

## International Food Protection Issues PDG

**Attendees:** Marcel Zwietering (Chair), Constanza Vergara (Vice Chair), Hiroki Abe, Carmen Alvarez, George Anderson, Al Baroudi, Peter Ben Embarek, DeAnn Benesh, David Blomquist, Puja Boidya, Yang Chen, Zoila Chevez, Erin Crowley, Mary-Grace Danao, Damarys Del Castillo, Sabahnur Demirci, Caroline Smith DeWaal, Mary Donaldson, Elizabeth Duffy, Jeff Farber, Elise Forward, Anahita Ghorbani Tajani, Gustavo Gonzalez, Leon Gorris, Fabiana Guglielmone, Olivia Haley, Arie Havelaar, Leslie Hintz, Kathy Knutson, Bobby Krishna, Elisabetta Lambertini, Quynh-Nhi Le, Ioannis Liatsos, Mark Loh, Shannon Majowicz, Yuki Minato, Charles Muyanja, Krystalyn Nation, Kenneth Nieves, Rocio Ortega, Mavra Qamar, Jeffrey Read, Ravinder Reddy, Aniket Sharma, Tracie Sheehan, Sloane Stoufer, Katherine MJ Swanson, Jason Wan, Yikai Yang, Kang Zhou.

**Number of Attendees:** 49.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, July 14, 2024, 2.45 p.m. Pacific Time.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Constanza Vergara.

**Old Business:** The Minutes of the 2023 meeting were asking to the participants if they have any comments, otherwise if they might be considered approved. No comments were presented. Minutes were approved. It was communicated that all the last year recommendations were done to the Board and the answer received: Constanza Vergara E as Vice Chair of the PDG – approved by the Board. Take initiative to speed-up Visa Applications for many international participants, either as IAFP or jointly with other scientific associations - IAFP routinely provides a letter of support to assist attendees in attending the Annual Meeting. IAFP staff will investigate other routes to support these applications and appreciate any initiatives of which the PDG is aware. Ask the Executive Board to host a session where is possible to connect PDGs where broader links can be made, including the high-level views across the Board. The Board would like clarification on this recommendation. We currently hold the Chair/Vice Chairperson Meeting and the Chairperson Breakfast to provide networking and sharing of best practices

On this matter several comments were provided by the participants, since there are a lot of proposals that are not being approved. PDGs may search for linkages to improve those proposals where similarities are found. Also create instances where similar proposals from different PDGs may be discussed by the PDG's Chair in order to merge them, this was also mentioned as being a good idea to facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation, bringing new people or new scientist together since sometimes it is difficult to reach for people on the 2-month time given between the meeting and the proposal deadline.

Regarding the IFPI PDG webinars done during past year: A list of the webinars that were organized was shown to the audience and informed that the recording can be found now at IAFP website. There were in total 5 webinars and it was encouraged to participants to keep sending ideas for webinars.

For 2024 Annual Meeting program 16 proposals from 26 were accepted (13 Symposia and 3 roundtables), as primary or secondary sponsor by IFPI PDG. It was better than the average we have had on the past years, with 62% of acceptance. The program for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday sessions and roundtable was mentioned and participants were encouraged to attend. DeAnn Benesh presented the progress on the Regulatory System Project and Kang Zhou gave an update on the progress of FAO.

**New Business:** A round of consultation for ideas on next year meeting topics for symposia or roundtable proposals were done and the ideas expressed were: Leon Gorris: a session on chemical risk assessment in water reuse since new chemicals like PFAS are now in the picture, with academic speakers, government and industry speaking about emerging hazards. Caroline Smith de Waal: The GAIN organization is finishing its project which worked on traditional markets in Africa, as a result a Codex Guideline for Food Hygiene in traditional markets was developed. So, a session to look on training mechanism for Africa, South East Asia, and Latin America and to share the information about this standard being out there and how we may use it. Ian Jenson: Develop a session on temperature control for frozen foods in international supply chains since the temperature proposed in the Global Codex Standard is now challenging by international industry, for example with some ice cream industry asking about -12°C. Arie Havelaar: There is a symposium this year on the Global Foodborne Diseases Burden and after the symposium with the questions and feedback received, we will

seek for new ideas for a follow up session on the topic. Jeff Farber: a session on the use of AI in food industry globally, internationally, retail level, and in years' time potentially regulation, for example how it's been used on the improvement of risk communication strategies using the AI. Peter Ben Embarek: Regarding the session in water, we should also include antimicrobial-resistance genes, surveillance of other pathogens, make and update on where we are with the work on water safety. Also, with COVID and HPAI, we are facing situations where we are questioning what a foodborne pathogen is and how regulators can deal with these new emerging issues, so that is something to consider for a session. Jason Wan: How Global international Standards can be used to develop more international training materials on food safety. All the ideas will be discussed again during the next quarterly PDG online meeting. It was informed that Submission deadline of October 1, 2024, for all proposals.

Other Business: A call for new vice chair of the PDG was issued at the meeting and will be also done through *IAFP Connect*, all those who are interested were urged to contact current PDG's Chairs. PDG quarterly meetings will be maintained, but more participation and engagement was asked to participants. The list of non-accepted proposals where IFPI PDG was the primary sponsor was shared and it was agreed that an opportunity to convert to a webinar will be possible and be discussed during quarterly PDG meetings.

### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Develop a system that allows verification that submissions were truly sponsored by a PDG before going for program committee evaluation. Since sometimes people can check the boxes and not actually had been reviewed and sponsored at PDG level.
2. It would be great for non-accepted proposals to have a mechanism where feedback can be asked, when someone wants to present the proposal again, but doesn't know what can be improved.
3. See if is possible to create a way where PDGs may linkages together before the IAFP Annual Meeting to improve those proposals where similarities were found by the Program Committee, for example an instance where similar proposals from different PDGs may be discussed by the PDG's Chair in order to merge them, this was also mentioned as being a good idea for diminish the amount of proposals that are rejected and to facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation, bringing new people or new scientist together since sometimes it is difficult to reach for people on the 2-month time gave between the meeting and the proposal presentation.

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, July 27, Cleveland, Ohio.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:16 p.m. Pacific Time.

**Chairperson Name:** Marcel Zwietering