual Meeting. Consider bringing a unique item(s) from your location to the meeting (or send it with someone if you’re unable to attend). The diversity of our Affiliates is reflected among the wonderful items donated.

Stay safe, and I hope to see you soon!

Fabiana Guglielmone
Fabiana Guglielmone
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Blanca Caballero, Director, Maricopa Co. Environmental Services Department; Chris Reimus, Deputy Director, Pinal Co. Public Health Services District; and Michelle Dimaggio, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Contra Costa Health, Environmental Health & National Environmental Health Association Region 2 Vice President – “Environmental Health Leaders Panel Discussion: Challenges and Prospects in Environmental Health”;

Troy Hayes (above), Director, City of Phoenix Water Services Department – “Phoenix’s Regional Approach to Advance Purified Water”;

Ericka Huston, Preparedness Assistant Director, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs – “Environmental Health Considerations within Emergency Management”;

Keynote Speaker John Marcello, Senior Advisor to the Director of the Office of State Cooperative Programs, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (retired) – “The Disciplines for Food Safety Leaders.”

The Affiliate hosted eight exhibitors, a leadership luncheon, and an evening mixer. The atmosphere was professional with fun thrown in through trivia, word clouds, and conference raffles including great AZEHA-branded gifts – and much humor!

The meeting capped off with AZEHA President Andres Martin awarding its first-ever Annual Award to John Marcello. John’s family and former colleagues were in attendance (in person and virtually) to witness the unveiling of the John Marcello Beacon of Light Award. This apropos award not only honored John but is an esteemed honor to AZEHA to create a legacy award in his name, which communicates a great significance to its future recipients, while also giving a lasting meaning for honoring a quintessential leader within the environmental health profession.

Australia Association for Food Protection: Two-Day Event Co-Organized with Others

Reported by Mark Turner, Secretary

The Australia Association for Food Protection (AAFP) co-organized the Australian Food Microbiology Conference on March 13 – 14, 2024, at Graduate House in Melbourne. Other organizers included the Australian Institute for Food Science and Technology (AIFST) and the Australian Society for Microbiology (ASM). This year’s theme was “Microbes on the Menu: Small Science for a Big World from Safety to Sustainability.”

The conference was presented as an in-person event offering a two-day program rich in content. Keynote speakers and topics from around the world included:

Manpreet Singh (above), Professor, University of Georgia, USA, and IAFP Vice President – “Campylobacter and Salmonella Quantification Challenges in Poultry”;

Beatrix Alsanius, Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden – “Vibes from the Salad Bowl”; and

Steve Flint, Professor, Massey University, New Zealand – “A Near-Death Experience – The Botulism Crisis.”

Several Australian-based presenters and topics included:

Julian Cox, Associate Professor, University of New South Wales – “Where are We Heading?”

Dr. Sukhvinder Pal (SP) Singh, New South Wales Department of Primary Industries – “Extreme Weather Events Impact the Microbial Food Safety of Field-Grown Leafy Vegetables”;
AAFP Conference Speakers and Chairs included (from left): Julian Cox, Craig Shadbolt, Anron Dong, Manpreet Singh, and Mark Turner.

Kate Howell, Associate Professor, University of Melbourne – “Microbial Communities for Creating Distinctive, Flavorsome, and Health Food and Beverages”;

Dr. Hugh Dircks, Asahi Beverages – “The Microbiology of Non-Alcoholic Beer – Food Safety and Quality Implications for its Production and Service”; and

Dr. Jay Kocharunchitt, University of Tasmania – “Glucose, a Key Factor to Manipulate Microbial Spoilage of Vacuum-Packed Lamb for Shelf-Life Extension.”

The program structure allowed significant opportunities for networking and collaboration. Our goal was to deliver a professional rewarding experience, providing a platform to make professional contacts and takeaways that elevate knowledge of current issues in food microbiology. The conference attracted 120 attendees from across the entire food industry, as well as food regulators, academic, researchers, and government officials. A dedicated “Emerging Researchers” session included four talks from Ph.D. students and early career researchers, selected from an open access call.

