

Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness

Members Present: Ewen Todd (Chair), Mike Batz (Vice Chair), Kari Irvin (Secretary), Jaime Ragos (Student Liaison), Amarat (Amy) Simonne, Atef Idriss, Carl Custer, Yousef Alsaadi, Dima Faour-Klingbeil, Ernest Julian, Gale Prince, Jack Guzewish, Michael Bazaco, Michael Roberson, Pongpan Laksanalamai, and Phyllis Posy.

Board/Staff Present: Emilio Esteban, Ruth Petran, Didi Loynachan, and Dina Siedenburg.

Number of Attendees: 20.

Meeting Called to Order: 3:03 p.m. Eastern Time, September 23, 2020.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Kari Irvin (moved by Michael Roberson, seconded by Michael Batz, and approved).

Board Member Report: Emilio Esteban has an epidemiological background and was interested in the on-going work of the Committee. He said he would share if or when information pertinent to the Committee becomes available.

Old Business: The Committee on the Control of Foodborne Illness approved the minutes from the 2019 meeting held in Louisville, KY (moved by Phyllis Posy, seconded by Carl Custer). Recommendations made to the Board after the 2019 meeting were reviewed. Information concerning the income generated from the Foodborne and Waterborne IAFP manuals over the past 5 years was discussed. A decline in income generated from the sale of these manuals was noted with most income arising within two years of publication. Few eBook copies were sold but the download versions were the most frequently purchased. In the day of electronic format versions of documents, there was discussion whether or not such print manuals may be outdated resources for public health professionals.

The minutes of the August 31, 2020 CCFI conference call were approved (moved by Phyllis Posy, seconded by Jack Guzewish). Business arising was to move ahead with the new Vice Chair voting and generate symposia, etc., ideas for the Program Committee.

CCFI members discussed the need to update the "Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness" manual. Consensus was reached that the formation of a subcommittee could best address questions regarding usefulness due to competing resources and timeliness given past, current, and future changes in the foodborne illness outbreak investigation process. This is in agreement with last year's minutes. In addition, the subcommittee should be aware of similar documents including printed and online published guidelines to avoid duplication or inserting conflicting information into circulation.

Volunteers present were Michael Batz, Kari Irvin, Michael Roberson, Michael Bazaco, and Yousef Alsaadi. Other previous volunteers not at the meeting will need to be contacted. Suggest engaging with Ernie Julian (AFDO) concerning usefulness for the manual. Members of the subcommittee should be aware of new CIFOR guidelines released this year, FDA's New Era for Smarter Food Safety efforts, and a pending Codex publication on outbreak investigation. Furthermore, updates should be in line with potential new investigational tools outlined in those documents. Usefulness and timing are critical factors to consider in deciding to move forward with this manual. There was also discussion whether the manuals should be exclusively online or printed as well. The original intention of these manuals was a resource for public health inspectors in the field. Specific lab analysis methods were not included, only sample collection. For greatest distribution free downloads is the norm today especially from governments and WHO/FAO. Should IAFP go this route? Emilio Esteban was to take this to the Board for consideration. One suggestion was that perhaps it could be downloaded free from IAFP Connect for IAFP Members, but at a cost to non-members. ACTION: Michael Batz will set up the first meeting for the subcommittee to begin to address questions posed by the Committee.

There was also discussion about the Diseases Transmitted by Foods Manual (3rd edition). To update this, we need experts in plant toxins, chemicals and parasites for updates. Adam Kramer has provided links to other relevant publications to check on need for a revision from the 1982 2nd edition. The Manual subcommittee will also consider this possible revision. ACTION: Michael Batz and the subcommittee.

The vector-borne and rodent-borne manual was discussed. Since retiring Vice-Chair Judy Greig has no further contacts with her colleagues to revise this manual, the Committee agreed to defer any further action on this unless a champion is found.

CCFI addressed concerns raised at the 2019 in-person meeting about the all-day meeting format, and the impact on attendance given it is difficult for PDG members to meet and discuss issues relating to foodborne illness in the all-day format. It was proposed to formalize a 2-hour CCFI meeting open to all members, and subsequent smaller meetings can occur throughout the day to address specific Committee needs. This will allow all Committee members to receive an update on all agenda items while maintaining commitments to other PDGs.

A survey of IAFP Members to determine their food safety habits has been approved but will be deferred until spring of 2021 due to COVID-19 delays. Lead collaborators outside of CCFI are Ben Chapman (NCSU) and Ian Young (Ryerson).

Seven symposia and roundtables sponsored or co-sponsored by CCFI will be presented at the IAFP 2020 Annual Meeting.

Student member Jaime Ragos attended the CCFI meeting at the 2019 Annual Meeting but there had been no direct Committee involvement since then. Jamie described the mentor program managed by the Student PDG, and indicated that her mentor Michael Bazaco is a CCFI member. Michael Batz also participates in the mentor program and encouraged other CCFI members to participate. Jaime remains the Student PDG representative for CCFI. The link to sign-up to be a mentor is at: <https://tinyurl.com/IAFPMentor>.

It was noted that fewer members were on the IAFP Connect meeting compared with the August 31, 2020, conference call and it may be that some members have yet to set up a regular connection for notifications. Some considered IAFP Connect useful as a library for document retention and liked notification reminders of relevant posts. However, other formats for Committee and subcommittee business may be considered.

New Business: CCFI recognized the long-term service and dedication of Judy Greig as the Vice Chair of CCFI for 15 years. Various CCFI members remarked on her professionalism, mentorship, and expertise on matters of foodborne illness and are incredibly grateful for her commitment to the Committee. The voting for two nominees (Michael Batz and Phyllis Posy) for Vice Chair occurred before the September 23rd meeting and Ewen Todd announced that Michael Batz was elected to replace Judy as the Vice Chair of CCFI. The Committee appreciated Phyllis Posy standing as a well-qualified nominee.

Dima Faour-Klingbeil, a research fellow at the University of Plymouth School of Biological and Marine Sciences, gave a presentation on the perception of risk, food shopping, and hygienic practices in Arab countries during a pandemic based on a survey of three Arab countries. This was well received and generated some discussion about perceptions on COVID-19 risks in different regions and where people in Arab countries received their information on such risks, which seems to be mainly social media.

The meeting concluded with a discussion of potential topics for symposia, roundtables and webinars.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend that Emilio Esteban find out about the possibility for electronic versions of future manuals to be free downloads for members or even for wider distribution because of existing competition with other online manuals.
2. Recommend the Board approve Michael Batz as the new Vice Chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 18-21, 2021, Phoenix, Arizona.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:15 p.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Ewen C.D. Todd.