

Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design PDG

Attendees: Dimitri Tavernarakis (Chair), Jason White (Vice Chair), Grishma Prabhukhot, Niam Abeysiriwardena, Noushin Arfatahery, Aerial Belk, Farrah Benge, April Bishop, Cigdem (CC) Caban, Scott Deterding, Alejandro Echeverry, David Fliczek, Tina Gettis, Charles Giambrone, Dale Grinstead, Lili He, Rick Heiman, Ruben Hernandez, Jessica Hofstetter, Arpit Jain, Megan Jensen, Arshpreet Kaur Khattrra, Amit Kheradia, Kathy Knutson, Tamara Kope, Jeffrey Kornacki, Yuqian Lou, Scott McKinney, Rob Middendorf, Gerardo Morantes, Montavius Morgan, Sandra Osorio Hincapié, Monica Osorio-Barahona, Mangesh Palekar, Aaron Patch, Gale Prince, David Rasmussen, Paula Rosowicz, Timothy Rugh, Sarah Sanderson, Arlette Shazer, Deb Smith, Rick Stokes, Charis Tavernarakis, Phillip Thomas, Adwy van den Berg, Patrick Wouters, Shaelyn Xu, Kenneth Zacher, Yue (Joy) Zheng.

Number of Attendees: 49.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 14, 2025, 8:30 a.m. Pacific Time.

Old Business: Meeting Minutes were recorded and seconded. Initiation: Rick Stokes Seconded: April Bishop.

New Business: Rick Stokes proposed to have nominees for the position for vice-chairperson – Dr. White said that an email will be sent out asking from nominations and do electronic voting. Rick Stokes proposed reviewing last year's list, to review things that were not approved in the last session. Timothy Rugh suggested formalizing a liaison between organizations, to offer education and trainings in different areas as a group. Reporting on what each group is doing, and create compendiums of areas that should be studied.

Dale Grinstead proposed to have a roundtable discuss commonalities or differences between standards, review previous years program (3–4 years) to avoid repetition. Roundtable on how to bring together groups like 3-A SSI, EHEDG, AMI. Mentioned that the Program Committee would like to have a perspective outside the US. Tina Gettis agrees on collaborating to reach a broader audience and understand the industry's needs to target specific subjects and possibly develop new PDGs.

Kathy Knutson encouraged modifying the session title to attract international collaboration and proposed to have programs during the year, webinars, roundtables to have better preparation leading to the Annual Meeting. Scott McKinney asked to prioritize industry needs over industry offers.

Adwy van den Berg suggested making a list of topics of interest to send for the members to choose which ones will be discussed. Dale Grinstead proposed to start a series of webinars (considering there is no content and time limits) and have workshops to approach the discussion of topics in depth. Aerial Belk proposed a workshop where members will discuss in small groups, areas of improvement or priority areas of their interest, to present at the end of the meeting to all members. Timothy Rugh: assessment of this group with unmet needs, hot topics when they go back to their companies and use that as a starting point, as references to solve key issues in the industry. Scott McKinney proposed to have some symposia to guide industry members, on where to get information on standards that need to be followed and where to find them.

Rick Stokes recommended integrating sanitary design with food safety culture, emphasizing the importance of fostering this culture among frontline workers. One challenge identified is that while local teams manage existing processing facilities, they may struggle to cultivate a robust food safety culture.

Dale Grinstead posed a question to the group about integrating hygienic design principles into food service and retail settings and suggested exploring the possibility of organizing a workshop or symposium focused on this topic. Tamara Kope suggested focusing on building hygienic design – challenges are beyond equipment. Aerial Belk supported Tamara Kope's idea. Alejandro Echeverry proposed to have a roundtable with food safety and engineering/architecture professionals. Gale Prince proposed a workshop designed for food plant engineers, would be the audience looked for to go through the basics of sanitary design. Suggested work on developing ideas on how to convince the CEOs and COOs of the value of the investment in sanitary design. Alejandro Echeverry recommended education on how to justify hygienic design investment. Dimitri Tavernarakis proposed talking about expanding the point the view of hygienic design, from the business point of view in the

next year's conference. Tina Gettis suggested focusing webinars on examples, experiences, output, and how to resolve it in a real-life scenario. Yuqian Lou proposed emphasizing the critical role of hygienic design in a processing facility, highlighting its impact not only on food safety but also on productivity. Yue Joy Zheng manifested interest in webinars, to influence their food safety culture in processing plants. Jeffrey L. Kornacki proposed verification of hygienic design and effectiveness on transition zones. Patrick Wouters suggested a checklist to provide a deeper understanding of what to do. Suggested for a webinar that makes a dedicated presentation about the guidelines. Dimitri Tavernarakis proposed a meeting in the first half of September. Jason W. Proposed to series of webinars which he will outline in more detail and share with the PDG for comments before September's meeting. Rick Heiman suggested a workshop pre-IAFP. Online nominations in the next online meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Chairperson Name: Dimitri Tavernarakis