On behalf of the organizing committees, we extend our thanks to IAFP for supporting Dr. Singh’s visit as part of the IAFP Executive Board Speaker Program.

Idaho Environmental Health Association: Joint Conference with Variety of Speakers
Reported by Bonnie Waldemarson, Secretary/Treasurer

The Idaho Environmental Health Association (IEHA) held its 2024 Annual Educational Conference March 19–21, in Boise at the Riverside Hotel. The conference was held in conjunction with the Idaho Solid Waste Association. The majority of attendees work for one of the seven Idaho health districts throughout the state. Thus, some of IEHA’s members work with the states’ landfill and composting operators, making the joint conference a benefit to both associations.

In Idaho, most environmental health specialists are considered generalists, working in all areas the state regulates, including food, onsite sewage, childcare, solid waste, and small public water systems, i.e., One Health that connects human, animal, and environmental health.

Dr. Manan Sharma, USDA/ARS in Beltsville, Maryland, and IAFP Secretary, presented “Produce Safety, Irrigation Water, and Soil Amendments.” This topic was a great addition to the One Health puzzle, helping environmental health specialists work across all environmental health programs covered in Idaho. It proved to be an excellent example of how specialty areas are not compartmentalized.

Valerie Wade, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, talked about how she is helping develop a food safety program but also allows members to continue to serve and enjoy traditional foods.

Faculty and students from Boise State University gave presentations addressing the work force shortage in public health, both at the national and state levels. Cyber security was a topic of concern as the public drinking water program looks to make it a requirement in the future, and infrastructure as a whole is at a risk.

Student Cameron White shared his senior capstone project helping a small water system of 400 customers develop a stronger cybersecurity system.

David Nicoles, Sisu Consulting & Training, discussed conflict management and best ways to help calm situations. Many of the health districts struggle with staff retention, so having tools to help with difficult customers is a benefit.

Kathleen Price, Eastern Idaho Public Health, offered a soils class and discussed the importance of ribbon tests, reviewing sections of state guidance to ensure public health needs are met.

IEHA’s next conference is tentatively planned for March 18–20, 2025 in Boise.

Argentine Food Safety Commission: Joint Conference with Variety of Speakers
Reported by Fabiana Guglielmone, President/Delegate

The Argentine Food Safety Commission (CAIA) held an educational meeting on March 21, 2024 at the Auditorium of Islalud University in Buenos Aires City. The meeting was composed of two relevant food safety topics. A roundtable included national and international experts sharing their experiences on Environmental Monitoring. And a symposium on Microbiology of Water was developed by local specialists.

Sixty attendees took part, with great participation and excellent feedback. It was good to see that the Affiliate is able to continue organizing in-person events after many years of “virtuality.” The interaction among food safety professionals is key, and professional events such as this are excellent ways to build capability and improve networks.

The scientific program covered the following sections:

Potable Water – Regulations and Microbiology Testing
Josefina Cabrera, ANMAT–INAL – “National
Regulation and Microbiological Criteria for Drinking Water*;

Ana Paula Comino, Obras, Sanitarias Mar del Plata, OSSE – “Sampling, Transport, and Storage of Water Samples for Microbiological Analysis”;

Mariana C. Gilbert, Obras Sanitarias Mar del Plata, OSSE – “Reference Methodology for Coliforms and E. coli Testing”;

Maria Soledad Samiguet, ANMAT–INAL – “Reference Methodologies for Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Mesophilic Microorganisms”; and

Maria Elena Corona, IDEXX, JENCK S.A. – “Rapid Methods Implementation.”

