

COUNCILS

Affiliate Council

Affiliate Delegates Present:

Africa	Joseph Odumeru
Argentina	Fabiana Guglielmone
Arkansas	Jennifer Acuff
Alabama	Neil Bogart
Bangladesh in NA	Salina Parveen
Brazil	Caio Carvalho
Capital Area	Jenny Scott
Florida	Morgan Madison
Georgia	Dina Scott
Hong Kong	Terence Lau
Indian in NA	Arshpreet Kaur Khattrra
Indiana	Amanda Deering
Japan	Shige Koseki
Kentucky	Eric Martin
Mexico	Maria-Teresa Jimenez Munguia
Minnesota	Ruth Petran
Nepalese	Kharuna Kharel
New York	Steve Murphy
New Zealand	Aswathi Soni
Ohio	Connie Freese
Ontario	Ellen Gravi
Quebec	Julie Jean
SE Asia	Alvin Lee
Taiwan	Shihyu Chuang
United Arab Emirates	Bobby Krishna
United Kingdom	Helen Taylor
Upper Midwest	Dan Erickson
Washington	Kent Dowding

Wisconsin

Takiyah Ball

IAFP Board/Staff Present: Mark Carter, Tim Jackson, Manpreet Singh, Manan Sharma, Lisa Garcia, Susan Smith.

Visitors/Guests: Achyut Adhikari (Nepalese), Pranam Adhikari (Student), David Blomquist (Minnesota), Jessica Burke (Ontario), Faith Critzer (Georgia), Nicola Dermer (New Zealand), Aakankshya Dhakal (Student), Julia Fukaba (Student), Kristen Gibson (Arkansas), Erin Headley (Wisconsin), Derek Hladki (Michigan), Kristen Houck (Wisconsin), Aaron Huckabee (Florida), Sharon Humphries (Kentucky), Snehal Jadhav (Australia), Ian Jenson (Australia), Govindaraj Dev Kumar (Indian in NA), Kunihiro Kubota (Japan), Nelly Lam (Hong Kong), Quanhong Li (New Jersey), Yuqi Luo (Ohio), Nathan Mirdamadi (Missouri), Juan Moreira (Colorado), Luis Augusto Nero (Brazil), Tania Nur (Ohio), Kavita Patil (Indian in NA), Gale Prince (Ohio), Carrie Rigdon (Minnesota), Diego Romulo (Argentina), Kristin Sanders (Kentucky), Neelam Sharma (Student), Pratiksha Shrestha (Student), Kristin Schill (Wisconsin), Dikshya Shilpakar (Student), Francisco Garces-Vega (Colombia), Nathaniel Wilson (Kentucky).

Meeting Called to Order: 7:37 a.m. (U.S. Eastern Time), Sunday July 27, 2025.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Helen Taylor.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Approval of 2024 minutes: A motion was made to approve (Jennifer Acuff) and seconded (Joseph Odumeru).

Report from Affiliate Chairperson: Caio Carvalho provided the following updates:

1. Attendees were reminded to get badges scanned.
2. Affiliate 2025 milestone anniversaries: Florida (80 years); Colombia (50 years); Argentina (10 years). Caio thanked the Affiliates for their continued contributions to food safety.
3. The Kentucky Association for Food Protection and the Nepalese Association for Food Protection both joined IAFP in late 2024 and will formally receive their Charters at the Opening Session. The Nepalese Affiliate met earlier in 2025 with 85 attendees; the Affiliate is planning an online symposium for later in 2025 which can be accessed worldwide. Both Affiliates were welcomed.

4. Webinar suggestions are welcomed. Affiliates are encouraged to share their webinar proposals at the PDGs taking place today or email the IAFP office to ensure suggested subjects are relevant to IAFP Membership. It is a great way to share updated technical information.
5. There were three Affiliate Council Virtual Meetings held during the past year. Participation of Affiliates and Affiliate members has been active with invitations for the three meetings sent in advance from Susan Smith. The attendees were reminded that meeting recordings are available on *IAFP Connect* for those who are unable to attend. Also, they were encouraged to send agenda topics in advance to be discussed in upcoming meetings.
6. A brief overview of IAFP's Latin American Symposium 2024 was given. Organized by the Brazil Association for Food Protection, the meeting had 600 attendees. The next Latin American Symposium will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 28–29, 2026.
7. The first FoodMicro Latino conference will take place October 25–28, 2025, in Aracaju, Brazil.

Report from IAFP President: Mark Carter, IAFP President, thanked attendees for being active in their Affiliates and IAFP. He announced that more than 3,000 attendees were registered for IAFP 2025. He thanked the Ohio Association for Food Protection volunteers for serving as this year's Local Arrangements Committee. He reminded attendees to download the App and visit with this year's exhibitors and stop by the Welcome Booth organized by the DEI Council. He noted that IAFP webinars are important and contribute to engagement.

Report from IAFP Executive Director: Lisa Garcia commented that IAFP is still recovering post-Covid, and expenses have increased to run a meeting. We want to keep meeting costs low, but attendees have seen small increases year after year. Affiliate meetings have continued throughout the year. Webinars are reaching our Membership and beyond, with open access to non-Members during the month of June.

Report from IAFP Staff Liaison:

Susan Smith commented that 40 of 55 active Annual Reports were submitted for 2024 activities, an increase of 9% from last year's submissions. According to the IAFP Bylaws, Affiliates must submit an Annual Report, regardless of activities. Susan sends monthly reminders to all Affiliate Officers. All reports are electronically submitted. Affiliates should read the description to choose the most appropriate award(s) for their activities. This year we had many strong applications, which made it difficult for the Award Selection Committee to determine the winners. Affiliates

should apply for as many awards as they think they qualify. The Affiliate Awards application process will be discussed later during this meeting to better define the criteria. She reminded attendees that the Affiliate President and Delegate must be active IAFP Members at the time of application. A few Affiliate websites aren't being updated on a regular basis, so she encouraged them to keep websites updated to access upcoming meetings, Affiliate officers, etc.

Forty-two Affiliates held meetings in 2024 but not all of them requested speaker support from IAFP. The IAFP Board Speaker and Expanded Speaker Programs are available, and 19 Affiliates benefited from using it in 2024. IAFP pays the speaker's travel to and from the meeting; Affiliates only pay transportation to and from the meeting and onsite expenses. This is a great resource to schedule high-level speakers for Affiliate meetings. Speakers can also present remotely at no cost for the Affiliate or the Association. Those Affiliates that collect dues through IAFP should inform the Association if dues are increased. Affiliate members were encouraged to register on *IAFP Connect* to receive communications from IAFP. Two new charters will be presented at the Opening Session on Sunday night.

Discussions: The New Zealand Affiliate greatly benefited with Kali Kniel speaking as part of the IAFP Speaker Program.

The question was asked if Roy Betts' (UK Affiliate) retirement has been recognized.

The question was asked about how Affiliates determine their dues. Susan answered that Affiliate dues are determined by the individual Affiliate.

A suggestion was made that the Affiliate Annual Report submission form be updated for ease of use by Affiliates. This led to a discussion by attendees regarding the application process for some of the Affiliate awards, particularly the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award. The question came up, "Should an Affiliate applying for the Shogren be required to apply for and receive one of the other awards as part of the Shogren criteria?" The following discussion took place on the floor:

Jenny Scott: The Best Overall Affiliate Meeting description including the criteria, "a wide range of topics is required," needs to be better defined.

Jennifer Acuff: The Best Overall Affiliate Meeting should meet the needs of Affiliate Members and not just one company. If an Affiliate wishes to receive the Shogren Award and is required to receive at least one other award, it is seen as unfortunate to give two awards to one Affiliate. Does winning one other award qualify them to receive the Shogren Award?

Questions: What are the criteria/rationale behind these awards? What is stopping Affiliates from applying for multiple awards?

Caio Carvalho: The Shogren Award is presented for outstanding Affiliate performance throughout the previous year. The criteria stating the Affiliates needs to contribute to the Foundation should be removed. Should an increase in membership be considered? Should the top three Affiliates applying for awards be considered for the Shogren? The scope of the meeting should be considered – can a lunch meeting qualify vs. a two-day meeting? Will an Affiliate hesitate to apply for one or more awards if they don't meet the current criteria? The Shogren's eligibility paragraph and selection criteria need more clarification and be better defined. Review the criteria where "Affiliate Officers need to be IAFP Members."

Manpreet Singh: Task the Awards Committee to review and better define the awards criteria.

Caio: To be considered for the Shogren Award, the Affiliate must be ranked first in at least one of the other award categories.

Ruth Petran: I thought you had to be a previous award winner to be considered for the Shogren.

Jennifer: Longevity is considered as an aspect for the Shogren Award.

Jenny: Affiliates often don't have time to apply for multiple awards. If you want to be considered for the Shogren Award, do you have to apply for one other award and then indicate if the Affiliate wants to be considered for the Shogren?

Ellen Gravi: As the Communication Award recipient, the Ontario Affiliate can offer suggestions about using photos; summarizing information with photos within it. Ontario is a more active Affiliate and we are happy to help other Affiliates apply for awards.

Alvin Lee: If an Affiliate wants to be considered for the Shogren, check the box on the form.

Manpreet: We need to firm up the language, using correct language, and circulate it to the Affiliates for input.

Mark Carter: Perhaps process something visual, like a flowchart.

Susan Smith: No decisions can be made today, but let us know what you think about awards and the criteria so we can redefine the criteria over the next few months before Annual Reports are submitted for 2025. There is a table of Affiliate Annual Reports from 2024 submissions that is outside the meeting room for all Affiliate Officers to review.

Election of Affiliate Secretary: Caio called for nominees from the floor. Potential candidates were reminded they need to serve as their Affiliate Delegate for the next two years, and be an active IAFP member. One candidate volunteered to stand for election: Takiyah Ball, Wisconsin Affiliate Delegate. Caio asked her to introduce herself and provide a brief summary that

included number of years with her respective Affiliate and as Affiliate Delegate, and the number of IAFP Annual Meetings she has attended.

Takiyah summarized that she works for Sargento Foods as a Food Safety Microbiologist; was awarded the 2016 Student Travel Scholarship; has chaired the Diversity Committee and the Nomination Committee; and has mentored several students. She has been a Wisconsin Affiliate Member for five years and has attended most Annual Meetings during the past 10 years.

The candidate left the room while Delegates voted. Takiyah Ball was elected by a majority vote.

2025 Affiliate Awards Presentation: Caio highlighted the achievements of the award recipients and presented the 2025 Affiliate Awards as follows:

Affiliate Membership Achievement Award: *Brazil Association for Food Protection* – The Affiliate had a 47% increase in membership throughout 2024, in part due to a defined campaign and participation of a newly hired communication expert.

Affiliate Communications Materials: *Ontario Food Protection Association* – The Affiliate demonstrated a strong communication campaign based on monthly webinars and its monthly newsletters; several e-blasts; LinkedIn activity with 7,852 followers; posts on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X, and TikTok platforms; and a very active website.

Affiliate Member Education: *Turkish Food Safety Association* – The Affiliate organized monthly webinars with a total of 571 attendees; sent monthly e-blasts and an annual newsletter; and held an annual conference with 168 attendees.

Best Overall Affiliate Meeting: *Hong Kong Food Safety Consortium* – The Affiliate held a relevant two-day meeting with “Food as Medicine” theme. It included 35 speakers, an Exhibition Hall, and a strong number of sponsors and organizations to support the meeting.

C.B. Shogren Memorial: *Indian Association for Food Protection in North America* – The Affiliate met most of the criteria requirements for this award with a 33% increase in Membership (84 new members); established a student competition with prizes for winners; improved communications through emails and newsletter to members; updated its website monthly, with more than 1,400 visits; held two virtual and one in-person meetings; and had relevant activity on social media, including Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram. The Affiliate will formally receive the award at the Awards Banquet on Wednesday night.

Old Business:

The Executive Board approved Helen Taylor as Affiliate Council Secretary for 2024–2025.

New Business: A new collaboration was initiated between the Brazil Affiliate and the African Affiliate. Joseph Odumeru commented that the objective was to establish a partnership and collaboration with others to hold joint educational sessions in Africa. Many scientists from Brazil worked on food safety projects in Africa. June 1 saw the first session take place, which was a webinar on aflatoxin in nuts. It was a very special session with Mark Carter, IAFP President, in attendance. The presentations can be accessed on YouTube. Both Affiliates are enthusiastic and happy to progress with this partnership. Caio asked attendees to notify the IAFP staff if they are interested in partnerships and/or collaborations.

Representatives from the Student PDG spoke to attendees and look forward to continue working with Affiliates. Please connect with them (as they've received few responses when reaching out). They can be contacted via LinkedIn.

Numbered List of Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Affiliate Council recommends that Takiyah Ball, Delegate for the Wisconsin Association for Food Protection, be appointed as the next Affiliate Council Secretary.
2. The Affiliate Awards Committee will create a flow chart to help Affiliates with the award application process and better define the criteria for some of the awards.

Passing of gavel: Chairperson Caio Carvalho passed the gavel to Helen Taylor, Secretary, signifying the beginning of Helen's term as Affiliate Council Chairperson, official after the completion of IAFP 2025.

Next Meeting Date: Virtual meetings will continue with dates and times scheduled well in advance to allow attendees to get them on their calendars. The next in-person meeting is Sunday, July 26, 2026, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00 a.m. (U.S Eastern Time).

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

Members Present: Erin Headley (Chairperson), Tori Stivers (Secretary), Angela Walla, Armitra Jackson-Davis, Caitlin Karolenko, Christina Allingham, H. Lester Schonberger, John Boyce, Lily Yang, Takiyah Ball, Vanessa Whitmore, YeonJin Jung, Yvonne Masters.

Board/Staff Present: Wendy White.

Visitors: Ann Charles Vegdahl, Annette Kenney, Betsy McCaulley, Brian Schaneberg, Claudio Gallottini, Courtney Crist, Festus Tawose, Jeffrey Kornacki, Kyle Stoutenberg, Ledon Black, Mary Snow, Michael Wood, Michelle Braun, Natalie Seymour, Ruth Petran, Shannon Coleman, Tom Weaver.

Number of Attendees: 32.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Tori Stivers.

Meeting called to order by Armitra Jackson-Davis, outgoing chair, at 10:30 A.M. ET Sunday, July 27, 2025. She introduced current officers, Erin Headley, incoming chair, Mary Ann Amalaradjou, new co-chair, and Tori Stivers, new secretary. She also recognized past DEI past chairs in attendance, Angela Wala and Ruth Petran. She mentioned that there are >2,900 attendees for this meeting and encouraged people to thank the Ohio Association for Food Protection for their help with this annual meeting.

Manan Sharma gave announcements from the IAFP executive board:

1. IAFP has implemented tiered Membership prices that are based on a Member's resident country's economic standing; student Membership fees are half the amount for a country.
2. IAFP is starting a podcast, a sample of which will be previewed at the opening session.
3. IAFP is implementing AI-generated closed captioning (CC) at all symposia and roundtable (RT) sessions at this meeting. The board would appreciate feedback about this service on the attendee survey.

4. This year's annual meeting symposia and roundtable acceptance rate was 36%. Webinars continue to be a good avenue for rejected symposia and other topics; last year there were 9,000 views and this year 17,000 views of webinars.
5. For IAFP Members who want to be considered for appointment to a standing committee, please complete and submit forms that can be found on the IAFP website.
6. Using the meeting app is the best way to be apprised of any presenter changes in sessions.
7. The quiet room, for those who need a break from the meeting, is located in room 2.

