

***Food Protection Trends* Management Committee**

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:03 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Ian Young/Laura Strawn.

Old Business: There was a unanimous vote to approve the motion to approve the 2024 minutes.

New Business: The committee discussed several initiatives aimed at strengthening the *Food Protection Trends (FPT)* journal and its alignment with IAFP Member interests. A subcommittee was formed to draft author guidance language related to survey-based research, including sample size considerations, IRB requirements, and appropriate reporting of study limitations. A second subcommittee was formed to explore the use of reporting checklists and artificial intelligence tools to streamline technical reviews and formatting. The group also discussed the peer review status of general interest articles and agreed that greater transparency in article labeling would support reader trust. A proposal to add interdisciplinary topics such as nutrition and sustainability, where clearly linked to food safety, was supported and will be further developed. Finally, the committee reviewed strategies to address growing submission volume and reduce time to publication.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. We recommend the approval of the appointments of Drs. S. Balamurugan and Jovana Kovacevic as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectfully, of the *FPT* Management Committee.
2. We recommend the creation of an Assistant Editor position for *FPT*. Due to increased submissions and growing editorial workload, the committee supports developing this role to

assist the Chief Scientific Editor. The Assistant Editor would be selected via an open call and serve as a shadow to the Editor, ultimately transitioning to the lead editorial role upon the current Editor's retirement. The position would then be refilled to ensure continued editorial sustainability. Motion unanimously passed.

3. We recommend approval of a Member Benefit Promotional Campaign for *FPT*. The committee supports the development of a PowerPoint slide deck and related materials highlighting the value and content of *FPT*. These materials could be used for speaking engagements, a mini webinar, or posted to the *FPT* landing page to engage Members and external stakeholders. Motion unanimously passed.
4. We recommend that the board explore options to expand the publication capacity of *FPT*. This includes consideration of increasing the number of articles per issue, adding more issues per year, and enabling early access or immediate open access to accepted articles. A phased open-access model could allow articles to be available to IAFP Members first, with public access following six months. Motion unanimously passed.

Next Meeting Date: July 26, New Orleans, LA.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:29 P.M.

Chairperson Name: S. Balamurugan ("Bala").

Exiting Chairperson: Laura Strawn (assisted with meeting).