Environmental Monitoring
Oscar López, Professor, Consulto, UNL – “Microbiological Environmental Monitoring Program – Basics for Proper Implementation”;

Juan Martín Oteiza, CIATI, CONICET – “EMP in a Food Processing Factory – A Practical Approach”; and

Michelle Fontanot, Neogen – “Environmental Monitoring: Tuning Data into Information for Decision Making.”

Missouri Environmental Health Association: More Than 150 Attendees
Reported by Nathan Mirdamadi, President/Delegate

The Missouri Environmental Health Association (MEHA) held its Annual Education Conference on April 3–5, 2024, at the Oasis Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield. A great attendance included 157 registrations, 14 of which were first-time students. Ten exhibitors also took part. MEHA is an Affiliate of both IAFP and NEHA.

On April 2, a Pre-Conference Workshop was held on CIP, drawing 38 registered attendees.

Day 1 of the meeting included a BEHS Update from Dusty Johnson, MODHSS Bureau Chief, and an FDA Update from Becky Stiener, FDA Retail Food Specialist. Eric Burlison, U.S. Congressman, also provided an Office Update.

Day 2 included Food Processing, Food, and Environmental sessions. The Business Meeting followed with the following officers elected:

President: Rick Heiman
President-Elect: Tiffany Klassen
Vice President: Mark Snyder
Past President/Delegate: Nathan Mirdamadi
Treasurer: Andee Elmore
Secretary: Deb Sees

Those taking part in the conference’s last half-day were:

Tara McKinney, MODHHS – “Medical Marijuana Update”; and


President Nathan Mirdamadi (left) presents the Wilbur S. Feagan Memorial Award to Larry Wickersham during the MEHA Annual Education Conference, held April 3–5, 2024 in Springfield, Missouri.
AFFILIATE NEWS

CONSIDER SERVING ON THE 2024–2025 AFFILIATE COUNCIL

Are you interested in helping represent the interests and goals of your organization’s affiliation with IAFP and learning more about the Association itself? Nominations are now being accepted for Affiliate Council Secretary for the 2024–2025 term, which begins at the close of the Affiliate Council Meeting during IAFP 2024 in Long Beach, California on July 14. This vital position will serve a one-year term as Affiliate Council Secretary, followed by a one-year term as Affiliate Council Chair on the IAFP 2025–2026 Executive Board. Duties include:

- Keeping an accurate record of the proceedings and activities of the Council;
- Assuming the duties of the Affiliate Council Chair in the absence of the Chair;
- Keeping an updated record of authorized representatives to the Council; and
- Serving as an ex-officio, non-voting member of the IAFP Executive Board, which meets four times annually: twice in Des Moines, Iowa and twice at the location of the Annual Meeting.

For more questions about this vital role, contact Fabiana Guglielmone, Affiliate Council Chair, or Susan Smith, Affiliate Liaison.

NEXT AFFILIATE COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 30, 2024

The next Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2024, 3:00–4:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Originally scheduled for May 28, this will be the third and final meeting before Delegates attend the Affiliate Council Meeting on Sunday, July 17, during IAFP 2024 in Long Beach, California. These productive meetings allow our Delegates and other Affiliate representatives to discuss timely topics and issues throughout the year, saving time during the Affiliate Council Meeting at Annual Meeting. Please send your topics to Fabiana Guglielmone or Susan Smith by May 23, 2024.

MARCH 19 AFFILIATE COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING RECORDING AVAILABLE

A recording of the March 19, 2024 Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting can be accessed under the IAFP Connect page on the IAFP website. Hear more about how those in attendance productively discussed the Affiliate group.

IAFP HEADLINES

REGISTRATION/HOUSING OPEN FOR UPCOMING IAFP 2024

Join your food safety colleagues at IAFP’s leading food safety conference. Registration is open for IAFP 2024 in Long Beach, California, July 14–17. Save money and register by June 17, 2024. IAFP offers hotel group rates for this meeting; reserve your room at the same time you register. Rooms go quickly, so don’t wait! Visit the IAFP website for more information.

