

Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG

Attendees: Angela Anandappa (Chair), Sally Klinec (Vice Chair), Alexandria Lau, Brent Kobielush, Brian Himelbloom, Cindy Jiang, Erika Estrada, Gerard Ruth, James Cook, Kimberly Anderson, Kimberly Yeager, Kolawole Banwo, Melanie Downs, Michael Roberson, Mohamed Ziyaina, Sefat E. Khuda, Shruthi Shankar, Steve Taylor, Tracie Sheehan, WanChin Lim, and Yvonne Masters.

Staff Present: Didi Loynachan and Dina Siedenburg.

Number of Attendees: 23.

Meeting Called to Order: 11:02 a.m. Eastern Time, Friday, October 2, 2020.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Erika Estrada (Student Representative).

Old Business: The IAFP antitrust guidelines were read by the Incoming Chair, Angela Anandappa. Angela thanked Paul Hanlon, the Outgoing Chair for his service and contributions as the past PDG Chair. Angela introduced and welcomed Sally Klinec as the PDG Vice Chair and Sally spent a few minutes introducing herself.

The floor was opened for comments regarding the meeting minutes from the 2019 PDG meeting. Michael Roberson moved to approve the minutes and Sally Klinec seconded the motion.

Erika Estrada, the Student PDG Vice Chair served as the secretary and provided updates to the group including the liaison program, the 3-Minute thesis competition, the mentoring program and the 2020 sessions sponsored by the SPDG.

Symposia/Roundtables/Workshops sponsored by the PDG were discussed. Proposals that were declined for 2020 were discussed.

New Business:

Potential topics to be further developed into 2021 proposals were discussed and include the following topics: The creation of a standards for allergen free food, discussing industry practices and standards for allergen free food, the assessment of the supply chain of allergen free food, food safety threshold for allergen free foods, verification testing for allergen free foods, accurate definition for allergen free claims, public safety of allergen free food, and testing the final product vs. testing a products supply chain.

Definition of the UK- "Free from" means that all ingredients are free from that specific allergen and the value of testing, residue limits, and value of those limits to protecting consumer safety were discussed.

The discussion also brought up some concerns from industry member regarding: coming up with a definition for "allergen free food," assuring that all ingredients in a food product are allergen free, and the gaps in regulatory guidelines regarding this issue.

At the end of the discussion, the Chair summarized the discussion's 3 main topics: Allergen-free food risk assessment, the adoption of standard allergen free claim testing, and validation in the supply chain.

A potential need for industry was discussed for collaboration between industry and regulation to work towards standards in the use of terms such as "allergen free" and similar claims.

Retail perspective topics. Michael Roberson gave a brief overview about the addition of sesame to the list of allergens (without establishment of action limits), and FDA research around dark chocolate and the presence of milk allergen.

PDG survey results were showed that PDG members had a high level of interest in allergens, pesticides, trace back, food safety training and consumer awareness.

Kimberly Yeager proposed that the sustainable packaging session may be co-sponsored with the packaging PDG.

Other topics brought up included antiviral packaging, PFAs, myco-toxins, and the need for allergen awareness and food safety in parts of the African continent.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Approve Angela Anandappa as new PDG Chair and Sally Klinec as PDG Vice Chair.
2. Make IAFP Connect more user friendly. Proposed IAFP invest in an App for IAFP Connect and provide/support a secondary means of communication outside of IAFP Connect.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:55 p.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Angela Anandappa.