Armitra then turned the meeting over to incoming chair Erin Headley who reminded attendees that next year's annual meeting will be in New Orleans, LA, July 26–29, 2026. **September 30, 2025** is the deadline to submit symposia and RTs. However, if you plan to submit one either sponsored or co-sponsored by the DEI Council, please email it to Erin (Erin.Headley@schreiberfoods.com) or Mary Anne (mary_anne.amalaradjou@uconn.edu) **by September 9** to give them time to review it and ensure it doesn't overlap with other submissions. IAFP is also supporting November meetings in China and Dubai.

Secretary Tori Stivers summarized minutes of the 2024 annual DEI Council meeting in Long Beach, CA and mentioned that the full minutes can be accessed from *IAFP Connect*. The DEI Council's mission and vision was read and the purpose of the council was elucidated. Five new DEI Council appointees were announced: John Boyce, Boyce Food Safety Consulting Ltd., Takiyah Ball, Sargento Foods (industry representatives); Chanelle Acheamfour, Delaware State University, YeonJin Jung, Cornell University, and Shivaprasad Prakash, Delaware State University (academia representatives).

Updates: Angela Walla reminded us that this year a new survey needs to be sent to the IAFP Membership to help inform/direct future council efforts. She also mentioned the Welcome Committee booth and that they are sponsoring a mixer for first-time attendees from 4:30 to 5:30 P.M. Sunday before the opening session at 6 P.M.

Erin relayed the months when DEI Council virtual meetings which will be scheduled: August and November 2025 and February and April 2026. However, subgroups will meet outside of full DEI Council Meetings as needed.

Erin mentioned that none of our sponsored or co-sponsored symposia/roundtables proposals were accepted by the program committee for the 2025 meeting. However, DEI Council Members

are developing a webinar entitled, “Preserving Tradition, Ensuring Safety: Applying Food Regulations in Diverse Manufacturing.”

The following ideas for symposia, roundtable and webinar proposals and most of the board recommendations come from two break-out groups’ discussions.

Ideas for Symposia/RT Proposals:

1. How to communicate food safety to English-as-a-second-language speakers without “reducing food safety language”/ “reducing intelligential content”
2. AI as a tool in food safety
 - a. The dos and don’ts in risk assessment and document development
 - b. Liability of using AI (Lawyer)
 - c. Use of AI to reach a diverse audience (generationally and people with disabilities)
 - d. AI within higher education
3. Traditional foods and food safety: how to communicate food safety principles while respecting cultural traditions
4. Youth education: communicating food safety to the next generation
5. IAFP is an international organization: best practices in ensuring inclusivity within programming and meetings
6. Strategies to navigate diversity, equity, and inclusion in current climate
 - a. Sharing of best practices to continue the work (such as language use)
 - b. Advocacy strategies
 - c. Include university, private industry, and retired government
7. Roundtable on LGBTQ+ experiences in the food industry (one held 3 years ago was excellent)
8. Propose either a symposia or RT about neurodiversity and generational differences and try to get Temple Grandin as a speaker/participant. Or ask President-elect Manan Sharma to consider inviting Grandin as the 2026 Ivan Parker or Siliker lecturer.

Book Club/Webinar

1. Generational connection (how to communicate across generations): Webinar focused on professional development and education on the topic
2. Book club and meet up (virtually and at IAFP): Generations: The Real Differences between Gen Z, Millennials, Gen X, Boomers, and Silents—and What They Mean for America’s Future by Jean Twenge.

After breakout groups summarized their discussions, Wendy White provided input on communicating with the executive board and expectations regarding their feedback (although she is secretary-elect, so she's new to board). We should prioritize when we want feedback; first executive board meeting after annual meeting is February 22.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Provide feedback on DEI revisions to: 1) exhibitor guide, 2) convenor guide that were submitted to board February 2025, and 3) Review the presentation/poster templates for meeting presentations.
2. For future meetings, provide information on how dietary restrictions (sensitivities, intolerances, allergies, vegan, etc.) will be accommodated in advance for lunches and all receptions. Include additional budget funds for the 2026 Meeting for the Quiet Room to rent or purchase some additional items like mats, lights, pillows, or bean bag chairs.
3. For hearing-impaired attendees, consider offering hearing assist-headphones so they're not reliant on microphones or speakers who don't hold them close enough to mouth. In addition to time limits, add a card to student monitor deck with the words, "speak up," or "microphone closer." Presenters should be reminded not to turn their faces away from audience since people also rely on lip reading.
4. Incorporate interactive activities within the annual meeting communal spaces, such as jigsaw puzzles, chess, Jenga, or Connect 4 to encourage interaction for people who are introverted.
5. Rename "cheese and wine reception" or add language to better describe it.
 - Ensure attendees under 21 know this reception is open to them and that non-alcoholic beverages are also served.
 - Ensure cheese menu includes vegan, non-dairy, and gluten-free options.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Erin Headley.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Food Protection Trends Management Committee

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:03 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Ian Young/Laura Strawn.

Old Business: There was a unanimous vote to approve the motion to approve the 2024 minutes.

New Business: The committee discussed several initiatives aimed at strengthening the *Food Protection Trends (FPT)* journal and its alignment with IAFP Member interests. A subcommittee was formed to draft author guidance language related to survey-based research, including sample size considerations, IRB requirements, and appropriate reporting of study limitations. A second subcommittee was formed to explore the use of reporting checklists and artificial intelligence tools to streamline technical reviews and formatting. The group also discussed the peer review status of general interest articles and agreed that greater transparency in article labeling would support reader trust. A proposal to add interdisciplinary topics such as nutrition and sustainability, where clearly linked to food safety, was supported and will be further

developed. Finally, the committee reviewed strategies to address growing submission volume and reduce time to publication.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. We recommend the approval of the appointments of Drs. S. Balamurugan and Jovana Kovacevic as Chair and Vice-Chair, respectfully, of the *FPT* Management Committee.
2. We recommend the creation of an Assistant Editor position for *FPT*. Due to increased submissions and growing editorial workload, the committee supports developing this role to assist the Chief Scientific Editor. The Assistant Editor would be selected via an open call and serve as a shadow to the Editor, ultimately transitioning to the lead editorial role upon the current Editor's retirement. The position would then be refilled to ensure continued editorial sustainability. Motion unanimously passed.
3. We recommend approval of a Member Benefit Promotional Campaign for *FPT*. The committee supports the development of a PowerPoint slide deck and related materials highlighting the value and content of *FPT*. These materials could be used for speaking engagements, a mini webinar, or posted to the *FPT* landing page to engage Members and external stakeholders. Motion unanimously passed.
4. We recommend that the board explore options to expand the publication capacity of *FPT*. This includes consideration of increasing the number of articles per issue, adding more issues per year, and enabling early access or immediate open access to accepted articles. A phased open-access model could allow articles to be available to IAFP Members first, with public access following six months. Motion unanimously passed.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 2:29 P.M.

Chairperson Name: S. Balamurugan ("Bala").

Exiting Chairperson: Laura Strawn (assisted with meeting).

Journal of Food Protection Management Committee

Names of Members Present: Ian Young (Chairperson), Theresa Bergholz (Vice Chairperson), Angela Anandappa, Cathy Cutter, Daniel Unruh, Doris D'Souza, Eliza Mammadova, Jen Wood, Jim Hartman, Joshua Gurtler, Judy Luther, Karen Everstine, Kathleen O'Donnell, Lauren Jackson, Laura Strawn, Manan Sahrma, Martin Deplessis, Panos Sakndamis, Ruth Petran, S. Balamarugun, Sarita Raengpradub, Yvonne Masters.

Board/Staff Present: Manan Sharma, Lisa Garcia, Dina Siedenburg.

Visitors: Jim Hartman.

Number of Attendees: 22.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Balamurugan Sampathkumar.

Old Business: The meeting started at 3:00 P.M.. Ian Young gave a brief introduction followed by the committee Members and attendees introducing themselves. Following the introduction,

Ian appointed Balamurugan Sampathkumar as the recording secretary. Next, Ian sought approval of the minutes of the meeting of 2024 from the committee Members. A motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes.

Manon Sharma provided a brief Executive Board update to the committee. Following this, Jen Wood from Elsevier provided an update on *JFP* metrics, performance, and marketing initiatives over the past year. Overall, the metrics indicate strong and improving performance since the transition to Elsevier. Submissions were up 14% since last year, and accepted articles were up 18%. The rejection rate of 39% is staying steady compared to prior years. When reporting on country-specific trends, it was noted that submissions from the USA and China were slightly down compared to last year, the reasons for which are unclear. It was suggested that there is an opportunity to encourage more submissions to the journal from China specifically. The speed of review of articles was reported to be very fast, and the editors were thanked for keeping the time-to-first decision very low and competitive. Both the CiteScore and the Journal Impact Factor improved since last year, with the latter increasing from 2.1 to 2.8. It is expected that this will continue to increase next year as well due to high citations of articles in the most recent year. Jen noted that the editor-invited reviews in particular are receiving a high number of citations and helping to improve the journal's impact factor. Jen then reported on Elsevier's marketing campaign and initiatives for the journal. Upcoming initiatives include author testimonial video interviews and videos to be recorded during IAFP 2025, which will be promoted on the website and social media. The latter have now shifted to BlueSky and LinkedIn, with WeChat used in China.

Panos Skandamis then provided the Scientific Editors' Report. Overall, he praised the increased submissions in the last year and the increasing quality of submissions. He provided an overview of the three current special issues for the journal. The "Advancements of Machine Learning and

AI in food safety” issue is now at 16 articles. Two upcoming issues based on international conferences will also be available over the coming year: the 21st International Symposium on Problems of *Listeria* and Listeriosis (ISOPOL) and the 13th International Conference on Predictive Modelling in Food Congress (ICP.M.F.C.). It was noted that the editor-invited reviews have now been placed in a special collection on the Elsevier website: Critical Reviews in Food Protection. Panos expressed his interest to review and update how the journal scope is written on the Elsevier website. Specifically, he noted that food safety research is changing very quickly and believes that prospective authors may not think their new areas of research would be included in the scope of the journal based on how the journal scope is currently worded and written. He provided examples of article topics that might fit this category, including food quality characteristic studies using advanced instrumentations, and bioinformatics and metabolomics with relations to food safety. He noted that the editors would work on some updated wording for the website.

Joshua Gurtler then provided an update on the editor-invited reviews. He noted that 11 confirmed reviews are being written, and three are under consideration. He believes that several of these could attract a high number of citations. Joshua also provided a list of potential topic areas for new reviews to the PDG chairs to solicit potential interest and proposals from IAFP Members at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Joshua then reviewed the metrics for editor-invited reviews, which at the time of preparation had achieved an average of 53.6 citations per review article. It was noted that the journal should not only rely on these reviews to improve its impact factor, but it is helpful to get the journal moving in the right direction for now. The editors were hopeful that as the impact factor goes up, the quality of the submissions will also go up.

Ian noted that the committee is looking for a new Vice Chair, as his term as Chair will end next year and Teresa will move into the Chair role for the IAFP 2026 Annual Meeting. It was noted that two Members have already expressed interest. An election will be held later in the year or early next year. Ian noted that Co-Editors Joshua Gurtler and Doris D'Souza terms are currently ending on Dec. 31, 2025. A motion was introduced and passed unanimously to reappoint the co-editors for another term.

New Business: The committee discussed ideas to increase the number of submissions to the journal and continue to improve its impact factor. It was suggested that marketing could focus on government scientists due to the competitive open-access fee prices of *JFP* compared to other food science journals. It was noted that despite their issues, journal metrics are still a very important determining factor for journal selection and submission among many prospective authors. Panos noted that the recent increase in impact factor has been the highest ever for the journal. There was some discussion about whether open-access fees could be further reduced, and Jen noted that the fee structure is very competitive and designed not to be too low as to raise questions about journal quality. It was noted that there is a discount program for authors from lower-income countries. Jen suggested that at a future IAFP or other event an author workshop with the editors could be useful as an opportunity to interact with them, promote the journal, and ask questions about how to write a strong manuscript for *JFP*.

The committee then discussed whether and how to connect with researchers and promote more submissions to the journal from underrepresented regions (e.g., Asia, Africa). It was suggested that bringing in additional editorial board Members from these regions might help to promote more global submissions. However, there was some concern noted about the quality of current submissions from certain regions. The committee briefly discussed the potential use of AI screening tools to help with technical and suitability checks of submissions in the future, as is currently being used by other journals. Jen noted that Elsevier is currently developing such a tool

that may be available next year. The editors noted that the quality and grammar of submissions overall has improved in recent years. There was some discussion about whether authors are declaring AI use in their submissions as per journal policy, but there is no reliable way to currently assess this.

The committee then discussed opportunities to enhance journal marketing. Eliza from Elsevier noted that *JFP* is currently doing well in terms of marketing metrics, and they are adapting to new social media platforms and tools (e.g., BlueSky). Finally, Manon raised an additional agenda item to clarify with the editors whether all general interest papers are peer-reviewed, and the editors confirmed that all *JFP* articles are peer-reviewed.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Committee recommends the reappointment of Joshua Gurtler and Doris D'Souza as Scientific Co-Editors for another term.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Ian Young.

Program Committee

Members Present: Maria Hoffmann (Outgoing Chair), Faith Critzer (Incoming Chair), Ben Miller (Incoming Vice Chair), John Bassett, Richelle Beverly, Andrew Clarke, Vikrant Dutta, Kristen

Gibson, Lauren Jackson, John Jarosh, Bobby Krishna, Jenny Maloney, Matt Taylor, Michael Wood.

Members Absent: Kristin Schill, Jessica Chen, Armitra Jackson-Davis.

Board/Staff Present: Manpreet Singh, Manan Sharma, Andrea Belzer, Lisa Garcia.

Number of Attendees: 18.

Meeting Called to Order: Wednesday, July 31, 2025, 7:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Faith Critzer.

Old Business: The outgoing committee Members, Maria Hoffman, Anderson Sant'ana Andrew Clarke, and Don Stoeckel were recognized for their service.

New Business: Manpreet Singh called the meeting to order. The meeting began with introductions. New Members, Richelle Beverly, Michael Wood, Jessica Chen, and Armitra Jackson-Davis were welcomed to the committee. Faith explained the process for the 2026 submissions, and the timeline was reviewed. Faith and Ben will work to develop a brief training resource on navigating the review system, and considerations for scoring roundtables and symposia for those new to the committee.

The overall evaluation of the IAFP 2025 scientific program was positive, with several noting positive comments from attendees.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: TBD (Fall Conference Call).

Meeting Adjourned: 8:24 A.M.

Chairperson: Faith Critzer.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness (CCFI)

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 8:00 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Margaret Kirchner.

Old Business: Minutes from the 2024 meeting were approved. The committee discussed the Board's responses to the recommendations from last year. One of the recommendations was to obtain the numbers of people accessing the various manuals written by the committee online and the Board stated that they would work with Springer to obtain these numbers but the numbers

were not available at this time. The Board also approved the committee's request to issue a survey to determine if and how people are using the current manuals. Two committee Members will spearhead this effort and potentially partner with the Food Safety Education or Food Safety Culture PDG to craft the survey questions. Two of the committee's accepted sessions had to be withdrawn due to travel issues or restrictions for speakers. We plan to resubmit these sessions as webinars or sessions for IAFP 2026.

New Business: The Committee also plans to hold an electronic vote for a new Chair and Vice Chair shortly after IAFP 2025.

