

## **HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG**

**Attendees:** Lone Jespersen (Chairperson), Amira Ayad (Vice Chairperson), Aaron Lavallee, Aldo Xoxocotla Sánchez, Alicyn Dickman, Allison Howell, Ann Charles Vegdahl, Anna Schumann, Arenis Piñón, Austin Cary, Aytan Pirverdiyeva, Betty Yaohua Feng, Brittany Saunier, Christina Allingham, Clint Stevenson, Courtney Crist, Dina Scott, Elma Kontor-Manu, Ellen Shumaker, Eric Moore, Fanny Gozzi, Han Chen, H. Lester Schonberger, James Beix, Jennifer Quinlan, Jessica Roman, Joel Riemer, Julian Cox, Kailyn Hanke, Kris Sollid, Kristen Hunt, Laurie Post, Lisa Peterson, Lorena Correia, Luann Schafer, Martin Duplessis, Mary Morris-Donaldson, Maureen Hanley, Melanie Rank, Michael Ciaramella, Nadia Narine, Natalie Seymour, Nicole Arnold, Pratiksha Kotkar, Pratiksha Shrestha, Rocio Ortega, Ryan Maus, Sam Hadden, Savana Everhart Nunn, Shams Adigozalzade, Suyapa Rojas, Tony Flood, Vanessa Coffman, Wendy White, Yvonne Masters.

**Number of Attendees:** 55.

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

**Minutes Recording:** Dr. Amira Ayad.

**Old Business:** The outgoing Chair, Dr. Bala Kottapalli, welcomed attendees and reviewed the meeting agenda. Dr. Kottapalli introduced the incoming Chair, Dr. Lone Jespersen, and the incoming Vice Chair, Dr. Amira Ayad. The 2025 PDG minutes were tabled for comments or edits. Motion to adopt the minutes: Dr. Bala Kottapalli. Seconded by: Eric Moore (Testo, North America). Minutes were adopted with no edits. Members were encouraged to get involved in IAFP committees. More information is available at: [www.foodprotection.org/get-involved](http://www.foodprotection.org/get-involved).

**New Business:** HACCP PDG Student Awards: Dr. Bala Kottapalli reviewed the purpose and process for the annual HACCP PDG Student Awards. Objective: Recognize students whose research contributes significantly to applied food safety. Selection Process: Round 1: Expert panel reviewed student abstracts submitted through IAFP and selected the top four. Round 2: The panel evaluated the top four and selected the top three winners by consensus. Awardees received certificates and presented their research during the PDG meeting. Selection criteria adapted from: <https://iafp.confex.com/iafp/2022/dsc.html>

Congratulations to the 2025 Award Winners: 1<sup>st</sup> Place: Narindra Randriamiarintsoa – Michigan State University, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Juzhong Tan – University of Delaware, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Jaber Ghorbani – University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Discussion of IAFP 2026 Symposia, Roundtable, Webinar Proposals.

Attendees were divided into five discussion groups to brainstorm future session topics. Key ideas included:

Group 1: HACCP in Operations and Auditing: (1) Missed cleaning areas and recontamination risks (e.g., spray drying), (2) Residue buildup and sanitation challenges, (3) Matrices tied to past recalls/outbreaks, (4) Workshop to guide auditors on what to assess.

Group 2: Career Development and Consumer Engagement: (1) Career panel with professionals at different experience levels (1, 5, 10+ years), (2) “HACCP 101 for Students” session with real-world examples, (3) Consumer misuse trends and prevention strategies (e.g., labeling vs. cooking instructions). Group 3: Global Regulations and Digitization: (1) Regulatory expectations across different global regions, (2) Panel on AI and digital tools used in HACCP and food safety plans (FSPs), (3) Topics: AI implementation, oversight standards, human-AI collaboration.

Group 4: Sanitation, Risk Evaluation & Technology: (1) Re-elevating sanitation as a preventive control, (2) Cleaning types and equipment design for dry processing, (3) Alt proteins: risk gaps and allergen handling, (4) Cybersecurity in food systems, (5) AI-assisted documentation: CAPA,

risk assessments, and monitoring, (6) Case studies on multi-hurdle interventions. Group 5: Raw Materials and Food Service: (1) Global ingredient safety and post-USDA regulatory gaps, (2) Appendix I and FDA guidelines, (3) New hazard analysis approaches, (4) Visual HACCP validation in catering, (5) Technology transfer from lab to industry, (6) Verification tools for international sources.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Continue to support and expand the HACCP PDG Student Award to promote student engagement.
2. Encourage inter-PDG collaboration on shared topics such as sanitation, alternative proteins, and digital transformation.
3. Recommend the approval of Amira Ayad for Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:15 P.M.

**Chairperson Name:** Dr. Lone Jespersen.