

Physical Hazards and Foreign Body PDG

Names of Attendees: Sarah Smith-Simpson (Chairperson), Paula Schwarz (Vice Chairperson), Adejare Adegbuyi, Adeniyi Odugbemi, Adam Bolain, Adwy van den Berg, Amanda Jones, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Byron Chaves, Christopher Rupert, Craig Lorei, David Flicek, David Melton, Fariha Chowdhury Meem, George Awuah, Heather Clements, Intisar Khan, Janet Rowat Kraiss, John Boyce, Larry Kohl, Marsha Sayre, Maryam Blythe, Michael Barnett, Michele Sayles, Mike O'Rourke, Myoengsin Choi, Patrick Wouters, Scott Sayles, Sid Fuller, Stephen Grove, Taylor Coho, Tom Sidebottom, Xiaoyan Zhang, Yue Zheng, Yuqian Lou.

Total Number of Attendees: 34.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 3:00 P.M.

Old Business: The previous year's meeting minutes were approved by Janet Rowat Kraiss and Amanda Jones. The group discussed attending relevant IAFP 2025 sessions focused on physical hazards and foreign material, including RT15, "Strategies for Managing Foreign Material Incidents in Food Production," and S27, "End to End (E2E) Physical Hazards Risk Management in Pet Foods for Safety and Health of Companion Animals." An update from the Student PDG was presented. The meeting also featured a guest presentation by Aaron Cadotte, Founder of Engenium LLC.

New Business: Discussion focused on increasing visibility for the PDG, with a three-part webinar series proposed by the Chair and Vice Chair. The series will include the following titles: "Beyond the Bugs: Why Physical Hazards Deserve Attention (Q3/Q4 2025)," "Risky Business: Tools & Strategies for Foreign Material Assessment," (Q1 - 2026) and "Lessons Learned:

Managing & Preventing Foreign Material Incidents.” (Q2 - 2026) The first webinar will be hosted by Amanda Jones, Janet Rowat Kraiss, Stephan Grove, and Aaron Cadotte; the second by Adwy van der Beg and Tom Sidebottom; and the third by Yue Zheng, Maryam Blyne, Janet Rowat Kraiss, Adam Bolain, and Craig Lorei.

Multiple ideas for future symposia and roundtables were suggested for the 2025–2026 cycle, including topics such as food safety culture as it relates to foreign material, and a shift toward a proactive rather than reactive approach, with an emphasis on prevention over detection (partner with food safety culture PDG), perspectives regarding foreign bodies from medical professionals and veterinarians (partner with Pet Food PDG), the implications of foreign body recalls for retailers (partner with Retail PDG), foreign material originating from packaging and how it varies with packaging types (partner with Packaging PDG).

The established deliverables are a three-part webinar series for 2025–2026 and coordination with other PDGs for IAFP 2025 on multiple session proposals.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the approval of Sarah Smith-Simpson as Chair of the PDG. The previous incoming Chair was not able to fulfill the term.
2. Recommend the approval of Paula Schwarz as Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Sarah Smith-Simpson.