The Committee discussed proposals and webinars for 2026. The Committee will plan to develop these proposals further through a Google doc and/or *IAFP Connect*. It was also noted that the September 30 due date was very close to the annual meeting and Members were concerned about being able to craft quality submissions during this shortened timeframe.

The Committee reiterated that the manuals may need to be updated or changed and committed to administering a survey on about the use and need for these manuals. The request that any further edits or updates to the manuals be open access was also reiterated. Due to other guidelines being freely available, there may not be the same need for these manuals which the Committee is aware of and needs to determine.

The Committee restarted interest in having multiple virtual meetings throughout the year as needed to develop proposals, discuss Committee business, and address any other issues as needed. Quarterly meetings were suggested as a starting point.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. CCFI reiterates the request for data on sales and downloads of physical and electronic copies of the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks* dating to the initial publication in 2011 through the current year, so we can better understand usage of these books over its lifetime. This request was made last year and CCFI is still interested in this information as we evaluate the need to update the manuals.
2. CCFI requests that the board consider extending the due date for IAFP 2026 sessions. With the meeting at the end of July, Members were concerned about being able to craft quality submission by this date.
3. CCFI requests that the board approve an electronic election of a new Chair and Vice Chair after the annual meeting.
4. CCFI requests a room with a projector for the 2026 meeting in order to have a more engaging meeting.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 9:30 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Michael Batz.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Names of Members Present: Nate Anderson, Jenny Scott, Don Schaffner, Rachel Beverly, Steve Murphy, Laura Strawn, Bobby Krishna, Zeb Blanton, Dale Grinstead, Jennifer Quinlan, Faith Critzer, Kathy Glass.

New Members Present: None.

Board/Staff Present: Lisa Garcia, Wendy White.

Visitors: None.

Number of Attendees: 14.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:34 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Don Schaffner.

Old Business: Nate welcomed the committee, and everyone introduced themselves. Nate thanked Don for his service. Nate reminded everyone of the Anti-trust policy. Don moved that we accept last year's minutes, Jenny seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Nate reviewed the three proposals that will be presented at the business meeting on Tuesday.

New Business: Steve found some editorial changes, and Lisa indicated staff will make the needed changes. A brief discussion was held regarding PDG Membership and IAFP Membership status. Everyone was reminded to encourage turnout for the business meeting to ensure that we have a quorum of 50 people needed to pass the changes to the bylaws.

Wendy White provided an update from the executive board.

Jenny nominated Laura Strawn to serve as incoming Vice Chair, and Nate seconded. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The committee recommends that the board approve Laura Strawn as incoming Vice Chair.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 11:03 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Nate Anderson.

Foundation Committee

Names of Members Present: Gary Acuff (Chairperson), Aaron Uesugi, Laura Strawn, Tori Stivers, Kathy Glass, Alvin Lee, Joshua Gurtler, Aaron Pleitner, Zeb Blanton, and Kelly Stevens.

Advisors Present: Neil Bogart, Ruth Petran, Jenny Scott, Gale Prince, Tim Jackson, and Isabel Walls.

Board/Staff Present: Caio Carvalho, Pam Wilger, Mark Carter, Lisa Garcia.

Visitors: Claire Murphy.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 30, 7:33 A.M.

Old Business: Gary welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7:33 A.M. ET. Introductions were made and Wendy White was appointed Recording Secretary. Summary and Approval of previous year's minutes – Kelly moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Ruth seconded, and it was approved. There were no additions to the current agenda, and it was approved.

New Business:

Financial Reports (Lisa Garcia):

Financial Statements – Good year, last year (2024) with net \$500,000. Meeting revenue, August investments, travel scholarship expenses will determine how we land for the fiscal year 2025. Investment Activity–This year, investments weren't quite as strong as last year but have been strong.

Budget for FYE August 31, 2026 remains much the same as last year.

Annual Meeting Fundraising Report:

We raised more at the annual meeting this year than last, but we're still at a \$20,000 deficit due to lower-than-average pre-meeting giving. Almost \$60,000 was donated via the booth as of Tuesday night. This year, there seems to be an increase in the number of smaller donations, which is desirable to develop a culture of giving among our Members. The Student Travel Award volunteers for the booth did an excellent job, and we think there was an uptick in student donations. When the final numbers are in, we will determine the percentage of giving for attendees at the Annual Meeting and report back to the Committee.

Silent Auction raised \$14,100 this year (up from \$10,200 in 2024 and \$7,000 in 2023).

The photo booth wasn't a huge success this year, likely due to the absence of props. It was assumed that the photo booth we contracted would bring props, as it was indicated in advertising, but we will confirm that in the future.

Future Fundraising Ideas:

Student Engagement Subcommittee—Neil (Chair), Laura, Claire, Kelly, Alvin, and Aaron. One idea is establishing a "Serial Donation" program to encourage small student donations (maybe collected at the Student Luncheon). If they collectively give \$100, it would be matched by a Member's \$900 donation.

2026 Foundation Booth Ideas – give special-colored beads (blue/aqua) for donations. The Sunday photo booth will probably do well in New Orleans.

Future Initiatives Status:

Still working on the Professional Development grant; Board has approved, just awaiting the fundraising goal.

The International Student Exchange still needs work on logistics; Gary and Alvin will work on it more this year.

Dependent Care Grant – issued five grants for this year's meeting (different awardees than last year).

Estate Planning:

Brainstorming on how to increase visibility and discuss the motivations behind choosing to include the Foundation in estate planning. Consider a targeted mailing that includes a unique gift. We could ask someone that's already put the Foundation in their estate to do a short video on what motivated them. We would like to have something printed and available for next year's meeting.

Pursue the development of a historical podcast which includes information on people that have left IAFP in their will or estate.

Established a subcommittee to work on ideas. Jenny (Chair), Gary, Zeb, and Tori volunteered.

Incoming Foundation Vice Chair:

Alvin Lee has accepted the Board appointment of Vice Chair of the Foundation Committee, to succeed Gary as Chair before the 2026 Annual Meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Consider including an IAFP historical topic in the Food Bites Podcast to include stories about past Members that have included the Foundation in their estate.
2. Consider asking the Bylaws Committee to change the Foundation Vice Chair and Chair terms from a 3-year term with an optional renewal to a 2-year term with two optional renewals.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 29, 2026, New Orleans, LA.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Gary Acuff.

Membership Committee

Names of Members Present: Fabiana Guglielmone, Bobby Krishna, Jeffrey Lejeune, Panos Skandamis, Helen Taylor, Leon Gorris.

Board/Staff Present: Lisa Garcia-Hovey, Pamela Wilger.

Visitors: None.

Number of Attendees: 8

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 2:10 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Leon Gorris.

Old Business: The minutes of the last MC meeting (July 13, 2024; virtual meeting) were adopted as written. The meeting had suggested to the Executive Board to more visibly recognize long-term Membership and consider multi-year Membership options as well as offering sustainable Membership categories to non-industries. Member recognition is available on the IAFP website. The Board will consider multi-year Membership options in the future and requests the Membership Committee to suggest the terms of investment and benefit options for expanded sustainable Membership. This will be a topic for virtual Membership Committee meetings ahead of IAFP 2026.

New Business: Board and staff representatives shared with the Committee Members that Membership has slightly dropped since last year. This possibly is related to economic circumstances and the somewhat reduced government and international attendance to the annual meeting, as Membership renewal rather often is associated to meeting attendance and reduced fees. Membership trend data were not yet available. The committee discussed the importance of marketing IAFP Membership through “word of mouth” of existing Members (Members in government, industry and academia encouraging their colleagues, reports, students to become a Member) and advertising better the value of Membership, related to reduced (for early subscription) and tiered meeting fees, access to the webinar archive, as well as attendance and professional networking in local/regional/global IAFP (co-)hosted meetings. Mentoring and buddying initiatives and pre-meeting engagement of (first time) attendees piloted at the annual meeting could be introduced in local/regional meetings for additional value to attendees and potential new

Members. Better marketing could be done through the IAFP website (e.g., with more testimonies of meeting attendees/users of IAFP resources such as webinars/networking outcomes). The meeting discussed the possibility to convert webinars into YouTube clips, which would be easier to search for by those interested in topics, which would help raise IAFP brand awareness. The YouTube platform might be suitable to use in a “pay as you watch” mode, possibly bringing in some revenue. It was also suggested to bring together webinars and other resources of IAFP in a Digital Hub repository.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, 26 July 2025, New Orleans, LA.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:05 P.M.

Chairperson: Leon Gorris.

Past Presidents Committee

Names of Members Present: Alejandro Mazzotta, Don Schaffner, Gale Prince, Gary Acuff, Isabel Walls, Jenny Scott, Katherine Swanson, Kathleen Glass, Linda Harris, Michelle Danyluk, Robert Brackett, Ruth Petran, Tim Jackson, Vickie Lewandowski.

New Members Present: None.

Regrets: Jack Guzewich, Mickey Parish, Frank Yiannas, Jeff Farber, Stan Bailey, Don Zink, Bob Gravani.

Board/Staff Present: Lisa Garcia.

Number of Attendees: 15.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday July 27, 2025, 1:04 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Michelle Danyluk.

Approval of minutes from the 2024 meeting: Don Schaffner moved to approve the minutes of the 2024 Past Presidents Committee Meeting as read. The motion was seconded by Isabelle Walls. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The updates from the IAFP Executive board were reviewed. Time was spent discussing: meeting attendance, the tiered Membership fee structure, encouraging IAFP Membership, the new podcast, AI generated closed captioning, exhibitors, and webinar attendance.

Lisa Garcia provided an update on IAFP. Topics discussed included: the new IAFP podcast IAFP is working no with Trilex, targeting less than an hour and one to two per month initially, and to build for there; attendance at the annual meeting is down, especially from international and government individuals, general Membership is also down, especially as many renew Membership linked to the annual meeting registration, all past presidents are asked to help spread the word as we speak to various audiences; the European Symposium is moving to an every other year format, with the support of European Members, in the opposite year as Food Micro, IAFP will work with Food Micro to have a session scheduled at their meetings to include visibility there; impacts to DEI activities have been limited to date.

The publication of not peer-reviewed papers was discussed at length. The discussion resulted in the recommendations below. A motion to accept the recommendations was provided by Don Schaffner, and seconded by Katie Swanson. The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Past Presidents Committee recommends that *JFP* will publish only peer reviewed papers. We request a list of all papers that have been published without peer review in the past 10 years. The current instructions to authors state that all submissions will be sent for peer review; nothing exists in our review of the instructions to authors that is indicative that anything is published without peer review.
2. The Past Presidents Committee recommend that papers previously published in *JFP* without peer review be identified as not peer reviewed in all published formats. Should authors wish that a paper previously published without peer reviewed article be peer reviewed, that the peer review occurs on those papers.
3. The Past Presidents committee recommend that all articles published in *Food Protection Trends* with a DOI be clearly identified as peer reviewed or not.
4. The Past Presidents Committee recommend the board investigate the formal agreements that exist between IAFP, the journal editors, and/or publishers.
5. The Past Presidents Committee recommend that IAFP develop a records retention policy.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 2:15 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Michelle Danyluk.

Webinar Committee

Names of Members Present: Joshua Gurtler, Angela Anandappa, Alvin Lee, Kaitlin Casuli.

Board/Staff Present: Dina Siedenbourg.

Visitors: Grace Danao.

Number of Attendees: 6.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Angela Anandappa.

Old Business: The Committee reviewed past webinar performance and initiatives, and approved the previous year's meeting minutes. The importance of using *IAFP Connect* for promoting webinars was discussed in previous sessions and reiterated during this meeting.

New Business: The committee held a detailed discussion on optimizing webinar experiences, content, and global engagement. Dina Siedenbourg led a conversation on whether latecomers should join webinars at the beginning or at the current time of joining. The group favored allowing real-time joining to encourage participation in live discussions, polls, and other interactive elements. Kaitlin Casuli suggested keeping the meeting open for 24 hours, requiring latecomers to dock at the start of the webinar. The group is exploring if this is technically feasible and useful for data tracking.

The committee addressed a request from the PDG and Program Committees to explore AI-generated content in webinars. They discussed the potential role of this committee in reviewing AI checker systems. Alvin noted Elsevier may assist with technical checks. A recommendation

was drafted for the board regarding AI use declarations and the importance of confirming originality and non-infringement of copyrights for webinar content.

Alvin also recommended using *IAFP Connect* to archive and promote webinars, making them more accessible and searchable for Members. The committee discussed leveraging podcasts as a promotional tool and featuring webinar speakers to extend outreach.

The need for increased international engagement was emphasized. Currently, webinar timing and content skew U.S.-centric. The committee encourages participation from international affiliates and plans to adjust scheduling to accommodate global time zones.

Financial concerns were discussed. The Program Committee raised the issue of funding webinars through the Foundation. The committee questioned whether the Board would consider sponsorship or other monetization options.

Webinar goals were set: target 30 webinars per year, with at least 20% being organized by international or regional affiliates.

Kaitlin will develop a webinar on “How to Create an Effective Webinar” along with formal guidelines. The Program Committee was encouraged to produce an updated webinar on “How to Submit a Proposal.”

The committee also covered several ideas under the Communications section:

1. Encourage PDG leaders to submit stronger webinar proposals.
2. Alvin proposed adding “Virtual Roundtables” as a new webinar format to foster dynamic discussions on any topic.
3. Suggest a brief 2-minute “State of the Association” in webinar format to boost Foundation contributions, and dedicate a webinar to cover the IAFP business meeting.
4. Support position papers from IAFP with webinar-based roundtable discussions.
5. Work with PDGs that have not proposed webinars before, especially those with new leadership, to support development and planning.

6. Propose webinars on soft skills, such as leadership, for students and new professionals. This could include highlighting top student research and thesis projects.
7. Collaborate with the DEI Committee to produce a webinar on color and print accessibility.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Committee the appointment of Angela Anandappa for Vice Chair.
2. Support the committee's request to explore AI content-checking systems and their application to webinars. Request board guidance on policy for AI use declarations and originality sign-offs.
3. Approve the development of a webinar and official guidelines for creating effective webinars, led by Kaitlin Casuli.
4. Explore options for monetizing webinars, including sponsorships, to offset Foundation funding concerns.
5. Endorse use of *IAFP Connect* for webinar storage, promotion, and discoverability.
6. Encourage international participation in webinar planning and scheduling.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Joshua Gurtler.

Professional Development Groups

Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG

Names of Attendees: Joelle Salazar (Chairperson), Mu Ye (Vice Chairperson), Adrienne Klijn, Alexia Joana Lopez Gachuzo, Amanda Tabb, Amy Siceloff, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Anna Schumann, Antonio De Jesus, Baback Gharizadeh, Bastian Barthabure, Bonnie Oh, Brad Stawick, Brandon Gartman, Brooke Schwartz, Brooke Whitney, Catherine Stewart, Chantal Nde, Chun Wang, Daniel Smieszek, David Ayala Velastegui, David Legan, Diana Stewart, Edith Zambrana, Emilio Esteban, Esther Palmer, Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, Frederic Pastori, Gabriel Sanglay, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, Grace Akumu, Hany Anany, Hilal Samut, Irshad Sulaiman, Jesse Miller, Jennifer Miller, Jerome Combrisson, Joel Riemer, Julie Haendiges, Kailyn Hanke, Karen Pietrzen, Kellie Burris, Krzysztof Brzezinka, Laurel Burall, Laura Rolon, Lauren Hamilton, Lei Zhang, Luann Schafer, Luvie Sturghill, Mai Lan Tran, Margaret Kirchner, Matthew Stasiewicz, Megan Jensen, Micah Black, Minji Hur, Niam Abey Siriwardena, Nadia Le Den, Narjol Gonzalez-Escalona, Nirmal Thirunavookarasu Sankaranarayanan, Nisha Corrigan, Nikki Shariat, Nora Marshall, Nuradeen Yusuf, Patrick Fach, Patrick Mies, Peyman Fatemi, Pierre-Luc Longchamps, Pratik Banerjee, Ray Elementi, Robert Salter, Rocelle Grabarek, Ryan Blaustein, Sanjay Gummalla, Shuang Wu, Steve Nason, Steven Foley, Tyler Chandross-Cohen, Veronica Kays, William Robertson, Morgan Welch, Woubit Abebe, Xueyan Hu.

