

The Physical Hazards & Foreign Material Professional Development Group

The Physical Hazards & Foreign Material Professional Development Group (PH&FM PDG) is the new PDG on the block! We aim to provide a forum for food industry professionals involved in foreign material and physical hazard control to share best practices, questions, ideas, and experiences in a supportive and collaborative community. Even though we are fairly new, we already have over 70 members, mostly industry practitioners, but also academics and regulators.

Our first in-person meeting in Toronto had 15 very active participants. I am counting that as a success! We discussed session ideas for IAFP 2024 and set a goal for two webinars per year. We also talked about opportunities for collaboration with other highly related PDGs such as the HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG and the Food Safety Assessment, Audit, and Inspection PDG. We are trying to gain visibility within the IAFP community and beyond. A popular webinar in this space is posted in the IAFP archive, and IAFP 2023 session S37: "When the Material Isn't Foreign: Identification and Mitigating

the Risk of Inherent Physical Safety Hazards." It was well received and attended, so we want to keep our momentum going!

We have amazing microbial food safety science at IAFP, and the chemical and toxicology side is growing. Physical hazards... not so much, so we are changing that. Topics on the table for sessions and webinars include AI applications for FM detection and management; Design safety analysis – How to! Developing a food safety culture around PH&FM; Equipment design and preventive maintenance; Regulatory compliance and implications of PH&FM adulteration; and Risk assessment of foreign materials – safety vs. quality issues; analytical tools to quantify risk.

We invite IAFP Members to join this new and exciting PDG with excellent opportunities to advance the science of food safety, network, and mentor students. Don't hesitate to reach out to Byron Chaves, PH&FM PDG Chair, or to Gale Beard, our Vice-Chair.

Byron Chaves, Chairperson