

Committee to Control Foodborne Illness

Attendees: Ewen Todd (Chair), Michael Roberson (virtual), Dima Faour-Kingbell (virtual), Kari Irvin (virtual), Jack Guzewich (virtual), Laura Gieraltowski, Margaret (Meg) Kirchner, Phyllis Posy (virtual), Abebe Abera, Suresh Pillai, Monica Garcia, Amaret (Amy) Simonne.

Visitor Present: Lucas Harrison (visitor, wants to become a member).

Number of Attendees: 13.

Meeting Called to Order: 08:03 a.m. Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Laura Gieraltowski, CDC.

Old Business: (Summarizing paragraphs only. Do Not use a Multi-Level List or Bullet Points.) Ewen Todd gave a brief overview of CCFI and updates indicating that the Committee has been around since 1914, mainly in the production of investigation of foodborne disease issues. Ewen Todd will continue to be Committee Chair for another year. Michael Batz (Vice Chair) will be Committee Chair next year but will head up the revision of the manuals. The Board has been requested for an update on the sales of the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness* Manual. *Journal of Food Protection* will be Open Access in Elsevier on September 1, 2022.

Two 2021 recommendations for the Board were submitted. CCFI recommends to the Executive Board that a virtual option be provided for all future committee meetings, especially in view of disabilities restricting attendance in person. The Board agreed. Virtual meetings may be held anytime throughout the year and all committees are encouraged to hold periodic meetings (virtually). IAFFP plans to return to in-person committee meetings in 2022 and thereafter. Zoom or other options can be used as desired to include remote participants in the meetings. A projector, screen and WiFi will be provided in the meeting rooms.

CCFI continues to request that IAFFP publications should be available freely on request to be competitive with other food safety and foodborne disease sources. The Board responded that there are contractual agreements in place that will affect our ability to provide the Foodborne or

Waterborne Procedures manuals. The positive factor is that our current distribution method makes the manuals available for download to a worldwide audience.

CCFI continues to assess the needs and direction for revisions to “*Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness*” manual, 6th edition last published in 2011, and “Diseases Transmitted by Foods Manual (1982 2nd edition). “*Procedures to Investigate Waterborne Illness*” (2016, 3rd edition).

An approved survey of IAFP Members led by Ian Young and Ben Chapman to determine their food safety habits has been indefinitely postponed. Members of the committee can offer to continue these efforts.

Board Report from Emilio Esteban, Liaison to the Board: 3,000 attendees (80%); 80% of exhibitors at the meeting this year. He requested that members use the *IAFP Connect* app to communicate during the meeting. Diversity and Inclusion in mind when developing symposium agenda. Participate in mentor/mentee program. Programs to increase attendance at next year’s meeting (paying for travel costs, supporting childcare/eldercare). The meeting in 2023 will be held in Toronto, Canada. Reminder that participants will need a passport and the ArriveCan app, including COVID-19 tests before departure. Mentoring program board contact information will be sent to the committee. The Board has a list of mentors and mentees and match the mentors with a mentee and it’s up to the mentor to meet and develop the relationship. The IAFP Foundation may be able to provide funds for members with limited financial resources to publish. CCFI raised concerns about how the Ewen Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award nominees are selected, and whether the published criteria were followed. This issue will be raised to the Board and recommend the process is more transparent on how the award nomination process works and the number of nominations that were received. Emilio suggested the committee also submit nominations.

New Business: Review the 2022 Symposium S24 Foodborne Disease Outbreak Update, Tuesday, Aug 2; all speakers are here in person at the conference. Other presentations and roundtables with speakers and conveners from CCFI.

Slide presentation from Ewen Todd on two relevant topics for the committee. The first was a review of study about salmonellosis and temperature in Melbourne, Australia. The authors found that warmer temperatures were associated with increased risk of notification. These findings suggest that notifications may increase with increasing temperatures, but the link to

heavier rainfall was not established. In the second topic, a recent publication shows that *Bacillus thuringiensis* is a credible foodborne disease. *B. thuringiensis* is a spore-forming and associated parasporal body-forming organism that is used as an alternative to chemical pesticides in crops and forests. There are signs suggesting that residues of *B. thuringiensis* biopesticides on foods can elicit diarrheal illness in humans. A research topic to be further explored. There are two presentations at the 2022 IAFP Meeting on *B. thuringiensis* on gloves and in food (Barry Michaels and Xingchen Zhao).

Ewen C. D. Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award. Members should seek out appropriate nominations from their colleagues who fulfill the criteria listed in Appendix 2 of the agenda, including participation in IAFP and CCFI activities.

Input to the Conference for Food Protection, Program Standards Committee. The CFP maintains “Crosswalk Requirements for Foodborne Illness Training Program – Standard 5” as part of the Voluntary National Retail Food Regulatory Program Standards. IAFP is referenced within this Standard, specifically as it relates to training references for investigating foodborne illness. Over ten years ago, CCFI committee member Michael Roberson provided the CFP Program Standards Committee the IAFP *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illnesses* manual. Currently, this manual is not an open access reference. Recommend to the IAFP Board that the Conference for Food Protection have access to the IAFP *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness* and other manuals. If there is an update to the manuals, we recommend that IAFP off-sets some of the costs to updates to the manual to the CFP Program Standards Committee as a cost easing benefit for state and local regulators. IAFP should explore additional means to greater manual access to government entities at state and local regulators and public health partners.

NSF International Council of Public Health Consultants. Ewen Todd is the current academic representative but NSF is looking for someone who employed by a university with public health experience, especially relating to food and water safety to replace him. Looking for NSF Council Member representing academia. Needs to be willing to attend meetings in Ann Arbor.

Webinar ideas. Open discussion of webinar ideas for coming year. Of the 5 sponsored symposia and roundtables, 2 were recommended for webinar consideration by the program

committee: Climate Change and Food Safety (Michael Bazaco) (since withdrawn) and Food Safety within Food Security in Africa (Adewale Olusegun Obadina). Also, Food Safety Innovation Lab Webinar - Responding to Food System Disruptions: Lessons Learned.

Program ideas for 2023 Meeting. The Committee reviewed program ideas for 2023 Annual Meeting. Some topics discussed or submitted in recent years: 1) Healthy People 2030, 2) FSMA impacts to foodborne illness, 3) Culture-independent diagnostic tests (CIDTs), 4) REP strains and repeat offenders, 5) Cruise ships/tourism and travel, 6) Consumption of frozen foods as ready-to-eat, at-risk populations, 7) Updates on hand sanitation, 8) COVID-19 impacts on disease reporting and surveillance: challenges, findings, and interpretations, 9) *Cronobacter*: should it be a reportable disease? 10) Role of crowd-sourced and social media data for foodborne illness detection and surveillance, 11) Drawing lessons from outbreaks towards prevention strategies (building on root cause discussion from prior years), 12) Food safety versus food waste (John Sanders and Meg Kirchner), 13) FDA's final rule on food traceability (completed by November of 2022), what's in the rule, what does it mean for outbreak investigations, what does it mean for farmers and retailers (Kari Irvin), 14) Outbreak update symposium again in 2023 (Kari Irvin, Laura Gieraltowski, Ewen Todd) [this has been a staple for many years but we have to ensure it draws an audience for the full 3 hours], 15) Food supply chain issues affecting food safety (Phyllis Posy and Michael Roberson), 16) Outbreak investigations and microbes in water [should this be only freshwater or also sea and brackish water?] (Phyllis Posy and Ewen Todd), 17) RT Crowd source data in outbreak investigations (Lucky Charms, Daily Harvest): challenges and draw backs, what has worked well, how to analyze data. (Meg Kirchner), Pandemics and food safety (Ewen Todd), 18) Impacts of Food Security on food safety, 19) Economic Issues and food safety, 20) Challenges of ingredient supply and packaging supply with food safety issues, 21) Expert witness cases (Ewen Todd). In all proposed RTs or symposia, topics should be checked for if, or when, they were previously done and which PDGs would be collaborators. Each of these needs a champion to initiate the process and move it along.

For the Toronto meeting, we are likely to have travel approval for Canadian attendees. We can make an effort to reach out for possible Canadian collaborators, e.g., Public Health Agency of Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Health Canada, as well as universities and industry.

Zoom virtual option. CCFI appreciated the virtual option for the committee meeting in 2022. Recommend same time 0800-1000 next year for the CCFI meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend Ewen Todd continue for one more year as Chair of CCFI. Vice Chair Michael Batz will be Chair next year.
2. Recommend to the Board that the Conference for Food Protection have access to its Procedures manuals these manuals, including any proposed updates to the manuals. It is also recommended that IAFP off-sets some of the costs for these manuals to the Program Standards Committee to help keep state and local regulators active in this field. IAFP should explore ways to get more manuals to government entities at state and local regulators and public health partners.
3. Based on awareness of awardees over the last six years, CCFI raised concerns about how the Ewen C.D. Todd Control of Foodborne Illness Award nominees are selected, and whether the published criteria were followed. The purpose behind the award was to recognize those with a lifetime history of epidemiology in the investigation and control of foodborne illness and active in IAFP Committees including the CCFI.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 15, 8:00-10:00 Eastern Time, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Meeting Adjourned: 09:30 a.m. Eastern Time, Sunday, July 31, 2022.

Chairperson: Ewen Todd.