

Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG

Attendees: Abdullatif Tay (Chairperson), Heidy Den Besten (Vice Chairperson), Alda Pires, Amy Sicheloff, Andrea Cerrato, Arie Havelaar, Ashwini Wagh, Aswathi Soni, Bradley Marks, Brian Schaneberg, Cameron Parsons, Cecil Barnett-Neefs, David Ayala Velastegui, David Legan, Edith Zambrana, Elisabetta Lambertini, Erdogan Ceylan, Florence Postollec, Gabriella Pinto, Grace Akumu, Gregory Paoli, Gry Terrell, Gustavo Reyes, Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Hilal Samut, Ian Hildebrandt, Ian Jenson, Jaber Ghorbani, Jakob Baker, Jaber Ghorbani, John Bassett, Jenny Scott, Joshua Owade, Jun Nam, Katherine Swanson, Keith Ito, Khwahish Jawariya, Ki sun Yoon, Kirk Dolan, Kunihiro Kubota, Leon Gorris, Luke Qian, Marcel Zwietering, Matthew Hahs, Meijun Zhu, Myoengsin Choi, Natoavina Faliarizao, Neelam Sharma, Niam Abeyesiriwardena, Nirmal Thirunavookarasu Sankaranarayanan, Nuradeen Yusuf, Panos Skandamis, Peg Coleman, Ray Elementi, Ren Yang, Shige Koseki, Stefhanie Loaiza, Surabhi Wason, Xiyang Liu, Yiyi Li, YeonJin Jung, Yuhuan Chen.

Total Number of Attendees: 62.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Grace Akumu, Student PDG Liaison

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 8:30 A.M.

Dr. Abdullatif Tay called the meeting to order at 8.30 am Eastern Daylight Time on Sunday, July 27, 2025. Dr. Yuhuan Chen seconded this. Dr. Tay read the Antitrust Policy, emphasizing that PDG Members are to adhere to guidelines prohibiting discussions on trade secrets, price fixing, and related topics.

Welcome and Agenda: Dr. Tay opened the meeting with a welcome message and provided an overview of the meeting agenda. Dr. Tay presented board updates and encouraged all Members to review and stay informed.

Old Business: Approval of Minutes: Dr. Tay moved to adopt the 2024 PDG meeting minutes as published on the IAFP website. The motion was seconded by David Legan and unanimously approved. Mission Statement Update: The proposal to remove “microbial” from the PDG mission statement was approved. Achievements: A successful PDG-hosted webinar was held in May 2025, attracting over 200 attendees. The PDG had a 35% acceptance rate for sponsored proposals (including symposia, roundtables, workshops, and webinars) submitted to IAFP. Of the 20 proposals submitted, 7 were accepted: 4 primarily sponsored by the MRA PDG and 3 co-sponsored with other PDGs. No issues related to old business were raised.

New Business: Leadership changes: Dr. Abdullatif Tay’s term as chair will end in 2026. The current vice chair, Dr. Heidy den Besten was named the incoming Chair of the PDG. It was also communicated that elections for the vice chair position will be held in 2026. Mission Statement Update: Following the renaming of the PDG to Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG in 2024, an updated mission statement was proposed. Members were invited to provide feedback on the draft. Key suggestions included broadening the mission beyond solely “protecting public health” by removing this statement entirely, and replacing the statement “encourage research” with “encourage research collaboration and dissemination.” A revision will be made incorporating these recommendations. Important Dates and Deadlines: Proposal submissions for the 2026 IAFP Meeting in New Orleans are due September 30, 2025, and Abstracts for technical talks and posters are due January 13, 2026. Dr. Tay emphasized that Members should also target webinar submissions that are less stringent on timelines, have a wider reach, and can strengthen PDG proposal quality and submission success rates. **Journal Opportunity:** Dr. Tay highlighted that the *Journal of Food Protection (JFP)* has compiled a list of potential invited review topics to boost its impact factor. Members were encouraged to respond to the list and submit invited reviews.

Updates from outside the MRA PDG: ICP.M.F Update: Dr. Shige Koseki, Secretary of ICP.M.F, provided updates on the activities of ICP.M.F. ICP.M.F 13 will be held in September 2025, and further details can be found on the official website. ICP.M.F launched the Young International Committee of Predictive Modelling in Foods in January 2025 to advance research in the field of predictive modelling in food among young scientists. PDG student Members were encouraged to join. The committee has hosted multiple webinars and continues to organize an active webinar series. Furthermore, the ICP.M.F website has been redesigned for improved accessibility and user experience. Shige concluded by issuing a call for applications to host the next ICP.M.F 2027. Interested institutions were encouraged to apply.

