

## **International Food Protection Issues PDG**

**Names of Attendees:** Constanza Vergara (Chairperson), Alvin Lee (Vice Chairperson), Anett Winkler, Angelica Uribe, Arie Havelaar, Aswathi Soni, Barbara Kowalczyk, Ben Miller, Bobby Krishna, Caio Carvalho, Daun Kim, Devin LaPolt, Ellen Mendez, Erin Crowley, Ewen Todd, Fabiana Guglielmone, Francisco Garces-Vega, Gustavo Gonzalez, Gulustan Kuccuk, Hae Woong Park, Heidi Den Besten, Helen Taylor, Hui Key Lee, Ian Jenson, Jason Wan, Jeffrey LeJeune, Jenny Scott, Jim Tischer, Jude Dilioha, Julie Haendiges, Katherine Swanson, Kebede Amenu, Kolawole Banwo, Kunna Faal, Leon Gorris, Leslie Hintz, Marcel Zwietering, Melissa Bruce, Pamela Wilger, Phyllis Posy, Precious Aduloju, Quincy Lissaur, Quynh-Nhi Le, Rachel Midkiff, Rion Msi, Seulgi Jeong, Shiwei Xu, Shuang Yu, Staci Richardson, Valente Alvarez, Vanessa Gonzales Pacheco, Yaxi Dai, Zhinong Yan.

**Number of Attendees:** 52.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday July 27, 2025, 3:03 P.M.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Alvin Lee

The draft agenda was approved, the anti-trust guidelines were reviewed and the board representative, Pamela Wilger conveyed the messages from the board.

**Old Business:** There was an update of the previous recommendations to the Executive Board and collaborations with other PDGs on annual meeting proposals. The PDG submitted

22 proposals with 10 proposals accepted. A summary of the number of webinars in 2024/2025 was given with more webinars coming in Q3 and Q4 of 2025. There were no additional comments from previous year's minutes. Katie Swanson proposed to approve the previous year's meeting minutes and was seconded by Leon Gorris. Marcel Zwietering passed on the torch to incoming Chair, Constanza Vergara. Constanza thanked Marcel Zwietering for his work and cooperation as Chair of the PDG.

**New Business: (Summarizing paragraphs only).** The PDG voted to confirm Alvin Lee as Vice Chair.

Erin Crowley presented updates on the Regulatory Systems Summary, an initiative of the PDG that started in 2019. Although updates have been slow, there were countries updates that are now almost completed. The working group has simplified the update template and collaborates with Members and the food law PDG to complete the task. A big thank you to Jeff Farber for helping to simplify the process.

Jeff Lejune provided an update on FAO Food Safety Activities and encourages Members to attend the session International Efforts in Food Virology: The 2023–2024 FAO/WHO JEMRA Expert Consultations for the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene on Tuesday July 29 at 3: 45 P.M.. Also, he highlighted a session that targets an international audience which is the Marketplace to Connect IAFFP Professionals Worldwide on Food Safety in Asia on Monday July 28 at 10:45 A.M., and Risk Business in Low- and Middle-Income Countries on Tuesday July 29 at 3:45 P.M.

A session on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its role in food safety was moderated by Marcel Zwietering and Alvin Lee. The PDG hopes Members will use the materials to spur ideas for sessions and webinar proposals for 2025/2026.

A list of potential *JFP* review topics was circulated to Members and Members to contact *JFP* editors. A discussion followed on potential activities over the next year, including meeting frequency (first meeting early September 2025), potential webinar topics, *IAFP Connect* and its app as communication tool, IAFP Mentor Program and *FPT* submissions to highlight PDG activities and initiatives.

Virtual meeting in early September 2025 (TBA).

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Recommendation for approval of Alvin Lee as Vice Chair of the IFPI PDG.
2. Recommendation for the Executive Board to consider a process that could carry forward to next meeting for sessions involving international presenters needing to apply visa where visa to U.S. is either denied or not approved on time. The visa application process remains uncertain and unpredictable and applicants unable to obtain timely visa appointments. Similarly, session acceptance notification involving sessions with visa applying participants can be given priority to allow as much time for visa application process.
3. Recommendation for the Executive Board to explore if a later Session Proposal Submission date is feasible. It seems Sept 30 could be too early given the start of school year and vacations.

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

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:06 P.M.

**Chairperson Name:** Constanza Vergara.