Total Number of Attendees: 82.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:04 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Tyler Chandross-Cohen.

Old Business: The AMA leadership reviewed the antitrust guidelines for the IAFP meetings and Members approved the 2024 AMA meeting minutes.

New Business: The Leadership was introduced: Joelle Salazar was introduced as the Chair (this is her last year), Mu Ye was introduced as the AMA PDG Vice Chair (who will move into the Chair position at the next annual meeting). The election for the next Vice Chair-Elect will take place early next year. Tyler Chandross-Cohen was introduced as the Student Liaison for the AMA PDG. The antitrust guidelines were presented for the IAFP meetings. The 2024 AMA-sponsored symposia were discussed. At last year's meeting 18 symposia/roundtable proposals were sponsored by the AMA PDG, where AMA was the primary sponsor for 7 of them and 6 were accepted (33% success rate). The AMA PDG was the primary sponsor for 4 of the 6 symposia/roundtables. Co-sponsors included the Applied Laboratory Methods PDG, Microbial Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG, and International Food Protection Issues PDG. The 6 accepted proposals for the 2024 annual meeting were then discussed. The new business was shared, which included the 2025 annual meeting app and program. The 2025 AMA-sponsored symposia/roundtables were discussed, which included 21 submissions where AMA was primary for 12/21; 11 were accepted (52% acceptance rate), of which 5/11 were primary sponsored by the AMA. Co-sponsors included the Applied Laboratory Methods PDG, Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG, Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG, Dairy Quality and Safety PDG, Plant-based Alternative Products and Quality and Safety PDG, and the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG. The symposia/roundtables for each day (Monday–Wednesday) were discussed to inform the PDG. The meeting updates from the Executive Board were shared, including the number of attendees for IAFP 2025 (more than 2,900), a discussion about the tiered system for IAFP Membership, and the new podcast that will be coming soon. This year, there will be AI-generated closed captioning for all sessions, and the exhibit hall will be open to discuss with the exhibitors. The Executive Board also suggested that the PDGs should consider a webinar as a

deliverable for the PDG, as there were over 16,000 views on the IAFP webinars in June 2025. An update from the *Journal of Food Protection* was discussed, including the fact that the impact factor has risen to 2.8, and *JFP* editors developed a list of 58 potential invited reviews that can be found online and were presented. An update from the DEI council, Student PDG, and Mentor Match program was discussed. Lawrence Goodridge and Margaret Kirchner both gave short presentations about Nanopore sequencing in water and *Listeria monocytogenes* illnesses in stone fruit, respectively. The next IAFP Annual Meeting was introduced, which will be held from July 26–29, 2026, in New Orleans, LA. The guidelines for the IAFP Symposia/Workshop/Roundtable Proposal development were presented. The deadline for submission of 2026 proposals is September 30, 2025. Additionally, abstracts are due January 13, 2026 for technical talks and posters. It was encouraged that the DEI principles would be considered during the webinar development and webinar series. It was noted that each proposal needed to be sponsored by 2 PDGs, and interested Members should email Joelle (Joelle.Salazar@fda.hhs.gov) or Mu (Mu.Ye@KraftHeinz.com). The PDG then discussed ideas for the 2026 IAFP symposia/workshops/roundtable proposals. Topics included: (i) Genomics 101 workshop for 2026, (ii) More rapid molecular methods for detection of pathogens, possibly working with viral and parasitic foodborne disease PDG, (iii) Detection compared to the infectious levels of pathogens, maybe novel viability sequencing. (iv) What can we get from large data collection (plasmids, functional genomics, etc.). (v) How can we speed up confirmations when you have detection of a pathogen, do we need a confirmation? (vi) How can we link molecular methods to industry standard, how do these methods compare to traditional methods with practical outcomes? More ideas will be shared with the leadership during the next meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned at: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Joelle Salazar.

Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG

Names of Attendees: Michele Sayles (Chairperson), Deepa Thiagarajan (Vice Chairperson), Adrienne Shearer, Aldo Xoxocotla Sánchez, Alex Brandt, Amanda Jones, Anru Shen, Ann Charles Vegdahl, Anna Carlson, Ariel Buehler, Aryany Peña Gomez, Brent Wallen, Brian Schaneberg, Celina To, Chad Becnel, Chuck Bird, Chyer Kim, Cole Vaughan, David Luedeke, Derek Richey, Elise Forward, Elliot Corless, Fanny Gozzi, Festus Tawose, Florence Postollec, Halle Greenbaum, Janet Rowat Kraiss, Jasmine Kataria, Jeffery Kornacki, Jena Roberts, Jon Hammond, Maggie Miller, Mario Cobo, Mary-Grace Danao, Maryan Serour, Michael Barnett, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Neil Bogart, Pam Wilger, Paula Schwarz, Peg Coleman, Prashant Dahal, Quincy Lissaur, Rachel Anderson, Romy Yu, Scott Sayles, Subash Shrestha, Suhan Bheemaiah Balyatanda, Suresh Pillai, Tiffany LaLonde, Tyler Mattson, Vanessa Whitmore, Youngmin Park.

Total Number of Attendees: 56.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:07 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Halle Greenbaum.

Old Business: First order of old business was to approve the previous year's meeting minutes. Pamela Wilger and Peg Coleman make the motion to approve. Executive Board announcements were given by Pamela Wilger.

New Business: 6 out of 8 submissions in the previous were accepted for this year's meeting (S3, S27, S32, S36, S63, and RT 15). RT 25 and S11 were also mentioned as worthwhile to attend. Initial submissions deadlines for future proposal were discussed. Dr. Michelle Sayles gave updates on the Pet Food Alliance and Pet Food Institute. Foreign material mycotoxins, and long-time pathogen confirmation were recognized as issues in the industry from attendees in the room.

Deepa Thiagarajan presented on regulatory updates on behalf of CDM, including the PURR Act, AFIC guidance, and traceability requirements. Paula Schwarz with Flex-ray presented on foreign material challenges. Chuck Bird from Neogen presented on mycotoxin testing and calibration. Topics for future symposia and roundtables for 2026 were brainstormed and dates for upcoming virtual meetings to solidify these were discussed, about a month out from today.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The approval to appoint Dr. Deepa Thiagarajan as Vice Chair of the PDG.
2. Initiation of an AI focused PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 2:27 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Dr. Michele Sayles.

Applied Laboratory Methods PDG

Names of Attendees: Julie Weller (Chairperson), Aaron Huckabee, Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Adrienne Klijn, Aldo Xoxocotla Sánchez, Alex Brandt, Alex Tudor, Amy Siceloff, Ariel Buehler, Astrid Cariou, Austin Cary, Bastian Barthabure, Brad Stawick, Brandon Gartman, Brooke Schwartz, Cameron Parsons, Catharine Carlin, Catherine Stewart, Chi-An Lee, Christophe Quiring, Conrad Redlitz, Daniel Demarco, Daniel Smieszek, Dhananjai Muringattu Prabhakaran, Diana Stewart, Douglas Marshall, Dr. Snehal Jadhav, Edith Zambrana, Ellen Mendez, Emily Feldpausch, Emilio Esteban, Enric Seseras, Erica Miller, Erin Dreyling, Evan Chaney, Frederic Pastori, Gabriel Sanglay, Hany Anany, Irshad Sulaiman, Isabel Walls, Jeffery Kornacki, Jennine Cannizzo, Jerome Combrisson, Jesse Miller, Jens H. Kjaer, Jon Hammond, John Jarosh, John LoPorto, Joseph Meyer, Julie Weller, Karen Pietrzen, Kristen Hunt, Krzysztof Brzezinka, Lauren Hamilton, Laurie Post, Leslie Thompson-Strehlow, Leticia Mallmann, Luvie Sturghill, Mai Lan Tran, Martin Duplessis, Maryan Serour, Megan Jensen, Melanie Downs, Micah Greenzweig, Michelle Iannucci, Mike Clark, Morgan Welch, Nadia Le Den, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Patrick Fach, Purnendu Vasavada, Rachel Anderson, Ray Elementi, Rocelle Grabarek, Roger Hooi, Ryan Maus, Sarita Raengpradub, Shiwei Xu, Sid Fuller, Sophie Pierre, Stacy Stoltenberg, Sydney Blanks, Tracy Nowaczyk, Vanessa De Vasconcellos, Veronica Kays, Vik Dutta, Wayne Muraoka, Youngmin Park.

Total Number of Attendees: 90.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Erica Miller, MS.

Old Business: Daniel DeMarco called the meeting to order at 10:30 A.M. and began reviewing the IAFP Anti-trust guidelines. After, he introduced the prior committee and the new committee Members while also recognizing the 2025 IAFP Executive Board.

The student liaison still has not been assigned yet to the ALM PDG. The 2024 PDG minutes were approved, and the 2024 recommendations and board responses were reviewed.

Dan reviewed the *Journal of Food Protection* call for review of topics of interest to help edit and publish to increase foot traffic to the journal. The journal has increased in the impact factor and the goal is to continue with that trend.

New Business: Julie Weller took over to review new business after Dan completed the discussion with old business. Julie began reviewing the executive board updates which included: Member attendance this year, continue to encourage participation in IAFP, IAFP's new approach to a tiered system, and ensure you are receiving communication from IAFP. The PDG was encouraged to visit the exhibit hall and stop by the welcome booth if it is your first time visiting. IAFP is launching a podcast this year and utilizing AI to generate closed captions.

Julie reviewed proposal acceptance from 2024 to 2025. For primary sponsors, the ALM PDG went from 28% acceptance to 58% acceptance. For secondary sponsors, the ALM PDG went from 43% to 61%. This can be attributed to the quality of proposals being the focus compared to quantity submitted or included in the proposal. Julie also reviewed the proposals that will be presented and encouraged attendance.

The IAFP app was reviewed and noted to keep up with this to be able to keep up to date with information and any changes that occur.

Webinar proposals were reviewed and promoted to submit. If there was a roundtable or symposium that was rejected, there could be viable and relevant content that could be useful for Members. There is increased attendance for webinars compared to a roundtable that is held in person. The webinars are archived on the IAFP website and available at any time for IAFP Members. When the webinars were free for viewing in June 2025, there were over 16,000 views in 2025 compared to 9,000 views in 2024. The increase in views can continue with perpetuated content creation.

Julie began speaking about the validation and verification interest group. The group remains open to new Members to assist with the different subgroups. The group was created to address gaps between matrices observed in the lab compared to the matrices decided upon by the test developers. There have been multiple publications that have come from the group from 2019 through 2022 and then in 2023 the group created four subgroups: method considerations, inoculum protocols, webinars, and the laboratory best practices.

Julie handed it over to David Legan to discuss the method considerations subgroup. This subgroup has five published articles, and one was released in press. The subgroup received an award for the "Most-Viewed *FPT* General Interest Publication." The next publication will come out in the September/October 2025 edition of *Food Protection Trends*. Laurie Post began speaking about the general interest article in progress which is about molecular confirmations. The group is also collaborating with the IAFNS committee for publications.

Julie covered the discussion about the inoculum protocol subgroup which is working on an article for release, "Are Your Microbial Cultures Stressed? Preparing Target Inoculations and Good and Environmental Matrix Studies." This article's goal was to create a structured framework to correctly design studies that are robust, reliable, and fit for purpose. Julie also covered the

webinar subgroup for Amanda Brookhouse-Sisney. There was a webinar completed on April 24, 2025, that ties into the inoculum preparation subgroup. The next webinar covers statistics and if anyone is interested in joining, they should contact Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney or Pat Bird for involvement.

David Legan began discussing the final subgroup which covers laboratory best practices. The group has been assembled for 1.5 years and they final settled on a goal and purpose for the group which is to relay how as a lab user to build a better relationship with a lab and vice versa. There is a manuscript being constructed for submission to *Food Protection Trends Journal*, "Powerful Partnerships Promote Pathogen Prevention."

Julie came back to the front stage and called for people from the ALM PDG to get involved in the subgroups. The subgroups create content on a volunteer basis. Anyone can reach to David Legan, Amanda Brookhouser-Sisney, or Laurie Post.

Once the subgroup discussions concluded, Veronica Kays from AOAC International presented current updates to the AOAC Microbiological Standards and current revisions to Validation Guidelines Appendix J. Veronica discussed who the key stakeholders were to this endeavor, the subgroups and their roles. Qualitative detection methods-cultural bacteria, analytical confirmation, and quantitative methods were the sub-groups that were chosen by the panel to be priorities. There were QR codes provided to be able to join the subgroups and to join SPADA for metagenomics sequencing.

After the AOAC updates concluded, Daniel DeMarco handed out ALM PDG Hero Award to both David Legan and Laurie Post for their contributions to the PDG. Julie then discussed the frequency in which the group should meet. Input was called upon to be able to give the best

value from the PDG. The current topic ideas are technical presentations, invited speakers, and career highlights. Next year's dates for IAFP were shared and the deadlines for symposia submissions and abstracts.

Julie reviewed the guidelines for symposia and roundtable submissions and reiterated the importance of the quality of the submission and not the quantity of submissions. The discussion then turned to call upon the various proposal ideas to flush out.

The first proposal came from Jeffrey Kornacki to discuss the potential of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and relation to Crohn's disease, the challenges, methods, and the pre-harvest and post-harvest control of this. The next proposal came from Adrienne Klij who suggested partnering with IAFNS to discuss spores and methods. Erin Dreyling suggested a session discussing *Salmonella* and the potential different approaches to identification and risk and shifting to virulence and serotyping. Greg Siragusa suggested to discuss lag phase: where we were and where we are now to entice bacteria out of the lag phase faster to overcome some of the hurdles. Melanie from the University of Nebraska suggested continued discussions on allergen topics. There is an end user guidance for matrix validation and verification and the application of allergen methods and to review the guidance. FAO and WHO are holding a consultation in the fall to discuss risk assessment for gluten, which could be of relevance. Dan DeMarco suggested a topic about how to handle BSL-3 agents in a BSL-2 lab and how labs handle virus testing for confirmation in food labs who are not routinely set up for these activities. Jeff Korancki and Greg Siragusa volunteered to help flush out the idea further. Alex Grant suggested a symposium to discuss the statistical differences between different quantitative methods for *Salmonella* enumeration. Isabel Wells had a couple suggestions to discuss which included: variables for *Campylobacter* detection, better ways to predict *Listeria monocytogenes*, and quantifying allergens. Sanjay Gummalla suggested discussing the sampling procedures, its

relevancy to food safety and risk assessments. The last suggestion came from David Legan to review the list sent out by *Food Protection Trends* to see how suggestions intersect. Julie suggested a follow up to continue working on these ideas to not miss the submission deadline.