Student PDG Updates: Grace Akumu, a Ph.D. candidate from Texas Tech University, presented updates on the student PDG's 2024–25 activities and opportunities for Members to engage with and collaborate with the student PDG.

Student Awards: Dr. Tay presented student abstract awards to the first-place winner, Maria Luisa Klobongona, and the second-place winner, Andrew Stivem Ortiz Balsero. Certificates were awarded to both recipients in their absence.

Dr. Tay recognized and welcomed all the new Members to the PDG.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Yuhuan Chen, a new IAFP fellow, discussed the practical assessment of risk, emphasizing whether it can be both rapid and quantitative. She highlighted the growing need for practical risk assessment approaches. She showcased various Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) tools and models that have been developed over time, particularly by the USDA and FDA. These include interactive tools such as FDA-iRisk and models that address contaminants like arsenic in rice and rice products. Dr. Chen demonstrated how a collection of QRA tools can support rapid assessments and shared two case studies using FDA-iRisk, one

on sampling variability for *Listeria monocytogenes* and another comparing bottom-up and top-down risk assessment approaches for H5N1 virus in milk. She also highlighted the Cadmium Reverse Dosimetry, noting its interactive nature, and provided an overview of several databases and tools, including FDA-iRisk, FDA-OC App sampling tool, ICMSF sampling spreadsheet, ComBase, and USDA P.M.P/P.M.IP, among others. She concluded by noting ongoing efforts to integrate tools and datasets, such as linking FDA-iRisk with ComBase, to enhance the utility and efficiency of quantitative risk assessments.

Future Proposals for 2026 IAFP Symposia, Roundtables, Webinars, and Workshops (Group Session): An extensive discussion on proposals for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting was conducted by dividing the Members into four groups by category: predictive modeling, risk assessment, risk management, and risk communication. The Marketplace (Tools) category was added as a new discussion category. The groups discussed future topics for 30 minutes, and the facilitator for each group reported a summary of the discussion and potential ideas. These are captured in the addendum.

Addendum: Future proposals: Predictive Modelling – Should focus on AI. Understanding Artificial Intelligence (AI): concepts and clarifications (webinar), and Applications and pitfalls of AI (Symposium). Community concerns (roundtable discussions) – Predictive vs. Informative models, Data requirements for making machine learning models, Data standardization and Interoperability, Identifying appropriate use cases, and Evidence synthesis in the age of AI. Risk Management – No new topics were identified or suggested. Risk Communication: Risk estimates or metrics of risk – how to communicate technical information in a basic form, Communication of hurdles – fear of risk, how to have a better understanding of risk, There is always some level of risk (no zero risk system) (could be led by Dr. Zwietering), How to set a baseline and guide practices, Communication of hazard vs. risk using real world cases, Understanding industry questions and concerns, Hesitation on using illness metrics for industry.

Risk Assessment: Farm to Fork based on case studies, Holistic risk assessment using a one health approach (theoretical and tools), Risk beyond germophobia: navigating the line between assessment and management (roles - weights, and responsibilities – who decides on what), Data gaps and methodological challenges in the face of emerging hazards and consumption trends), Risk assessment in the context of climate change (think of some case studies, and apply a multiparametric approach that explores animals, foods, and plants) New Ideas: Marketplace on Modelling and Risk Analysis Tools. This would be a very hands-on and interactive way to introduce MRA tools from around the globe to the IAFP professionals attending. Our group of proposers consists of 6 MRA Members from Europe, USA, Japan, and Africa. The Marketplace for this topic would require tables and electricity points for about 20 marketers to use their laptops to demonstrate and discuss the available tools with attendees, 1:1 or in small groups. Ideally, a single room can be used for both the introductory elevator pitches of the marketers as well as showcasing the tools on the market stands.

Any Other Business: Members suggested sending out requests for potential future proposals in advance (1–2 months before the IAFP conference), allowing them to incorporate ongoing projects and think of quality ideas rather than generating ideas ad hoc during the meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10.09 A.M.

Chairperson: Abdullatif Tay.