

Low Water Activity Foods PDG

Names of Attendees: Erdogan Ceylan (Chairperson), Ariel Buehler (Vice Chairperson), Aaron Pleitner, Abdullatif Tay, Allisson Guevara Milla, Ahnna Schulte, Andrew Widmer, Annamaria Carone, Anett Winkler, Arnab Sarkar, Arshpreet Kaur Khattrra, Austin Cary, Aytan Pirverdiyeva, Beth Paras, Betty Yaohua Feng, Bijay Khajanchi, Bill Soest, Bradley Marks, Bruna Bertoldi, Caitlin Karolenko, Carris Jiang, Cassandra Suther, Catharine Carlin, Catalina Castillo, Chantal Nde, Chrissy Walsky, Christopher McNamara, Cole Vaughan, Conrad Redlitz, David Rasmussen, Deepa Thiagarajan, Diana Stewart, Dikshya Shilpakar, Edith Zambrana, Edmund Tanhehco, Elizabeth Epps, Elizabeth Grasso-Kelley, Elma Kontor-Manu, Erin Mertz, Evan Rosen, Fanny Gozzi, Gerald Lekan, Gloria Anderson, Gustavo Gomez, Han Chen, Indu Aashritha Idumalla, Jakob Baker, Jared Torgeson, Jasmine Kataria, Jason Hubbell, Jason White, Jena Roberts, Jennifer Acuff, Jeffrey Kornacki, Joelle Salazar, Jodie Ulaszek, John Spink, Joseph Meyer, Joy Herdt, Juliany Rivera Calo, Julie Haendiges, Julie Weller, Kaliramesh Siliveru, Karina Martino, Karuna Kharel, Kavita Patil, Keith Ito, Kent Juliot, Kevin Lorcheim, Kirk Dolan, Kristen Hunt, Laurie Post, Leticia Mallmann, Linda Harris, Lisa Lucore, Lorena Correia, Manoj Shah, Mario Cobo, Mark Moorman, Martha Kimber, Matthew Hahs, Maxwell Lorcheim, Md Ashrafudoulla, Megan Fay, Meijun Zhu, Melissa Bruce, Micah Greenzweig, Michelle Iannucci, Mike Morrison, Minji Hur, Molly Miller, Molly Mills, Montavius Morgan, Nadia Narine, Narindra Randriamiarintsoa, Nathan Mirdamadi, Natoavina Faliarizao, Neelam Sharma, Neil Bogart, Paulo Mohyla, Peyman Fatemi, Pratiksha Kotkar, Pratiksha Shrestha, Raghu Ramaswamy, Ren Yang, Richard Walsh, Rick Heiman, Rico Suhalim, Romy Yu, Ryan Maus, Samantha Roldan Perez, Sanghyup Jeong, Sarah Jones, Scott Osborne, Shams Adigozalzade, Shaney Rump, Shihyu Chuang, Suyapa Rojas, Tom

Weaver, Toni de Senna, Travis Sananikone, Urvi Shah, Vera Arthur, Vickie Lewandowski, Wilfredo Ocasio, Xiyang Liu, Yawei Lin, Yhuliana Nino, Yige Bima, Yuliana Nino, Yinqing Ma.

Total Number of Attendees: 127.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 3:01 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Ariel Buehler.

Old Business: 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no objections.

New Business: PDG Chair Erdogan Ceylan called meeting to order, and the motion was seconded by Molly Mills. The meeting started with introductions of each person and their affiliation to the group IAFP executive committee announcements were then reviewed and included the list of requested topics for invited reviews to the *Journal of Food Protection*. Nathan Mirdamadi, Global Director of Sanitation at Kerry, presented on “Legacy Equipment and Infrastructure in Low a_w Facilities: Working with Less-than-Ideal Hygienic Equipment & Facility Design.” The group then dispersed into four breakout groups to discuss potential symposium topics. The four areas of discussion were themed around: i.) ingredient control and infant formula, ii.) digital tools for quality, safety and shelf-life and cleaning and sanitation, iii.) WGS and traceability, supply chain/climate change, and iv.) very dry fruits, validation of kill steps. After discussion in the breakout groups, the larger group came together to share what was discussed. A couple of themes were highlighted around dry ingredients and their associated risk assessments, lethality validations—product grouping, when to use surrogates and when is a

revalidation required, consumer lethality validations, environmental monitoring programs and sanitation frequency, and clean breaks in dry environments. Potential collaborations with IAFNS were also raised for the dry fruits and dried ingredients topics. This group will have a virtual meeting in a month to discuss further symposium development and collaborations on submissions prior to the September 30th deadline.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:31 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Erdogan Ceylan.