The recommendations were the last thing discussed and listed below. No questions were raised after recommendations and the meeting concluded at 11:40 A.M.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The ALM PDG recommends Amanda Brookhouser-Sinsey for Vice Chair.
2. The ALM PDG recommends to the board to start an award with the intention of recognizing the dedication and efforts of individuals within the various PDG groups. Identifying these individuals may include the visibility, publications, or cross involvement within PDG groups.
3. The ALM PDG recommends creating an icon within the IAFP app that links directly to the web-browser and auto-populates the web-browser.
4. The ALM PDG recommends a “feedback” loop/survey after presentations. An example would be a QR code linked to the host’s email and allows direct communication to provide something similar to feedback or allow communication for further idea development to keep topics moving forward.
5. The ALM PDG recommends creating a track of symposia based on sponsored PDG, as much as possible. An example would be having 5 ALM PDG-sponsored symposia or roundtables in a sequential order and not overall to the greatest extent possible.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 11:40 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Julie Weller.

Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG

Names of Attendees: Yuqian Lou (Chairperson), Raghu Ramaswamy (Vice Chairperson), Abdullatif Tay, Adriana Paes, Ahnna Schulte, Ankit Patras, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Anza Bester, April Schumacher, Arnab Sarkar, Astrid Cariou, Austin Cary, Avigaile Armstrong, Ben Miller, Betsy Craig, Bismarck Martinez, Brenna DeRocili, Carlos Porras Guardado, Cassandra Suther, Catherine Tegomoh, Chi-An Lee, Christopher McNamara, Claire Murphy, Cole Vaughan, Craig Jewell, Dara Smith, David Flicek, David French, Dina Scott, Eduardo Lecea, Elise Forward, Emma Shoemaker, Erin Headley, Erdogan Ceylan, Fernando Avelleyra, Florence Postollec, Frederic Martinez, Gabriella Strocko, George Afari, Gina Cullerton, James Doyle, Jasmine Kataria, Jeffrey LeJeune, Jenny Golove, Jena Roberts, Jesse Son, Jestin Bose, Jitu Patel, John Saniga, Jr., Julia Fukuba, Jun Nam, Justin de Senna, Karen Leacock, Katherine Castello, Katherine Sierra, Katelynn Stull, Kevin Atkins, Kirk Dolan, Kristin Schill, Larry Kohl, Lauren Hamilton, Lauryn Strong, Lindsay DiGenova, Lisa Lucore, Lisa Robinson, Manuel Shah, Mangesh Palekar, Manoj Shah, Marion Shepherd Jr., Mark Lacorn, Martha Kimber, Mary Tegomoh, Mathilde Trudel-Ferland, Megan Francies, Michael Roberson, Micah Black, Mike Morrison, Mike O'Rourke, Molly Mills, Miriam Ruiz, Nate Banner, Nirmal Thirunavookarasu Sankaranarayanan, Nigel Thorgrimsson, Paola Corea Ventura, Paulo Mohyla, Philip Bwalya, Preetha Biswas, Quincy Lissaur, Rachael McEgan, Ranee Anderson, Rebecca Woods, Rick Heiman, Rosemarie Christopher, Ruben Vinueza Duque, Sabahnur Demirci, Sabina Alexander, Sagar Pokhrel, Sahand Faghihi, Sarah Jones, Sean Foster, Shahram Ajamian, Sharon White,

Shiwei Xu, Sid Fuller, Staci Richardson, Stephen Grove, Suyapa Rojas, Tamra Tolen, Taylor O'Bannon, Tom Ford, Tom Weaver, Toni de Senna, Trina Garcia, Trey Jensen, T.J. Fu, Tzazil Gabriela Oliva Coba, Valente Alvarez, Vanessa Gonzales Pacheco, Vera Arthur, Vianca Tashiguano, Vikas Kumar Galipothu, Vijay Krishna, Wayne Muraoka, Yue Zheng, Yuhan Huang, Zhinong Yan.

Total Number of Attendees: 123.

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

Old Business: PDG Chair reviewed 2024 IAFP PDG meeting minutes, which was also shared ahead of the meeting. The 2024 minutes was projected on screen. Approval of 2024 minutes motion was seconded by Abdullatif and approved by everyone. PDG Chair introduced IAFP 2025 sessions sponsored by Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG, which are shown in the agenda and encouraged PDG Members to attend.

New Business: Guest Presentation:

Topic: IFU & the Microbiology Working Group's Global Impact: Driving Food Safety Forward, by Frederic Martinez, on behalf of International Fruit and Vegetable Juice Association (IFU).

Yuqian introduced Frederic and the introduction slide, together with his presentation slides, will be shared with PDG Members. IFU was founded in 1949, France. Although based in French; it is a global organization. IFU event – mostly in Germany. Voice at Codex, WHO, FAO, WTO, Liaison with ISO/TC 34/SC9. Central Goal/Concept: IFU is the 'global voice of the fruit industry.'

Overview of working groups to improve methods, recommendations for good, standardized

practices for safety and/or quality practices. IFU - writing standards and general laboratory instructions. Methods of analysis and market recommendations. Validation work for IFU Working on two standards for commercial sterility testing. Detection and Enumeration of Acid-tolerant spoilage organisms at 30°C – validated. Many other procedures – not yet validated.

2026 Symposium / Roundtable Brainstorm:

PDG Chair showed IAFP 2026 proposal submission deadline—September 30, 2025. For the proposals, also consider the IAFP Webinar format. Also asked PDG Members to consider volunteering for *Journal of Food Protection* – Potential Editor-Invited Reviews. During the 2026 ideation process, the attendees were divided into 5 groups and each group designated one person to take notes and report back toward the end of the PDG meeting.

IAFP 2026 Proposal Submission Ideas:

- 1) Cold Brew Symposium – submitted by Catherine, David, Richard. May also consider it for webinar.
- 2) Status of FDA/FSIS groups: Regulatory updates and assessing the impact + result (inspection result etc.) – may collaborate with Food Law PDG.
- 3) Water reuse, e.g., direct potable reuse (DPR) framework, etc. – may collaborate with Water Quality PDG (note: Beverage PDG organized a water reuse webinar in 2024); Can cover water consumption process, residues like PFAS, food packaging and contact materials, regulatory agencies, evaluation of reuse water in fruit juices, or RTE foods, how to protect food against contamination, how to ensure sustainability of water. May work with Work with Water PDG. Roundtable would be a good option.
- 4) Ideas for acidified foods/salad dressings.
- 5) One health global concept for fruit juices – sustainability, food protection, good practices, traceability of potential contamination from farm to fork. May include risk assessment, identifying the risks, methods and processes to detect at which step the contamination is happening, reuse/sustainability of water.
- 6) Hydration prior to processing – webinar (Abdullatif).
- 7) Regulation of Acidified Foods – Webinar.
- 8) Validation using natural preservatives—natural colorants—How to conduct challenge studies to verify new natural

preservatives, impacts from product variables, demonstrating parity to chemical preservatives. Use of natural colorants – ex. within cereals. Chemical contaminants. Can combine it with ambient fill (i.e., “Ambient filled - challenge studies”). Symposium (Michelle/Anza). 9) MAHA - across different product types—impact of natural colors on products, process and risk assessment – (Marion). 10) Why process fails - deviations and spoilage incidents—case studies; equipment design and sanitation (Molly, Julia). 11) ESL—spoilage issues - case studies, can partner with Sanitation PDG. Christopher McNamara (Ocean Spray). 12) Regulations and different standards across different regions (e.g., U.S. vs EU) for various food products: CFR definitions, non-thermal processing - more focused, guidelines for LACF/AF, validation and approval requirements for novel processes – UV, plant-based products, fermented products like yogurt, kombucha, non-alcoholic beer/beverage.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The PDG asks the Board to approve the appointment of Raghu Ramaswamy as Vice Chair.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Yuqian Lou.

Dairy Quality and Safety PDG

Names of Attendees: Sarah Murphy (Chairperson), Neil Bogart (Vice Chairperson), Kara Mikkelsen (Secretary), Abigail Snyder, Alejandro Mazzotta, Alex Brandt, Allison Howell, Amira

Ayad, Amit Morey, Angela Fraser, Angela Fraser, Amy Wise, Arpan Bhagat, Ariel Buehler, Astrid Cariou, Benjamin Warren, Beth Wittenauer, Bastian Barthabure, Betsy Craig, Betsy McCaulley, Briana Lorenzo, Brittany Holmes, Carrie Rigdon, Cassandra Panameno, Catharine Carlin, Chi-An Lee, Chip Manuel, Chris Jordan, Christopher Rupert, Connie Freese, Craig Jewell, Cristina Resendiz-Moctezuma, Dan Erikson, David Blomquist, David Mugabo, Deiaa Hassanein, Devin Woodill, Dina Scott, Elna Buys, Elizabeth Epps, Eric Martin, Eric Moore, Erin Ducko, Erin Headley, Fernando Avelleyra, Frederic Martinez, Giddy Zipori, Hailey Davidson, Harmeet Kaur, Heath LaFevers, Ian Jenson, Indu Aashritha Idumalla, Javier Atencia, James Beix, Jeffrey Kornacki, Jestin Bose, Jonathan Basha, Jun Nam, Kathleen Glass, Kathleen O'Donnell, Kavita Patil, Kristen Gibson, Kristen Houck, Kristen Saniga, Kristin Butler, Kristin Sanders, Kristine Schill, Larry Kohl, Lauren Hamilton, Lei Zhang, Mahesh Chapagain, Mandy Sedlak, Mark Flanagan, Mark Lebednick, Michael Roberson, Michelle Braun, Michelle Wollenzien, Miriam Ruiz, Mohana Neelakrishnan, Nadia Le Den, Nate Banner, Neil Bogart, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Nicole Martin, Nirmal Thirunavookarasu Sankaranarayanan, Olivia Arends, Peyman Fatemi, Preetha Biswas, Purnendu Vasavada, Rafael Davila, Rebecca Crouthamel, Rob Middendorf, Roger Hancock, Roger Hooi, Ruogu Tang, Safia Madani, Samantha Roldan Perez, Sandy Matijevic, Sarah Durham, Sarah Herringshaw, Sarah Kozak-Weaver, Sarah Morrison, Savana Everhart Nunn, Sean Martinos, Sharmeen Khan, Sharon Humphries, Sharon Wilson, Sima Hussein, Staci Richardson, Steven Murphy, Swapnika Medikonda, Takiyah Ball, Tiffany LaLonde, Todd Frantz, Tracie Sheehan, Vanessa Gonzales Pacheco, Vera Arthur, Vianca Tashiguano, Wendy White, Wayne Muraoka, Yue Zheng, Zhinong Yan.

Total Number of Attendees: 123.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday July 27, 2025, 8:31 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Kara Mikkelson.

Old Business: Meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made to approve by David Blomquist with no corrections and seconded by Abby Snyder. Previous year's meeting minutes were accepted with no corrections.

New Business: A QR code was given to the attendees to begin the process of proposal ideation for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting. Attendees were encouraged to use their phones to open the link and begin suggestions. Dr. Kavita Patil, current Student Liaison, gave a student PDG update. The Dairy PDG is on the search for a new student liaison. A schedule of this year's dairy-relevant sessions was shared. IAFP's proposal submission process was reviewed. It was suggested for Members review information from IAFP website for details. The Members were encouraged to ensure topics are scientifically sound and relevant to the Dairy PDG. A reminder was given to contact the Dairy PDG board for sponsorship. Important deadlines were reviewed.

Industry updates was the next topic of the meeting. Catherine Carlin (MXNS) gave a presentation on *Listeria monocytogenes* testing titled: LM testing – how to interpret non-confirming positive PCR results. Wendy White provided the Executive Board liaison update before the next speaker. Next, Dr. Nicole Martin from Cornell University gave an update on H5N1, including an overview of the current laboratory testing program for silo and herds including an overview of the laboratory system. The current testing methods are real time PCR. Many samples go for WGS to track the genotypes throughout the U.S. The University of Wisconsin Food Research Institute (FRI) just released an update of their heat thermalization for treated heat milk. Due to time constraints, it was decided that the planned low-moisture guidance roundtable on today's agenda was instead going to be moved to a later date during the year.

Next, there was a facilitation to generate ideas for IAFP 2026 dairy-relevant proposals. Mentimeter was used to generate a word cloud with potential topics (1–4 word max) from attendees. Popular topics (submitted by multiple people) were: dry cleaning, Phage, ice cream, Indicator organisms, *Listeria monocytogenes*, WGS, clean label preservatives, and EB in dairy powders. Further discussion of these popular topics was held. Phage topic ideas for symposium are a review what is the latest of phage, movement of phage around the world and use of phage for *Listeria* mitigation. Ideas for the topic of ice cream with a collaborative opportunity with the food hygiene PDG is cleaning of ice cream manufacturing for pathogen control. The topic idea of indicator organisms are the appropriate indicator organisms, metagenomic usage – what are the capabilities of cultures, qualitative samples for index organism, P.M.O can I release product w/ <10 coliform. A google sheet was created with all the potential organizers names listed and the sheet will be available to PDG Members for updating and including the topic and organizers.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10:01 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Sarah Murphy.

Data Management and Analysis PDG

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 3:02 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Carrie Rigdon.

Old Business: 2024 DMA PDG meeting minutes were approved without edits or additions.

New Business: Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and encouraged to fill out a brainstorming card with their ideas for the 2026 IAFP to facilitate discussion. Executive Board, *JFP* Editors, and Student PDG announcements were made. Luke Qian of Cornell University announced a new student competition to develop AI models; details will be posted on *IAFP Connect* soon. The current DMA PDG mission statement, “To provide a multidisciplinary forum for advancing the application of data management and analytics in food safety and quality,” was discussed. PDG founders were in attendance to provide historical context for the mission, scope and title. Suggestions to expand the title, such as including data capture, were not approved as they would make the title too long and cumbersome; “management” was believed to encompass the broader range of data aspects. PDG leadership proposed creating standardized requirements for DMA PDG sponsorship in response to rejecting several requests for sponsorship last year because the proposals fell outside the PDG scope. These requirements could include justification for the proposal being in-scope for the PDG and being new or novel. The utility of standardized requirements across all PDGs was discussed. PDG leadership proposed setting them for the DMA and tracking their effectiveness, as well as making the recommendation to the Executive Board. Attendees with proposals for webinars and 2026 sessions presented a summary of their ideas to the group. All attendees then broke into working sessions to expand on those ideas, and there were brief report-outs before adjournment.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recognize Matthew Stasiewicz as Chair.
2. Approve Gustavo Reyes as Vice Chair.
3. Approve Carrie Rigdon as Secretary.
4. Ask the Program Committee to adopt uniform criteria for PDG sponsorship. To facilitate this,

the DMA PDG will draft criteria for its own sponsorship of proposals for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting, apply those criteria to 2026 submissions, and provide a report to the board with recommendations.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:29 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Matthew Stasiewicz.

Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Jill Stuber, Chair.

Old Business: Meeting called to order at 10:30 A.M. as Jill Stuber welcomed everyone to the PDG. Jill welcomed new Members, first time attendees and introduced the chair and vice chair.