Five Pre-Meeting Workshops will take place July 12 and July 13 in Long Beach. Visit the Annual Meeting page on the IAFP website to review topics and dates for each workshop.

DONATE YOUR UNIQUE ITEMS FOR IAFP 2024’s SILENT AUCTION

Each year, IAFP’s Silent Auction creates a flurry of activity – and a few bidding wars! – during two full days at the Annual Meeting. Aisles of unique items from around the world are neatly displayed for attendees to peruse and bid upon during lunches and breaks in the Exhibit Hall. The Association depends upon the Silent Auction to contribute valuable revenue for the IAFP Foundation, helping support student travel scholarships; speaker travel funds at global meetings; free webinars throughout the year; and other educational programs to help offset costs.

Plan now to bring your donated items to IAFP 2024 in Long Beach, California (be aware with your donations that most attendees travel by air). Auction items make great Annual Meeting souvenirs! Visit the IAFP website’s Foundation page for instructions on how to donate.
April 2024
(April meetings were held prior to print production.)


24: Georgia Association for Food Protection, 2024 Spring Meeting, Lawrenceville, GA. Visit www.gafoodprotection.org/.


May 2024


14–16: Florida Association for Food Protection, 2024 AEC, St. Petersburg, FL. Visit fafp.net/.

DONATE TO THE SILENT AUCTION

Proceeds from the Silent Auction Benefit the IAFP Foundation

Support the Foundation by donating an item today. A few examples of items donated in 2023 include:

- Amazon Fire Tablet
- Apple Air Pods
- Apple Watch
- Canadian Themed Gift Basket
- Cheese and Meat Box
- Fleaglass Microscope
- Michael Kors Tote
- MLB Tickets

To donate an item, complete the Silent Auction Donation Form found on our website:

Donation Form

For questions email info@foodprotection.org or call +1 515.276.3344

(Photos from IAFP 2023)
SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM

Complete a form for each item

Auction Item
Short description
(40 words or less)

Estimated Value

Donor Name for Program Materials

Contact Person

Mailing Address

City __________________________ State or Province __________________________

Postal Code/Zip + 4 __________________________ Country __________________________

Telephone __________________________

Email __________________________

Return to: info@foodprotection.org

As you consider your donation, please keep in mind that most attendees travel by air.
Items under $10.00 in value may be grouped with other items by the IAFP Staff.
IAFP EXECUTIVE BOARD SPEAKER PROGRAM
FOR AFFILIATES

How It Works

1. IAFP Board Members are available to speak at Affiliate meetings on numerous topics involving food safety.

2. Each Affiliate may request one Executive Board speaker for one Affiliate meeting within a 12-month calendar year.

3. A minimum of 15 minutes should be allowed for the Board Member to deliver information about the International Association for Food Protection in addition to their main subject(s) (see #1).

4. IAFP will pay the Board Member’s expense to travel to the Affiliate meeting location.

5. The Affiliate covers local expenses, including meals, lodging, and local transportation for the Board Member.

6. The Board Member makes their own travel reservations and will submit an expense report to the IAFP office within 10 days of completion of their travel to the Affiliate meeting. Any local expense (see #5) will be billed to the Affiliate.

7. A two-month advance notice is required.

8. To invite a Board Member to speak at your Affiliate meeting, contact Susan Smith, IAFP Affiliate Services, at +1 515.276.3344; or email ssmith@foodprotection.org. (Please do not contact Board Members directly until approved by IAFP.)

