

Low Water Activity Foods PDG

Attendees: Erdogan Ceylan (Chair), Ariel Buehler (Vice Chair), Shirin Abd, Jorge Acosta, Jennifer Acuff, Gary Acuff, Manita Adhikari, Nurul Hawa Ahmad, Nate Anderson, Avigaile Armstrong, Dan Belina, Bruna Bertoldi, Yige Bima, Patrick Bird, April Bishop, Neil Bogart, Deborah Briesmeister, Caio Carvalho, Kaicie Chasteen-Ko, Ava Chavez, Han Chen, Shihyu Chuang, Darlene Cowart, Yaxi Dai, Toni de Senna, Scott Deterding, Jessica Dryke, Elise Forward, Luana Franco, Stephanie Gates, Beilei Ge, Tina Gettis, Junia Gilles-Beaubrun, Ezio Giuliani, Carly Gomez, Fanny Gozzi, Elizabeth Grasso-Kelley, Ben Graves, Snigdha Guha, Nicolette Hall, Lauren Hamilton, John Henry Hanlin, Daniel Hayward, Ian Hildebrandt, John Holah, Yuewei Hu, Kristen Hunt, Atef Idriss, Keith Ito, Bala Jagadeesan, Don Jones, Caitlin Karolenko, Veeramani Karuppuchamy, Jasmine Kataria, Martha Kimber, Ian Klug, Elma Kontor-Manu, Jeffrey Kornacki, Xiyang Liu, Paul Liu, Patrick Logan, Xiaonuo Long, William Long, Yuqian Lou, Bradley Marks, Meredith Maynard, Rachel McEgan, Lynne McLandsborough, Christopher McNamara, Tracy Meyers, Molly Miller, Molly Mills, Gerardo Morantes, Kala Morris, Laura Munoz Leyva, Nadia Narine, Kasey Nelson, Donna Novev, Wilfredo Ocasio, Adeniyi Odugbemi, Mike O'Rourke, Scott Osborne, Shway Patel, Kavita Patil, Anne-Marie Perchec Merien, Trevor Phister, Monica Ponder, Laurie Post, Raghu Ramaswamy, Narindra Randriamiarintsoa, David Rasmussen, Catherine Rolfe, Kaylee Rumbaugh, Luis Sabillon Galeas, Joelle Salazar, Jarryd Samples, Travis Sananikone, Arnab Sarkar, Arlette Shazer, Gregory Siragusa, Diana Stewart, Autumn Stoll, Jeyam Subbiah, Cassandra Suther, Iryna Syb, Abdullatif Tay, Aaron Uesugi, Ron Van Santen, Rosie VanLuven, Victoria Wagoner, Luxin Wang, Benjamin Warren, Ava Weyrich, Shecoya White, Justin Wiertzema, Anett WInkler, Yucen Xie, Eduardo Ximenes, Shiwei Xu.

Number of Attendees: 117.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 14, 2024, 2:45 p.m. Pacific Time.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Ariel Buehler.

Old Business: 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no objections.

New Business: Six symposia and roundtables were accepted for this year's meeting. Two guest speakers from PepsiCo – Dr. Rico Suhalmi and Dr. Abdullatif Tay presented on 'Thermal Inactivation of *Salmonella* in Soft Cookies in Baking Process'. Mallika Mahida presented Student PDG updates. We then discussed recommendations to the Executive Board. Only one recommendation was raised around increasing the accessibility of water activity curriculum internationally by Atef Idriss. Roundtable/symposium/workshop topic ideas were discussed with the group as a whole. Twelve topics were raised, including: i) scientific advancements of flour safety (Scott Osborne), ii) water activity meters/availability internationally (Atef Idriss), iii) world class EMP program (Jeff Kornacki), iv) dry sanitation workshop (Neil Bogart), v) dried and untreated fruit (Laurie Post), vi) ingredients and their differing interventions through production that address different commodities (Jennifer Acuff), vii) low-moisture pet food and spoilage (Jasmine Kataria), viii) redefining zones (Erdogan Ceylan), ix) definition of a clean break (Arnab Sarkar), x) forgotten parts of supply chain—rail cars, silos (David Rasmussen), xi) workshop idea—take one entire process and provide comprehensive overview of food safety topics (Jeff Kornacki), xii) seasoning mixes—food safety considerations (Anne-Marie Perchec Merien). The frequency of PDG calls was also discussed, and it was determined that monthly calls until January will take place.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Increase accessibility of water-activity curricula internationally.
2. Recommendation to approve Ariel Buehler as Vice Chair for Low Water Activity Foods PDG.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 27, 2025, Cleveland, Ohio.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:50 p.m. Pacific Time.

Chairperson Name: Erdogan Ceylan