New Business: At the beginning of the meeting, the participants did an ice-breaker called Food Safety Networking about a food safety challenge they are passionate about right now. The Developing food safety professionals PDG is sponsoring three sessions at the IAFP 2025. Jill announced the *JFP* reviews so Members can decide if they are interested. Pamela Wilger (Post Consumer Brands), board representative provided some statistics about the IAFP 2025 (2900

attendees, visit exhibit floor, importance of PDGs to the success of IAFP, quality vs quantity for the proposals, possibility of webinars, sign-up for volunteer, download the IAFP 2025 app). The four panelists (Amy Parks, Shahram Ajamian, Jade Giodani, and Megan Francies) in Growing Up in Food Safety: What Matters at Every Stage provides perspectives and insights to the audience. Then the panelists answered the questions from audience. The PDG discussed about the submissions of proposals along with deadlines for the IAFP 2026.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Jill Stuber.

Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG

Names of Attendees: Lili He (Chairperson), Amy Wise (Vice Chairperson), Alex Hanley, Amanda Faltynowski, Andrew Pearson, Angèle Van den Heuvel, Anza Bester, Ashley Brooks, Bennett Dzandu, Beth Paras, Brian Schaneberg, Brittany Caldwell, Brittany Holmes, Carol Wallace, Chantal Nde, Cierra Gadd, Cindy Jiang, Craig Llewellyn, Dan DeBee, Daniel Smieszek, Derek Hladki, Derek Richey, Dikshya Shilpakar, Emily Moyer, Erin Ducko, Felicia Wu, Festus Tawose, Gabriela Lopez Velasco, Gale Prince, Gregory Paoli, Helen Taylor, Jack Burnett, Jasmine Lacis-Lee, Jennine Cannizzo, Jerome Combrisson, Julie Simcox, Lauren Hamilton, Laura Wildey Kearse, Li Xiao, Luke Emerson-Mason, Maureen Hanley, Mangesh Palekar, Marcus Lacorn, Mary Morris-Donaldson, Melanie Downs, Melanie Rank, Neal Saab, Quanhong Li, Raquel Medeiros, Richelle Beverly, Richard Jacobs, Sanjit M. Fernandes, Sara Mortimore, Sharon Humphries, Steven Murphy, Susan Teegardin, Sydney Blanks, T.J. Fu, Tiffany LaLonde, Tracie Sheehan, Tressa Dennett, Wendelyn Jones, Yingqing Ma, Yuhan Huang, Zhinong Yan.

Total Number of Attendees: 66.

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

Old Business: None.

New Business: Dr. Lili He opened the meeting by introducing herself and Co-Chair Dr. Amy Wise. She reviewed the antitrust guidelines and invited attendees to participate in a 5-minute networking session to get to know one another. Dr. He then highlighted upcoming sessions sponsored or co-sponsored by the PDG during the conference.

Speaker Presentations:

Presentation 1: "The End of Red 3 – Scientific, Regulatory, and Consumer Perspectives"

Presenter: Dr. Lili He

Dr. He provided an overview of the background, applications, and recent U.S. ban of Red 3, noting that regulatory action is expanding globally. She emphasized increasing consumer concerns and advocated for the transition to natural color alternatives in food products.

Key Takeaways: Regulatory ban of Red 3, Industry adaptation strategies, Promotion of safer, natural food colorants. Q&A Highlights: Addressed the tension between scientific data and regulatory decisions, Emphasized the importance of consumer perspectives and clear communication over technical challenges.

Presentation 2: "Americans' Perceptions of Food Allergens, Intolerance, and Sensitivity"

Presenters: Tony Flood and Kris Sollid, International Food Information Council (IFIC).

Kris Sollid introduced IFIC and its monthly, annual "Spotlight Surveys" targeting a representative sample of U.S. consumers. Tony Flood presented findings related to public understanding of food allergies and intolerances. Key Takeaways: Dairy is the most commonly reported intolerance/sensitivity, Tree nuts are the most reported allergen, Over 50% of Americans report knowing someone with a food allergy or sensitivity. Key concerns: Unclear food labeling, 67% of

respondents trust food allergy information, with healthcare providers ranked as the most trusted source

Q&A Highlights: Although 50% are aware of labeling, awareness does not always translate to trust, Discussion around coconut as an allergen vs. a healthy oil alternative, Annual survey results released in January, with additional surveys planned.

PDG Items: Call for Vice Chair Nominations: Description of the Vice Chair role and a call for applications were announced.

IAFP Updates: Dr. He shared messages from the IAFP Board, including calls for: webinar proposals, session proposals for IAFP 2026, reviewers for the *Journal of Food Protection (JFP)*, Resubmission of previously declined proposals.

Brainstorming Session: Attendees participated in small-group discussions focused on developing session or webinar proposals. Key topics raised by participants included: Validation methods for food allergy detection and evaluation, Food allergy instructions in restaurants, Collaboration with the Allergy Foundation and AOAC on validation guidance, Mitigation strategies for food allergens, Cross-collaboration with other PDGs, Ultra-processed foods and novel foods, Strategies for managing the Top 9 food allergens, Emerging practices for food allergy medications. Participants were divided into four breakout groups to refine and prioritize these ideas.

Call for IAFP 2026 Proposals: The meeting concluded with a reminder to begin preparing submissions for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Lili He.

Food Defense PDG

NA

Food Fraud Prevention PDG

Names of Attendees: Angela Anandappa (Chairperson), Katie Zammit (Vice Chairperson), Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Achyut Adhikari, Adeniyi Odugbemi, Alda Pires, Alicyn Dickman, Allison DeGraffenreid, Alyssa Rosenbaum, Amanda Faltynowski, Amanda Tabb, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Andrew Stiven Ortiz Balsero, Andrew Widmer, Andrew Wilson, Angelina Adjetey, Anish Abeysiriwardena, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Annie Piepenhagen, Annie Piepenhagen, Annette Kenney, Anza Bester, Aryany Peña Gomez, Aswathi Soni, Ata (Al) Baroudi, Bobby Krishna, Bonolo Mathekga, Brett Felton, Brian Perry, Brenna DeRocili, Brent Wallen, Charles Bency Appolon, Chris Paradise, Christopher Rupert, Christopher Rupert, Chyer Kim, Claire Murphy, Claudio Gallottini, David French, David Mugabo, Devin LaPolt, Diana Stewart, Dima Faour-Klingbeil, Don Stoeckel, Doreen Edebe, Eduardo Lecea, Elisabetta Lambertini, Elizabeth Bihn, Elizabeth Bihn, Elizabeth Epps, Ellen Gabriel, Ellen Gabriel, Emilio Esteban, Erdogan Ceylan, Erica Fealko, Erin Duffin, Esther Palmer, Ewen Todd, Fabien Matsiko, Favour Okunbi, Fernando Avelleyra, Festus Tawose, Gail Prince, Gabriella Strocko, Gina Cullerton, Greg Komar, Hadda Faye, Harmeet Kaur, Helen Taylor, Indu Aashritha Idumalla,

Isabella Oliveira Tosta, Jaber Ghorbani, Jack Sarcone, Jack Sarcone, Jacqueline Woods, James Doyle, Janice Ball, Jerome Combrisson, Jessica Roman, Joe Holt, John Figgins, John Spink, Jonathan Basha, Joshua Gurtler, Juan Moreira, Juan Ponce De Leon, Jude Dilioha, Julie Simcox, Katherine Sierra, Katheryn Parraga-Escalante, Kathryn Kadlec, Kaitlin Smith, Karuna Kharel, Karen Everstine, Karen Leacock, Keith Ito, Kellie Burris, Kristin Butler, Kunna Faal, Kyle McCaughan, Laura Dunn Nelson, Laura Wildey Kearse, Laurel Burall, Lei Zhang, Leon Gorris, Lindsay DiGenova, Lisa Lucore, Lorena Correia, Luis Salazar, Maggie Miller, Marc Barret, Maria Luisa Klobongona, Mark Flanagan, Mark Lebednick, Mary Snow, Maryam Blythe, Mat Bartkowiak, Mathilde Trudel-Ferland, Maureen Hanley, Mauricio Durigan, Megan Franies, Meijun Zhu, Melissa Bruce, Micah Black, Michael Rybolt, Michelle Smith, Mohammad Alam, Nadia Le Den, Natalie Epps, Nicole Martin, Nikki Shariat, Nishela Abeysiriwardena, Patty Weber, Peyman Fatemi, Phil Thomas, Philip Bwalya, Phyllis Posy, Prashant Dahal, Quincy Lissaur, Rachel McEgan, Raquel Medeiros, Rane Anderson, Richard Jacobs, Richard Walsh, Sagar Pokhrel, Sabahnur Demirci, Sampathkumar Balamurugan, Sanjit M. Fernandes, Sanjit M Fernandes, Sarah Murphy, Sean Montgomery, Sharon White, Sharmeen Khan, Sitara Cullinan, Sophie Pierre, Staci Richardson, Stephen Grove, Steven Gendel, Sydney Blanks, Taylor Richter, Tiffany LaLonde, Tim Accola, Todd Frantz, Tracy Nowaczyk, Trina Garcia, Trey Jensen, Tzazil Gabriela Oliva Coba, Vanessa Coffman, Vanessa Gonzales Pacheco, Veerachandra Yemmireddy, Vianca Tashiguano, Vikas Kumar Galipothu, Wendy White, Yinqing Ma, Yulie Meneses, Zirui Ray Xiong.

Total Number of Attendees: 157.

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

Old Business: A motion was made by James Doyle and seconded by Julie Simcox to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, and it passed.

New Business: The meeting began with opening remarks from Dr. Angela Anandappa, followed by a presentation of the agenda which had no amendments. The IAFP's mission statement was read to attendees, and it was noted that Robert's Rules would govern parliamentary procedure. The *Journal of Food Protection* and *Food Protection Trends* were announced, and it was noted that the *Journal of Food Protection* accepts invited reviews from a list of 56 topics. John Spink asked what a review paper was, and it was explained that it's a paper that summarizes, discusses, or comprehensively reviews existing research rather than presenting new findings. John Spink inquired if Food Fraud was one of the 56 topics and was informed that it wasn't on the list provided by Dina, but Karen Everstine noted that a paper on the topic was in progress. She also mentioned that the paper in progress was not focused on methods. The PDG's purpose and Membership information were reviewed from page 8 of the guidelines and handbook, and antitrust guidelines were also reviewed. There were no student PDG announcements, and attendees were encouraged to attend two scheduled roundtables.

Fernando Avelleyra from Walmart presented "Beyond Testing," an initial look at their position paper. The paper, authored by Claire Meneses, Anza Bester, Julie Simcox, John Points, Stuart Hastie, John Figgins, Fernando Avelleyra, and edited by Angela Anandappa, shares the struggles and focus areas for companies, particularly small ones, on their journey to prevent food fraud. It suggests that prevention is the ideal defense, rather than detection, and that food fraud programs should be solidly incorporated into how companies define their risk. Companies should have clear, contractual expectations for suppliers, and GFSI standards should include strong food fraud programs. The paper outlines a "holistic, multi-layered approach to mitigate food fraud and protect consumer trust" through strategic pillars: Governance & Leadership, Policies & Procedures, Training & Communication, Vulnerability Assessment & Supply Chain Illumination,

Monitoring & Horizon Scanning, and Testing & Inspections. The next steps include publishing a general interest paper in *Food Protection Trends*.

Sabahnur Demirci from Mérieux Nutrisciences presented “Trends in Food Fraud Incidents,” discussing Safety HUD, a tool that monitors food safety and fraud trends. The tool takes information from 85 countries and 130 sources, tracking 13,000 alerts to date. The presentation noted that food fraud incidents are increasing rapidly with more creativity, and gray market activities account for about half of these incidents. Milk and dairy products are the number one category for fraud, largely involving substitution with vegetable oils and fats, with many incidents originating in European countries.

TreQuincy Lissaur from SSAFE presented on “Resources in Food Fraud Prevention”. SSAFE is a global nonprofit focused on advancing the safe supply and trade of food, with three core pillars: Projects & Harmonization of Standards, External Engagement, and Good Practice Sharing. Lissaur noted that the more the food fraud space can be de-complicated, the better. SSAFE has created a food fraud assessment tool to meet GFSI requirements and identify vulnerabilities based on controls, opportunity, and motivation. The tool uses the formula: Opportunity – Motivation + Control = Food Vulnerability.

Meetings are scheduled for the third Friday of each month at 5 p.m. Central Time. Information will be sent out.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Dr. Angela Anandappa.

Food Hygiene and Sanitation PDG

Names of Attendees: Aaron Patch, Abigail Snyder, Adwy van den Berg, Ahnna Schulte, Alex Hanley, Alexandra Ralston, Anett Winkler, Annamaria Carone, Aswathi Soni, Aytan Pirverdiyeva, Beth Paras, Betsy McCaulley, Bruna Bertoldi, Brian Perry, Brian Schaneberg, Caio Carvalho, Carlos Porras Guardado, Charles Bency Appolon, Chris Paradise, Christopher McNamara, Claudio Gallottini, Daniele Sohier, Dan DeBee, David Ayala Velastegui, David Blomquist, David Buckley, David Flicek, David Flicek, Devin Woodill, Doreen Edebe, Douglas Marzec, Erin Ducko, Erin Mertz, Elise Forward, Emily Moyer, Eniola Betiku, Eric Moorman, Eric Tetteh, Fabien Matsiko, Fabiana Guglielmone, Florence Postollec, Francis Torko, Gabriela Betancourt, Gale Prince, Gina Cullerton, Gustavo Gomez, Halle Greenbaum, Hanyi Shi, Hany Anany, Hilal Samut, Ian Hildebrandt, Jack Burnett, Jakob Baker, Jason White, Jeff Lucas, Jennifer Acuff, Jennine Cannizzo, Joanna Rothwell, Joe Heinzelmann, Joe Holt, Jody Perry, John Boyce, Joshua Gurtler, Juan Goncalves, Kathryn Kadlec, Kara Mikkelson, Katherine Swanson, Kavita Patil, Kirk Dolan, Ledon Black, Lindsay DiGenova, Lisa Lucore, Lisa Robinson, Lynette Schroeder, Mahesh Chapagain, Manan Sharma, Marc Barret, Maria Luisa Klobongona, Matthew Hahs, Md Ashrafudoulla, Melanie Rank, Meijun Zhu, Melissa Bruce, Michael Barnett, Michael Rybolt, Michelle Braun, Mike Morrison, Misty Vincent, Monica Hoffmann, Montavius Morgan, Nadia Narine, Narindra Randriamiarintsoa, Nathan Mirdamadi, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Neil Bogart, Nicola Dermer, Nitin Puri, Paola Corea Ventura, Patrick Wouters, Peyman Fatemi, Pratiksha Kotkar, Quincy Lissaur, Rachel McEgan, Richard Jacobs, Rick Heiman, Romy Yu, Sabahnur Demirci, Sabina Alexander, Sahaana Chandran, Samantha Roldan Perez, Suzanne Finstad, Susan Teegardin, Taryn Horr, Thomas Jones, Tom Ford, Tom Weaver, Tomi Obe, Travis

Sananikone, Veera Venkata Praveen Raja Kosuri, Vickie Lewandowski, Vik Dutta, Vik Dutta, Yuqian Lou.

Total Number of Attendees: 125.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Jack Burnett.

Old Business: 2024 Minutes have been approved. Tom Ford moved to accept, and Montavius seconded. Unanimously accepted. Juan Goncalves moved, and Montavius Morgan seconded the acceptance of David Buckley into the Chair position. Montavius Morgan moved and Rick Heiman seconded to accept Eric Moorman as the new vice chair.

