



Food Packaging Professional Development Group

The Mission of the Food Packaging Professional Development Group is to provide a forum to discuss issues of interest to the food packaging industry and its stakeholders. The mission has grown exponentially in recent years as the food industry has become more interested in intelligent packaging, active packaging, recycling and renewable packaging, and in food packaging safety. Also, the different regulations in this matter around the globe together with the increased amount of imported food products into the U.S., create the perfect combination for such interesting professional engagements in this group.

The Food Packaging PDG has grown steadily since its inception and currently has more than 150 members. Our members from all areas of academia, government, and industry tackle the issues of how best to package food in a marketing form to be attractive to the consumer but at the same time to respect the applicable rules, the corporate responsibilities toward the sustainability and protection of the environment.

Originally a part of the Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG, the Food Packaging PDG formed a separate group in 2010. Members realized that the issues surrounding food packaging merited a separate focus. Expanding regulatory requirements, increasing toxicological safety concerns, and exponential growth in the types of

food packaging available converged and expertise in food packaging regulatory compliance and safety was demanded. Also of interest is plant-based food packaging materials as an alternative to traditional packaging and its safety the utmost importance for the industry.

Packaging materials are recognized for their critical role in the reduction of food losses and wastes worldwide by maintaining food quality and safety. Research and applications are continuously developing and improving packaging that offers protection from oxygen, light, heat, and microbial growth, for example via nanomaterials, antimicrobial coatings, and metal alloy-infused foils. However, advances in analytical methods and testing models in toxicology and the concomitant formulations improvements also come with concerns: concern about unintended consequences of packaging chemical migration to food during use and concern about potential effects of chemicals on the environment upon packaging disposal.

Despite our serious focus, the Food Packaging PDG is a good-humored and enthusiastic group that welcomes new members of all levels of knowledge and abilities!

Tania Martinez, Incoming Chair

Tony Jin, Outgoing Chair

Katherine Kotrola, Incoming Vice Chair