

Applied Laboratory Methods

Attendees: Daniel DeMarco (Chair), Julie Weller (Vice-Chair), Hany Anany, Marianna Arvaniti, Takiyah Ball, Andrzej Benkowski, Rachel Binet, Melissa Bohn, Mick (Joseph M.) Bosilevac, Makena Brand, Alex Brandt, Antoine Cabon, Catharine Carlin, Austin Cary, Erdogan Ceylan, Patrice Chablain, Evan Chaney, Christine McIntosh-Cole, Margaret (Peg) Coleman, Atin Datta, Kelly Dawson, Michael Day, Melanie Downs, Emily Feldpausch, Baback Gharizadeh, Jakob Gryniewski, Julie Haendiges, Lauren Hamilton, Jon Hammond, Yihan He, Evan Henke, Brittany Holmes, Kristen Hunt, John Jarosh, Lee-Ann Jaykus, Megan Jensen, Vijay Juneja, Jordan Kiefer, Minji Kim, Kento Koyama, Brenda Kroft, Quynh-Nhi Le, David Legan, Shenmiao (Ivy) Li, Zhiwei Li, Shaunti Luce, Alina Magnuson, Jessica Maitland, Evelyn Maranan, Ryan Matsuda, Ryan Maus, Alma Perez-Mendez, Joseph Meyer, Scott Moosekian, Paul Morin, Xiangwu Nou, Rebecca Olsen, Pranita Patil, Catalina Pelaez, Laurie Post, Alexander Prokup, Christophe Quiring, Orhan Sahin, Gabriel Sanglay, Donald Schaffner, Yang Shen, Alexandre da Silva, Julie Simcox, Gregory Siragusa, Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney, Daniel Smieszek, Robbie Smith, Yesutor Soku, Jack Stevens, Leslie Thompson-Strehlow, Rachael Trott, Alex Tudor, Persephone Valentine, Ann Charles Vegdahl, Isabel Walls, Kaidi Wang, Stevie Ward, Li Xiao, Mu Ye, Jingbin Zhang.

Total Number of Attendees: 84.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, 3:15 p.m. Eastern Time, July 16, 2023.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney.

Old Business: Reviewed the Anti-Trust Guidelines and approved the 2022 minutes. Joe Meyer (out-going chair) provided Board announcements. Reminded attendees to utilize the meeting app and view the video shared by the DEI council on equity and inclusion. Outlined the success of the open access webinar archive for the month of June with 9,000 views. The *Journal of Food Protection* is now open access. Users can set up alerts to receive notification when new articles are published. Reviewed the 2023 symposium and roundtable sessions accepted and in the program for primary and secondary ALM PDG sponsorship (seven total). Board responses to the 2022 recommendations were reviewed.

New Business: Dan DeMarco confirmed as the new PDG Chair and Julie Weller announced as the PDG Vice-Chair. Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney will serve as Secretary and Pranita Surendra Patil will be the Student Liaison.

The meeting was kicked off with the traditional reading of *The Night Before IAFP*, a poem written by Dan DeMarco. It is a (sort of but not really all that) funny anecdote about micro-biologists getting ready to go to IAFP. Poem is reprinted below:

'Twas the night before IAFP and all through the house, microbiologists at laptops, clicking with mouse.

The posters were hung in the hallways with care in the hopes that grant funding soon would be there. The microbes were nestled all snug on their slants, safety glasses and gloves, but no underpants.

And mamma in her lab coat, and I in my gown, had just settled our brains at the lab downtown.

When out from the bench there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my chair to see what was the matter. Away to the hood I flew like a flash, turned on the blower and threw up the sash. UV light aglow on stainless steel.

This cannot be happening, cannot be real. Before my wondering eyes did appear,

IAFP conference proceedings and a six pack of beer. The PDG members in attendance were slightly amused.

The Validation and Verification Interest Group sub-leads provided updates. David Legan spoke on the group's background and progress. The subgroup was started in 2017 to serve the needs of practitioners. Since then, six webinars, four *Food Protection Trends* articles, and a risk-assessment tool for verification/validation of matrices have all been produced. Two of the four articles have received the most read General Interest Article awards. Most recently the article on Strain Selection for Pathogen Method Evaluation received the award for most read General Interest article in *FPT* over the past two years for 2023. In the May/June 2023 edition of *FPT* an article on Evaluating Microbiological Method Equivalence was published. The success of this subgroup has demonstrated that there is a need for guidance on validation and verification for end-users.

Laurie Post provided an update from the Method Discrepancy subgroup. Previous articles discussed approaches to validation and verification and method equivalence. A publication is currently in progress which will explore discordant results that are contradictory or at odds with what is known about the product tested or assay performance. The objective is to provide examples of these discrepancies and possible ways to resolve them.

An update on webinars was provided by Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney. The goal of this group is to provide a different forum to share the information produced in the various publications. Matrix Additions to Rapid Pathogen Detection Methods Part 1 was presented by Patrick Bird, Takiyah Ball and Gabriela Lopez Velasco in May of 2023. The presentation provided guidance on assuring the right fit for microbiology methods. Part 2 is currently slated for September 2023 and will outline study design and how to employ the matrix assessment tool. The group is seeking volunteers to participate in Part 3 on validations.

Julie Weller leads the Inoculum Preparation and Inoculation subgroup. This group is working on a publication to provide an overview of how to prepare cultures and accurately reach target inoculum levels needed for verification and validation studies. This encompasses the guidelines provided by AOAC, USDA, ISO, and HC. The objective is to provide a robust study design for laboratories to follow when evaluating a method for pathogen detection.

The student PDG 2023 updates were provided. This included a meet your favorite scientist activity which connected students with food professionals to talk about different career paths. Dan DeMarco noted that sadly he had not been asked to participate in the program as a "favorite scientist" The 3-minute thesis competition allowed students to present their research in a dynamic format. Students are encouraged to submit proposals to the IAFP Annual Meeting. Dan Demarco (incoming Chair) would like the ALM PDG to meet quarterly (3

online meetings, 1 in person at IAFP national meeting) going forward. Potentially provide a forum for career level scientists to share their career paths for students. Other meeting format options still under consideration.

Participants were encouraged to provide ideas for 2024 workshops and sessions. Preliminary ideas were gathered and will be formatted into a spreadsheet to be shared through *IAFP Connect*. Topics included viable but non-culturable organisms, statistical analysis for method performance criteria, use of USP methods, challenges with probiotic testing, methods for *Salmonella* in chicken products, confirmation methods, proficiency testing, food allergens, *Cronobacter* testing and sewage surveillance.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend that the Board approve Dan DeMarco as Chair and Julie Weller as incoming Vice-Chair for the Applied Laboratory Methods PDG.
2. Recommend that the Board announcements take place at a time different than the beginning of each PDG meeting. For people attending multiple PDG meetings, this information is repetitive, delays the PDG in getting into the official business, and takes up a significant amount of time.
3. Recommend that the Board improve the functionality of the IAFP Meeting App.
4. Recommend to the Board that the Annual Meeting location includes more international destinations. According to the first word in its name, IAFP is an international association and therefore should include more international locations for the Annual Meeting.

Next Meeting Date: July 14, 2024, Long Beach, California.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:20 p.m. Eastern Time.

Chairperson: Dan DeMarco.