New Business: David shared information from the Executive Board update for the chairs and vice chairs. Challenging Members to submit symposia. September 30th is the proposal deadline for symposia roundtables for 2026. Listed the five symposia and the workshop sponsored by the PDG and shared with the group. Also encouraged future participation and development of webinars.

SSAFE–Quincy Lissaur–presentation: global non-profit around Avian Influenza originating in 2003; Introducing what SSAFE does and how they can help advance food safety with their free resources. Dr. Abigail Snyder of Cornell University presented research that supports optimizing risk-based approaches to dry sanitation. Dr. Jack Burnett then presented on *Listeria monocytogenes* biofilm-based metabolism.

Separated into groups for networking activity. 10 groups formed, icebreakers: what show did you most recently binge watch? And what was your most recent vacation? Then the most tenured Member of each group introduced the newest attendee.

Forms for 2026 symposia ideas were distributed then displayed and Members of the PDG were able to peruse and volunteer to help organize or present at potential sessions. Forms were collected at the end of the meeting and will be shared with the group once transcribed.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. There is a strong desire to have the Sanitation PDG annual meeting and the Retail and Foodservice PDG annual meeting to occur at different times due to the large Membership overlap.
2. David Buckley will be moving forward as the new chair with Eric Moorman stepping into the vice chair position. Jack Burnett has been elected as the incoming secretary prior to the meeting and has assumed the role.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:05 P.M.

Chairperson Name: David Buckley.

Food Law PDG

Names of Attendees: Eric Edmunds (Chairperson), Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Adrienne Shearer, Allison Howell, Amy Wise, Andrew Morin, Angelica Uribe, Angela Fraser, Ata (Al)

Baroudi, Brittany Holmes, Dan DeBee, Dan Vassar, Derek Hladki, Elise Forward, Emily Moyer, Gale Prince, Gustavo Gomez, Hadda Faye, Jack Sarcone, Jakob Baker, James Doyle, Jens H. Kjaer, Jennifer McEntire, Jesse Son, Joanna Rothwell, John Allan, John LoPorto, Juliany Rivera Calo, Julie Simcox, Justyce Jedlicka Schweppe, Karina Martino, Kathleen O'Donnell, Kris Sollid, Lauren Hamilton, Leslie Hintz, Leticia Mallmann, Lily Yang, Mark Lebednick, Mary Morris-Donaldson, Melissa Bruce, Myra Maldonado, Nicolás Vivanco, Phyllis Posy, Pratiksha Shrestha, Quincy Lissaur, Raquel Maymir, Rob Middendorf, Sean Foster, Steven Gendel, Taryn Horr, Tracie Sheehan, Tressa Dennett, Xin Luo, Yinqing Ma, Zeb Blanton, Zhinong Yan.

Total Number of Attendees: 55.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 1:05 P.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Eric Edmunds

Old Business: The meeting commenced with a call to order, and a welcome was extended to all attendees. Antitrust guidelines were reviewed. All attendees were asked to introduce themselves and share how many years they have participated with IAFP. IAFP Board updates and announcements were made for *Journal of Food Protection*.

Minutes from 2024 annual meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business: All sessions sponsored by the Food Law PDG this year were shared with the group. There was a brief presentation and discussion on the Ohio Supreme Court case that held that “boneless” chicken wings could not be reasonable assumed to not contain bones by a consumer in a food service restaurant, and that plaintiff could not recover any damages for injuries sustained from chicken bone.

Poll results from sessions submitted in the last five years that were sponsored by the PDG were presented and used to determine breakout topics for small groups to work on session ideas for 2026. The groups brainstormed for approximately 30 minutes, with two groups focused on: (1) regulatory uncertainty and influence of state jurisdictions on federal policy and international commerce; and (2) FSMA issues evaluating individual regulations and fact that we are coming up on the 15th anniversary of FSMA and it is unclear if it is a “successful” law. Groups reported back ideas and session topics to PDG.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned at: 2:28 P.M., Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Chairperson: Eric Edmunds.

Food Packaging PDG

Names of Attendees: Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Allison DeGraffenreid, Amira Ayad, Andrew Morin, Andrew Pantano, Angela Anandappa, Angela Valadez, Ankit Patras, Balasubrahmanyam Kottapalli, Barbara Kowalczyk, Bennett Dzandu, Beth Paras, Betsy Craig, Cameron Parsons, Carlos Jemio Flores, Caroline Yates, Carrie Rigdon, Cecil Barnett-Neefs, Chris Jordan, Cindy Jiang, Craig Jewell, Daun Kim, Dave Hill, David Buckley, David Legan, David Luedeke, David Melton, David Vargas, Diego Casas, Dr. Sultan Al Taher, Elisabetta Lambertini, Emil Joson, Eric Martin, Eric Schweitzer, Erin Ducko, Ewelina Wachnicka, Fabien Matsiko, Florence Postollec, Gabriela Lopez Velasco, Gabriella Pinto, Gopal Gopinath, Gry Terrell, Gustavo Reyes, Hadda

Faye, Helen Taylor, Irshad Sulaiman, James Doyle, Jiyoony Yi, Joe Heinzelmänn, Joe Holt, John Bassett, Jonathan Basha, Julie Simcox, Jun Nam, Karen Jarvis, Karen Leacock, Katherine Sierra, Kathryn Kadlec, Kristin Sanders, Lisa Robinson, Lucas Cunha, Luis Salazar, Luke Qian, Marcel Zwietering, Marion Shepherd Jr., Mark Flanagan, Martha Kimber, Mary Morris-Donaldson, Matthew Stasiewicz, Megan Jensen, Melanie Firestone, Meri Beth Wojtaszek, Micah Black, Michelle Iannucci, Minji Hur, Monica Osorio-Barahona, Nadia Narine, Nate Banner, Nathan Anderson, Natoavina Faliarizao, Neal Fredrickson, Neal Saab, Niam Abey Siriwardena, Nicolas Vivanco, Nicolette Hall, Nirmal Thirunavookarasu Sankaranarayanan, Nishela Abey Siriwardena, Olivia Arends, Panos Skandamis, Pratiksha Shrestha, Rachel Anderson, Ray Elementi, Richard Jacobs, Rigo Soler, Rowaida Khalil, Ryan Blaustein, Sampathkumar Balamurugan, Sangmi Lee, Sarah Murphy, Sarah Smith-Simpson, Sean Montgomery, Sergei Lepeshinki, Seulgi Jeong, Shanmukh Kottapalli, Sitara Cullinan, Staci Richardson, Stefhania Loaiza, Steve Nason, Steven Foley, Surabhi Wason, Tim Accola, Toni de Senna, Tony Flood, Vianca Tashiguano, Vijay Krishna, YeonJin Jung, Yiyi Li, Zane Xu.

Total Number of Attendees: 127

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Aikansh Singh.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Aikansh Singh stepped in to run the meeting since Chair Tamia Martinez and Vice Chair Srinivasasrao Bandla were unable to attend. The attendees discussed topics to add to a future presentation, including microplastics due to consumer health concerns, and the need

for more information about it, similar to PFAS and BFAS. They also discussed adding topics related to consumer preferences for packaging and environmental impact, and the industrialization of smart packaging. Other potential topics included recycling of polymers, innovations in packaging, such as plant-based and smart packaging, and new research trends. Attendees suggested holding webinars on these topics.

Collaboration with other PDGs was discussed as a way to generate ideas and increase the chances of proposals being approved. The FSPCA could be a potential collaborator on a path to get certifications for packaging approval. One person from 3A and Nadia Narine offered to participate and share information about 3A's standards to identify any gaps. There was also a suggestion to share definitions of terms to improve communication with smaller manufacturers and to raise awareness among manufacturers about GFSI standards for packaging.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Tania Martinez.

Food Safety Assessment, Audit & Inspection PDG

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Tracie Sheehan

Old Business: Approved the previous year's meeting minutes with no adjustments.

New Business: Betsy read the antitrust guidelines. Betsy read the IAFP Updates on a new podcast, symposium sessions, and free webinars in June, and affiliate meetings. Attendees mentioned their activity in the New York, Ontario, and Arkansas affiliate meetings.

Committee Webinar Topics:

Committee IAFP 2026 Workshop, Symposia, Roundtables or Posters:

- Rocelle Clavaro wants support of PDG for a Workshop on Food Safety including Supplier Auditing, Testing Methods for Ingredients that must have a kill step. Drive where inside of equipment should you test EMP and what records should you check like spray driers and gaskets.
- Auditor Training – look at standards but don't focus on methods of auditing, working on body of knowledge in food safety, likes doing webinars.
- Data Driven Insights & Impact of AI to Auditing – high risk data driven dashboards (Amit)
Secondary Sponsor – Data PDG.
- Leveraging Third Party Audit Data & Regulatory Inspection Data as a Tool to Improve Food Safety in the Industry (FSSC, Shield Safety (UK), Mark Australia Regulator). Check with Steve from AFDO.
- Allergens mentioned by Betsy.
- Importance of Internal Assessments to Improve Food Safety (Shahram, McCormick). Who should do them, what is the training, what should they audit? Some retailers rely on GFSI but they still have recalls so what are we missing? Should the responsibility be on the internal or external auditor? How many internal auditors should a company have? How should we approve suppliers? For internal auditor think company size of 5 people vs. 500 people.
- Allen audits RSPO and if internal audits are broader and by risk you will have no NCs in the

GFSI audit.

- Third Party Audits including FSSC have been removed as a verification step in internal audits so regulators cannot have access. Repeat from last year is a minor NC. Don't use a piece of paper in an internal audit.
- Clint Stevenson, NC State – how do we raise better students. USDA project – intro undergraduate program with network portal for hiring. Research based marketing campaign.
- Is there interest in this PDG exploring into retail audits?
- Submissions due September 30.
- Virtual Meeting–August 22, 2025.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend to appoint Srinivasarao Bandla as Chair of the PDG. Previous Vice Chair unable to fulfill the term.
2. Recommend Jose Guerrero as Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Betsy Craig (Past Chairperson).

Food Safety Culture PDG

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Tia Glave.

Old Business: None.

New Business: This year, we welcome new leadership. Melody Ge is the outgoing chair. Tia Glave is the incoming chair. Andrea Griffith is the incoming vice chair. 2024–2025 highlights include accepted sessions and the call for webinars for year. Reviewed the Attain Better Culture Toolkit (launched last year), and introduced 2 new tools. Student PDG updates for 2024 and 2025. Panel with Dr. Allison DeGraffenreid, Jill Stuber, and Robert Price with topic: Removing Food Safety Culture Roadblocks with five breakout discussions.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

5. Approval of new Vice Chair, Andrea Griffin.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Tia Glave.

Food Safety Education PDG

Names of attendees: Ellen Shumaker (Chairperson), Betty Yaohua Feng (Vice Chairperson), Aaron Lavalley, Aldo Xoxocotla Sánchez, Alicyn Dickman, Allison Howell, Ann Charles Vegdahl, Anna Schumann, Arenis Piñón, Austin Cary, Aytan Pirverdiyeva, Brittany Saunier, Christina Allingham, Clint Stevenson, Courtney Crist, Dina Scott, Elma Kontor-Manu, 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: 52.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Suyapa Fabiola Rojas Oropel.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. and began with a welcome from Dr. Ellen Shumaker, Chair of the Food Safety Education PDG, and introductions from all attendees. Wendy White shared IAFP Executive Board announcements, and Dr. Shumaker reminded attendees of the Antitrust Guidelines and Ethical Guidelines.

Old Business: 2024 PDG meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made, seconded and accepted by attendees.

New Business: Dr. Shumaker reviewed IAFP symposia and workshops proposals for the 2025 IAFP Annual Meeting. Journal acceptance rates from 2023–2025 were presented, highlighting an increase in acceptance from 30% to 41% for the FS Education PDG from 2024 to 2025. *JFP*s call for invited review papers were also shared, seeking manuscripts on a variety of food safety-related topics and providing a great opportunity. Interested individuals can reach out to the journal and send a summary, authors' information, and a timeline for submission. STOP Foodborne Illness, the Partnership for Food Safety Education, and the International Food Information Council provided updates on current work and initiatives. Following that, the meeting proceeded with four breakout groups discussing a) Emerging technologies for FS education, b) New collaborations/partnerships, c) New research in FS education for consumers, and d) New

research in FS education at retail. The goal of these sessions was to share current work, brainstorm collaboration opportunities, and to generate ideas for webinars and IAFP 2026 sessions. Each group shared their major highlights to the entire group.

Virtual meeting to be scheduled in August 2025.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Could the communications, outreach, and education sessions switch up and not be in the final slot of IAFP (Wednesday afternoon session).
2. Recommend Approval of Betty Yaohua Feng as Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Dr. Ellen Shumaker.

Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG

Names of Attendees: Ai Kataoka, Alan Gutierrez, Alyssa Rosenbaum, Amanda Philyaw Perez, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Andrew Morin, Angela Walla, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Arenis Piñón, Bismarck Martinez, Brian Goodwyn, Brooke Schwartz, Camila Rodrigues, Charles Bency Appolon, Chyer Kim, Claire Murphy, Comfort Kwamikorkor, Cyril Ayuk Etaka, Daun Kim, David Hill, Don Stoeckel, Doreen Edebe, Eduardo Lecea, Esther Palmer, Fanny Gozzi, Favour Okunbi, Festus Tawose, Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, Gabriela Betancourt, Gabriela Lopez Velasco, Grace Akumu, Greg Komar, Hadda Faye, Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Hua Wang, Jacek Jaczynski, Jacqueline Woods, Jenny Golove, Jitu Patel, Joel Riemer, Joanna Rothwell, Juan Ponce De Leon, Julie Kase, Katelynn Stull, Katheryn Parraga-Escalante, Kathy Wilson, Kellie Burris, Kristin

Butler, Kristin Esch, Kristen Gibson, Kristen Matak, Laurel Burall, Laura Rolon, Luann Schafer, Lynette Johnston, Maria Luisa Klobongona, Mary Tegomoh, Meijun Zhu, Michelle Smith, Miriam Ruiz, Mohammad Alam, Morgan Madison, Nigel Thorgrimsson, Philip Bwalya, Precious Aduloju, Rachel Midkiff, Rebecca Olsen, Rion MSI, Rocelle Grabarek, Rocio Ortega, Rosemarie Christopher, Sagar Pokhrel, Salina Parveen, Sanjay Gummalla, Sarah Bakker, Seulgi Jeong, Sergio Nieto-Chavez, Sergio Nieto-Montenegro, Sharon Humphries, Sharon White, Sharmeen Khan, Steve Strub, Swapnika Medikonda, Taylor O'Bannon, Toby Yao, Tyler Mattson, Vikas Kumar Galipothu, Vincent Sigmund, Viona Osei, Wendy White, Xueyan Hu, Yulie Meneses.

Total Number of Attendees: 93.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Govindaraj Dev Kumar.

Old Business: None.

New Business: The PDG Chair, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, introduced the new Vice Chair, Adam Baker. The FVSQ PDG was the primary sponsor of three symposia and a secondary sponsor of a roundtable at the 2025 IAFP Annual Meeting. The PDG's plans included hosting webinars on various topics like agricultural water, bioaerosols, environmental detection, and regulatory frameworks for produce safety. A live poll was conducted to gauge interest in webinar topics, which included AI in food safety, recirculated post-harvest water, hydroponics, and antimicrobial resistance. The Members participated in a networking session and then brainstormed ideas for symposia and roundtables for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting. Following the session, Gretchen Wall gave a talk titled "The Produce Safety Dialog: A process facilitated by the Reagan-Udall foundation for the FDA."