Tim Jackson, Ph.D., U.S. Food & Drug Administration
President
- Food Safety Management
- Food Microbiology
- Regulatory Food Safety

Mark Carter, MC Squared
President-Elect
- Method Development and Validation
- Statistical Sampling Plans and Development

Manpreet Singh, Ph.D., University of Georgia
Vice President
- Managing Risks in Meat & Poultry Processing
- Food Safety Management Systems in Food Processing
- Antimicrobial Resistance of Foodborne Pathogens

Manan Sharma, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Agriculture/ARS
Secretary
- Produce Safety (Irrigation Water, Soil Amendment)
- Bacteriophages and Food Safety
- Detection Methods of Pathogens in Water/Water Filtration

Michelle Danyluk, Ph.D., University of Florida
Past President
- What You Need to Know About the Produce Safety Rule
- Managing Risk in a Field of Uncertainty: Pathogens in the Produce Production Environment
- How Did That Get There? Case Studies in Produce Production and Packing

Fabiana Guglielmone, Unilever
Affiliate Council Chair
- Are We Learning from Food Safety Marketplace Incidents?
- Allergen Management
- Importance of Hygienic Design and Proper Validation of Cleaning and Sanitation Procedures

Caio Carvalho, Cargill
Affiliate Council Secretary
- Food Microbiology
- Career Plan for Young Professionals in Food Safety and Microbiology
IAFP SPEAKER PROGRAM  
(EXPANDED)

Jim Dickson, Ph.D.  
Iowa State University
- Foodborne Pathogens in Meat: Progress and Challenges
- Interventions to Control Foodborne Pathogens in Meat
- Food Safety Issues with Pet Food
- Process Validation for Food Safety

Jeff Farber, Ph.D.  
University of Guelph
- Current and Future Regulatory Approaches for the Management of Foodborne Listeriosis
- Emerging/Re-Emerging Foodborne Pathogens and Trending Microbial Issues

Kathy Glass, Ph.D.  
University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Opportunities and Limitations of Clean Label Antimicrobials
- Validating Formulation Safe RTE Foods
- Intervention Strategies to Control *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Foods
- Control of Sporeforming Bacteria During Extended Cooling and Refrigerated Storage

Linda Harris, Ph.D.  
University of California – Davis
- Tree Nuts: Food Safety Risks and Intervention Strategies
- Low-Moisture Foods: Food Safety Challenges and Opportunities
- Low-Moisture Foodborne Outbreak Case Studies: Lessons Learned
- Soaking Low-Moisture Ingredients in Water – Are You Nuts?

Kali Kniel, Ph.D.  
University of Delaware
- One Health
- Foodborne Viruses
- Foodborne Parasites
- Produce Food Safety Issues

Alejandro Mazzotta, Ph.D.  
Chobani, LLC
- Dairy Food Safety and Spoilage
- FSMA and Regulatory Compliance
- Food Safety and Quality Systems

Ruth Petran, Ph.D.  
Ruth Petran Consulting, LLC
- Sanitation Preventive Controls
- Norovirus Management
- Hazard Analysis

Gale Prince  
Consultant
- Human Factor Considerations for Achieving Food Safety Compliance
- Driving Forces for Hygienic Design of Food Equipment
- The Cost of a Product Recall – Should You Budget For It?
- A Fifty-Year Food Safety Career Based on a Bar Napkin

Don Schaffner, Ph.D.  
Rutgers University
- Understanding and Managing Food Safety Risks
- Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of Foods
- Development and Application of Predictive Models for Food Microbiology
- Handwashing, Hand Sanitizers, and Cross-Contamination

Don Zink, Ph.D.  
IEH Laboratories & Consulting Group
- Environmental Pathogen Monitoring
- FSMA Implementation – Foreign Supplier Verification and Preventive Controls
- Controlling *Listeria* and *Salmonella*
Advance your professional potential by joining us for four days of presentations, discussions, and networking with the leading minds in food safety research and technology.

Explore, learn, participate at IAFP 2024 Annual Meeting.
July 14 – 17, 2024
foodprotection.org

Future Annual Meetings | Save the Dates!
IAFP 2025, July 27 – 30, Cleveland, Ohio
IAFP 2026, July 26 – 29, New Orleans, Louisiana
IAFP 2027, July 18 – 21, Kansas City, Missouri