

## **Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG**

**Names of Attendees:** Yuqian Lou (Chairperson), Raghu Ramaswamy (Vice Chairperson), Abdullatif Tay, Adriana Paes, Ahnna Schulte, Ankit Patras, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Anza Bester, April Schumacher, Arnab Sarkar, Astrid Cariou, Austin Cary, Avigaile Armstrong, Ben Miller, Betsy Craig, Bismarck Martinez, Brenna DeRocili, Carlos Porras Guardado, Cassandra Suther, Catherine Tegomoh, Chi-An Lee, Christopher McNamara, Claire Murphy, Cole Vaughan, Craig Jewell, Dara Smith, David Flicek, David French, Dina Scott, Eduardo Lecea, Elise Forward, Emma Shoemaker, Erin Headley, Erdogan Ceylan, Fernando Avelleyra, Florence Postollec, Frederic Martinez, Gabriella Strocko, George Afari, Gina Cullerton, James Doyle, Jasmine Kataria, Jeffrey LeJeune, Jenny Golove, Jena Roberts, Jesse Son, Jestin Bose, Jitu Patel, John Saniga, Jr., Julia Fukuba, Jun Nam, Justin de Senna, Karen Leacock, Katherine Castello, Katherine Sierra, Katelynn Stull, Kevin Atkins, Kirk Dolan, Kristin Schill, Larry Kohl, Lauren Hamilton, Lauryn Strong, Lindsay DiGenova, Lisa Lucore, Lisa Robinson, Manuel Shah, Mangesh Palekar, Manoj Shah, Marion Shepherd Jr., Mark Lacorn, Martha Kimber, Mary Tegomoh, Mathilde Trudel-Ferland, Megan Francies, Michael Roberson, Micah Black, Mike Morrison, Mike O'Rourke, Molly Mills, Miriam Ruiz, Nate Banner, Nirmal Thirunavookarasu Sankaranarayanan, Nigel Thorgrimsson, Paola Corea Ventura, Paulo Mohyla, Philip Bwalya, Preetha Biswas, Quincy Lissaur, Rachael McEgan, Ranee Anderson, Rebecca Woods, Rick Heiman, Rosemarie Christopher, Ruben Vinueza Duque, Sabahnur Demirci, Sabina Alexander, Sagar Pokhrel, Sahand Faghihi, Sarah Jones, Sean Foster, Shahram Ajamian, Sharon White, Shiwei Xu, Sid Fuller, Staci Richardson, Stephen Grove, Suyapa Rojas, Tamra Tolen, Taylor O'Bannon, Tom Ford, Tom Weaver, Toni de Senna, Trina Garcia, Trey Jensen, T.J. Fu, Tzazil Gabriela Oliva Coba, Valente Alvarez, Vanessa Gonzales Pacheco, Vera Arthur, Vianca

Tashiguano, Vikas Kumar Galipothu, Vijay Krishna, Wayne Muraoka, Yue Zheng, Yuhan Huang, Zhinong Yan.

**Total Number of Attendees:** 123.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:00 P.M.

**Old Business:** PDG Chair reviewed 2024 IAFP PDG meeting minutes, which was also shared ahead of the meeting. The 2024 minutes was projected on screen. Approval of 2024 minutes motion was seconded by Abdullatif and approved by everyone. PDG Chair introduced IAFP 2025 sessions sponsored by Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG, which are shown in the agenda and encouraged PDG Members to attend.

**New Business: Guest Presentation:**

Topic: IFU & the Microbiology Working Group's Global Impact: Driving Food Safety Forward, by Frederic Martinez, on behalf of International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association (IFU).

Yuqian introduced Frederic and the introduction slide, together with his presentation slides, will be shared with PDG Members. IFU was founded in 1949, France. Although based in French; it is a global organization. IFU event – mostly in Germany. Voice at Codex, WHO, FAO, WTO, Liaison with ISO/TC 34/SC9. Central Goal/Concept: IFU is the 'global voice of the fruit industry.' Overview of working groups to improve methods, recommendations for good, standardized practices for safety and/or quality practices. IFU - writing standards and general laboratory instructions. Methods of analysis and market recommendations. Validation work for IFU Working on two standards for commercial sterility testing. Detection and Enumeration of Acid-tolerant

spoilage organisms at 30°C – validated. Many other procedures – not yet validated.

### **2026 Symposium / Roundtable Brainstorm:**

PDG Chair showed IAFP 2026 proposal submission deadline–September 30, 2025. For the proposals, also consider the IAFP Webinar format. Also asked PDG Members to consider volunteering for *Journal of Food Protection* – Potential Editor-Invited Reviews. During the 2026 ideation process, the attendees were divided into 5 groups and each group designated one person to take notes and report back toward the end of the PDG meeting.

#### **IAFP 2026 Proposal Submission Ideas:**

- 1) Cold Brew Symposium – submitted by Catherine, David, Richard. May also consider it for webinar.
- 2) Status of FDA/FSIS groups: Regulatory updates and assessing the impact + result (inspection result etc.) – may collaborate with Food Law PDG.
- 3) Water reuse, e.g., direct potable reuse (DPR) framework, etc. – may collaborate with Water Quality PDG (note: Beverage PDG organized a water reuse webinar in 2024); Can cover water consumption process, residues like PFAS, food packaging and contact materials, regulatory agencies, evaluation of reuse water in fruit juices, or RTE foods, how to protect food against contamination, how to ensure sustainability of water. May work with Work with Water PDG. Roundtable would be a good option.
- 4) Ideas for acidified foods/salad dressings.
- 5) One health global concept for fruit juices – sustainability, food protection, good practices, traceability of potential contamination from farm to fork. May include risk assessment, identifying the risks, methods and processes to detect at which step the contamination is happening, reuse/sustainability of water.
- 6) Hydration prior to processing – webinar (Abdullatif).
- 7) Regulation of Acidified Foods – Webinar.
- 8) Validation using natural preservatives–natural colorants–How to conduct challenge studies to verify new natural preservatives, impacts from product variables, demonstrating parity to chemical preservatives. Use of natural colorants – ex. within

cereals. Chemical contaminants. Can combine it with ambient fill (i.e., “Ambient filled - challenge studies”). Symposium (Michelle/Anza). 9) MAHA - across different product types—impact of natural colors on products, process and risk assessment – (Marion). 10) Why process fails - deviations and spoilage incidents—case studies; equipment design and sanitation (Molly, Julia). 11) ESL—spoilage issues - case studies, can partner with Sanitation PDG. Christopher McNamara (Ocean Spray). 12) Regulations and different standards across different regions (e.g., U.S. vs EU) for various food products: CFR definitions, non-thermal processing - more focused, guidelines for LACF/AF, validation and approval requirements for novel processes – UV, plant-based products, fermented products like yogurt, kombucha, non-alcoholic beer/beverage.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. The PDG asks the Board to approve the appointment of Raghu Ramaswamy as Vice Chair.

**Next Meeting Date:** Sunday, July 26, 2026, New Orleans, LA.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:30 P.M.

**Chairperson Name:** Yuqian Lou.