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend to the Board that Govindaraj Dev Kumar, University of Georgia, be approved as Chair of the PDG. Current Chair had to end term early.
2. Recommend Adam Baker as Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Govindaraj Dev Kumar.

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.

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: 1st Place: Narindra Randriamiarintsoa – Michigan State University, 2nd Place: Juzhong Tan – University of Delaware, 3rd 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.

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 IAFP 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.

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 Lorchheim, 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.

Meat and Poultry Safety and Quality PDG

Names of Attendees: Alexandra Calle (Chairperson), Emilio Esteban (Vice Chairperson), Alejandra Abrego Gavidia, Alejandro Echeverry, Alex Brandt, Alex Tudor, Alexia Joana Lopez Gachuzo, Allisson Guevara Milla, Amber Richards, Amit Morey, Andrea Etter, Andres Martinez, Angela Fraser, Anru Shen, Anthony Zoropogui, Anuradha Punchihewage Don, Annie Iniya John

Benedict Ashok, April Schumacher, Aryany Peña Gomez, Ashley Rosanske, Babak Faraji Gougerdchi, Bonolo Mathekga, Brandon Gartman, Carlos Jemio Flores, Casey Gallimore, Charles Bency Appolon, Chi-An Lee, Chuck Bird, Claudio Gallottini, Cynthia Austin, Daniela Chavez, Dan Vassar, David Ayala Velastegui, David Luedeke, David Mugabo, Deborah Sattely, Denise Eblen, Elisabetta Lambertini, Eniola Betiku, Eric Schweitzer, Erin Dreyling, Evan Chaney, Felix Dietz, Frederic Pastori, Gabriela Mendez Villacorta, Gina Cullerton, Greg Vallee, Gry Terrell, Hany Anany, Heath LaFevers, Ian Hildebrandt, Ian Jenson, Irma Janania, Iris Sloten, Isaac Romero, Janice Ball, Jeremy Adler, Jens H. Kjaer, Jinquan Wang, John Jarosh, John LoPorto, Jun Nam, Justyce Jedlicka Schweppe, Jyoti Aryal, Kathleen Glass, KatieRose McCullough, Katherine Sierra, Kevin Atkins, Kristen Shoemake, Krishnar Suntharesan, Larry Kohl, Lei Zhang, Leslie Thompson-Strehlow, Lily Yang, Luvie Sturghill, Lynette Schroeder, Mai Lan Tran, Maria Camila Duarte, Maria Salazar, Mark Salter, Marsha Sayre, Mary-Grace Danao, Melissa Moore, Micah Black, Michael Rybolt, Mike Clark, Morgan Welch, Napatsawan Pharino, Nicola Dermer, Nikki Shariat, Patrick Fach, Patrick Mies, Peg Coleman, Pierre-Luc Longchamps, Prashant Dahal, Prashant Dahal, Preetha Biswas, Rafael Martinez, Reagan Brashears, Ricardo Martinez, Rob Halstead, Robert Salter, Rob True, Sabrina Bandon, Sam Hadden, Scott Moosekian, Sean Foster, Shabarinath Srikumar, Sheetal Jha, Sheetal Jha, Siroj Pokharel, Sophie Pierre, Stan Bailey, Subash Shrestha, Suzanne Finstad, Tamra Tolen, Tiffany LaLonde, Tomi Obe, Vianca Tashiguano, Vanessa Whitmore, Vik Dutta, Woubit Abebe, Yasha Mitrotti, Yhuliana Nino, Youngmin Park.

Total Number of Attendees: 127.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Maria Camila Duarte.

Old Business: The minutes from last year's meeting were read by Dr. Alexandra Calle and reviewed by all Members. No questions or corrections were raised, and the minutes were approved as presented.

New Business: Dr. Alexandra Calle, the PDG Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed the attendees. She introduced the PDG Vice Chair and Chair-Elect, Dr. Emilio Esteban, along with the two elected student liaisons, Camila Duarte and Shaelyn Xu. Dr. Calle and Dr. Esteban provided an IAFP Executive Board update, noting that the *Journal of Food Protection's* Impact Factor has increased to 2.8 and that the editorial team has a list of 58 potential invited review topics. They encouraged Members to propose new webinar and symposium ideas for the next year.

Dr. Denise Eblen from USDA FSIS presented a regulatory update on the "Five-Star Plan," which focuses on enhanced microbiological testing, equipping inspectors with training, refining the approach to *Salmonella*, strengthening state partnerships, and empowering inspectors.

Dr. Isabel Walls, Acting Chief Scientist at USDA FSIS, then provided an overview of the agency's research priorities, which include short-term data gaps, laboratory methods, and long-term research needs related to biological and chemical hazards, as well as foodborne illness source attribution.

Following these presentations, there was a public Q&A session where questions were asked about the use of data from weekly RTE *Listeria* control questionnaires, the definition of "small" and "very small" establishments, and the sharing of internal FSIS data with external groups.

Dr. Katie Rose McCullough gave an industry update from the Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education, highlighting its new mission and key resources such as the Process Legality Spreadsheet and Validation Databases.

A final discussion was held regarding symposia and webinars for the 2026 IAFP Annual Meeting, with suggested topics including predictive microbiology tools, Salmonella quantification, pre-harvest and post-harvest integration, use of genomics, and advancing control programs through surveillance and rapid testing.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend to approve Emilio Esteban as incoming Vice Chair.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 4:21 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Dr. Alexandra Calle

Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG

Attendees: Abdullatif Tay (Chairperson), Heidy Den Besten (Vice Chairperson), Alda Pires, Amy Siceloff, 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 Abeysiriwardena, 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.

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 Flicsek, 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.

Plant-based and Alternative Products PDG

Attendees: Aaron Pleitner (Chairperson), Lilt Yang (Vice Chairperson), Albert Kanaan, Aldo Xoxocotla Sánchez, Bennett Dzandu, Cierra Gadd, Deepa Thiagarajan, Elise Forward, Elisabetta Lambertini, Emil Joson, Fariha Chowdhury Meem, Harmeet Kaur, Juzhong Tan, Kristin Schill, Lauryn Strong, Linhui Zhou, Lucy Sokol, Markus Lacorn, Melissa Bohn, Nate Banner, Robert Price, Stevie Ward, Subash Shrestha, T.J. Fu, Yiwen Cheng, Yinqing Ma.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Welcome: Chair, Vice-Chair Introductions, Student Liaison open role. Executive Board updates were shared with the PDG community, specifically around the number of attendees (2,900+) and the proposal acceptance rate (~36% overall but the PB and Alt Products PDG had a higher rate

at 67%). Attendees reminded that webinars and *Journal of Food Protection* are also options for outreach on topics.

Old Business: Recap of 2024 IAFP Annual Meeting

Following the broader IAFP updates, the overall mission statement of the Plant-based and Alt products was reviewed and aligned to maintain current version.

Reviewed approved proposal submissions and reminder on the IAFP event app to attend. S14 (Monday 1:30 P.M.) Innovative Product Design for Quality and Food Safety: Creative approaches to Novel Plant-based Product Development. S36 (Tuesday 1:30 P.M.) Navigating Food Safety and Regulatory Considerations for New/Novel Ingredient Approval, RT20 (Tuesday 3:45 P.M.) Edibles and Drinkables: Food Safety Explorations at the Intersection of Food and Cannabis, S60 (Wednesday 1:30 P.M.) Novel Foods, Safety, Shelf Life and Rapid Methods.

New Business: Review 2025 sponsored symposia and roundtable submissions that were accepted/rejected. Highlight other related symposia, roundtable, technical sessions and posters related to PDG at 2025 meeting. Breakout sessions on sub-groups in PB & Alt Products: 2025–26 Hot Topics Discussion Groups: Plant-based novel innovation and formulation for FS & Quality risk, Alternative protein and products FS & Quality risk, Startup education for QFS, Supply chain challenges, Test methods (validation, accuracy, appropriateness), Regulatory landscape (Domestic and International), Recap from Break out groups and summarization of topics for potential 2026 meeting proposals and webinars. Review of prior proposals that were postponed in 2024 and 2025 and considered for either resubmission or webinar topics (most leaning towards webinar topics): Flexitarians – New Product Offerings Blending the Best of Both Worlds, Spilling the Tea on Trending Alternative Beverages – Are They Safe? Past, Present, and Future of Novel Proteins Governance/Regulatory Landscape, Novel Food Ingredients – Flavor, Taste, and Bioactivity, “What’s in a Name”, Consumer Outlooks and Perspectives of Alternative

Proteins, Development in the Field of Plant Based Meat Analogue to Increase Its Safety and Quality, Balancing the Act for Companion Animal Food Safety.

Advertised the goal for 2025–2026 on the PDG is to host a bi-monthly webinar and bi-monthly hot topic roundtables (on alternating months).

Formed Breakout Sessions on the following topics and outcomes. Predictive Modeling: Data gap and how to get data via standardization before saying what to do with data, What to learn from other groups, ISO standard for cardinal values & study design, Roundtable – strains to use, Symposium on particular product that has already been launched as a case study, What to do in the future for data management, Standards on food safety criteria as a recommendation/opinion piece in *Food Protection Trends*, Webinar – results on dairy alternatives from Nizo, Toxin production in plant based products, Solid state fermentation. Product Development: Resubmitting Spilling the Tea on Kombucha (updated for 2026), Holding process to increase, commercial sterility, Fermentation in plant based beverages via application of different strains. Alternative to thermal process (non-thermal process) e.g., HPP and approval from FDA as preventive control, Shelf-stable products thermal process, packaging, etc., Natural ingredients for preservations Culture and Start-Up Advising: Startups have great technologies but not an awareness of risk, Design of QFS Programs and Standards. What is the advice? *Food Protection Trends* and follow up webinar for topic. Chemical Hazards and Contaminants: Leading hazards, likelihood and contamination levels, Allergen handling (and cross-contamination on crops and MFG sites), Awareness and education, Trends in industry: Broad feedback from the entire PDG on topics, Impact and use of AI for novel and alternative products (potential avenue to partner with other PDGs), In following years, starting in 2026, lean more heavily on the 'Protection' considerations and less so on the pathogen considerations, Pathogens have been a major focus for our PDG proposal in the last 3 years.

Open floor/call for remaining questions – None; all discussed in open Q&A in brainstorming groups.

Next Steps: Aaron Pleitner and Lily Yang to schedule 2026 proposal working session end of August 2025, Closing remarks.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 27, New Orleans, LA.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:57 A.M. Sunday, July 27, 2025.

Chairperson: Aaron Pleitner.

Pre-Harvest Food Safety PDG

Names of Attendees: Rafael Davila (Chairperson), Kate Burr (Vice Chairperson), Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Alex Brandt, Alex Tudor, Alexander Cheah, Amy Parks, Angela Fraser, Brian Goodwyn, Camila Rodrigues, David Luedeke, Dhananjai Muringattu Prabhakaran, Douglas Marshall, Ellen Gabriel, Emilio Esteban, Erin Dreyling, Erica Fealko, Erica Miller, Esther Palmer, Ethan Reggia, Favour Okunbi, Festus Tawose, Greg Komar, Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Javier Atencia, Jeff Lucas, Jens H. Kjaer, Jinqun Wang, Juan Moreira, Juzhong Tan, Karuna Kharel, Keith Ito, Kellie Burris, Larry Kohl, Laurel Burall, Lei Zhang, Lynette Schroeder, Manan Sharma, Michelle Smith, Myoengsin Choi, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Nikki Shariat, Quanhong Li, Rafael Davila, Sagar Pokhrel, Scott Moosekian, Sean Martinos, Sid Fuller, Suzanne Finstad, Tamra Tolen, Terry Arthur, Tim Jackson, T.J. Fu, Vikas Kumar Galipothu.

Total Number of Attendees: 54.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Kate Burr.

Old Business: Chairperson Rafael M. Davila provided a recap of last year's meeting. The guest speaker was Dr. Gustavo Reyes from WG who presented on pre-harvest pathogen sampling design and sampling. He developed a probability detection calculator. He also spoke about methods and how that can impact probability.

Also Dr. Javier Atencia presented on rapid enrichment technologies for pre-harvest. Since this presentation he has processed over 10k samples and is expanding it to other adoptions.

New Business: Chairperson Rafael M. Davila introduced Kate Burr, as the incoming Vice Chair for the PDG. Manan Sharma (VP, IAFP) provided an annual IAFP update. 2900 people registered for this IAFP Annual Meeting; it was mentioned that this registration is lower compared to last year likely due to pauses on government travel and other travel restrictions. There will be a closed captioning option in all meetings using AI and IAFP is looking for feedback on functionality. The webinars have seen an increase in views this year compared to last. Reminded all Members to make sure that their email on their profile is current to ensure communications are received. Alexandra Tudor Alexandra_tudor@bio-rad.com, Bio-Rad Laboratories was the guest speaker and provided a presentation covering using ddPCR as a Pre-harvest tool. She provided a background on how she got into produce food safety, Evolution of PCR, ddPCR for STEC, STECT testing and challenges, Pre-harvest applications. It was presented that Pre-harvest applications for this type of testing allows for decreased time to result (less than 24 hrs. for confirmation for true STEC samples, reduction of unnecessary food waste due to lack of confidence of results, more detailed risk analysis on virulence targets present in growing areas. Provided review of case study involving E. Coli O80 which was a romaine lettuce outbreak but also linked to cattle origin. It is not included in the top 7 serotype analysis testing, so it would have been a false negative testing. Rafael engaged with the audience for ideas on direction for upcoming year. Last year focused on pre-harvest testing, he posed the question "When you think

about pre-harvest, what is the first thing that comes to mind, or what would be of interest to expand upon.”

Greg Komar, CA LGMA- Fresh produce is becoming a hot topic, is there a need to separate the produce pre-harvest from other industry. What can we do to understand the actual risk from the assessment. Good topic, is adjacent land. How can you monitor/assess the risk of adjacent land to growing areas at the farm level. As a group the following questions were posed: You can identify a hazard but how much of a risk does it pose, and how do you prioritize it? Reference was made to a CPS presentation using PAA at the field level, what other interventions can be used to control and mitigate risks? Chemical hazard risk mitigation at the growing level, thought to work with the Chemical PDG. This group has been historically micro focused but chemical hazards play a role in hazards and risk assessments. Heavy metals and PFAS, CA prop 65 could all be areas of exploration. It was suggested that these ideas be put together for a potential round table for next year’s symposium too.

Rafael shared important upcoming dates including next year’s annual meeting is in New Orleans July 26–29, 2026. The call for symposia and roundtable deadline is Sept. 30, 2025. IAFP 2026 Call for Abstracts deadline is Jan 2026.

Greg Komar from CA LGMA, shared that Dec 11, Longitudinal Study results will be presented in Monterey, CA, more information will be shared.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the approval of Kate Burr, as Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 9:32 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Rafael M. Davila.

Retail & Foodservice PDG

Names of Attendees: Briana Lorenzo (Chairperson), Sarah Kozak-Weaver (Vice Chairperson), Adrienne Shearer, Allison Howell, Amy Wise, Angela Fraser, Betsy Craig, Beth Wittenauer, Betsy Craig, Carrie Rigdon, Dan DeBee, Dan Vassar, Eric Martin, Elizabeth Epps, Fernando Avelleyra, Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, Gale Prince, Giddy Zipori, Ian Jenson, James Doyle, John Allan, Jonathan Basha, Javier Atencia, Kathleen O'Donnell, Kristen Gibson, