



Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG

The Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG aims to promote awareness of non-bacterial causes of foodborne disease by encouraging Food Safety Professionals and others to seek education and training that will enable them to contribute to preventing non-bacterial foodborne infections and outbreaks. The PDG is currently comprised of more than 180 leading food safety professionals, graduate students, academicians, and regulatory officials from around the world.

Our PDG members see tremendous value in sharing ideas, experiences and best practices focused on lessening the prevalence and impact of non-bacterial foodborne infections resulting from viral and protozoal contamination at critical points from farm to fork. The PDG has grown in size over the years and routinely has well attended in-person meetings each year at the annual IAFP Conference where members openly exchange ideas on educational symposia, roundtables, and webinars for the following year's conference. A few recent examples of the work the group has sponsored include:

- Infectious or Not Infectious? Advances in Virus Quantification and Translation to Health Risk
- Persistence of Enteric Viruses in Low Moisture Environments
- Metagenomics: Where do Viruses and Parasites Fit in? (in conjunction with the Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG)

During the annual PDG meeting in 2022, we were fortunate to have speakers representing the regulatory and research communities that provided updates on work related to identifying and addressing food industry needs regarding the prevention, control, and detection of foodborne viruses and protozoa such as human noroviruses and *Cyclospora*, respectively. Members also participated in breakout discussions to identify symposium and roundtable topics. As a result, the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG is the lead or co-sponsor of six symposium selected for the IAFP 2023 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada.

IAFP Connect is also a great one-stop shop to stay up to date with any of the PDG groups you are involved with. The Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease community can find our PDG's meeting minutes and other supporting meeting documents from 2022 all the way back to 2010. The files can be accessed on the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG page <https://www.foodprotection.org/get-involved/professional-development-groups/viral-and-parasitic-foodborne-disease-professional-development-group/>.

We invite you to join and become engaged in your PDG! If you would like to learn more or become a member, please contact the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG Chair at julie.jean@fsaa.ulaval.ca or Vice-Chair at keg005@uark.edu.

Julie Jean, Chairperson
Kristen Gibson, Vice-Chairperson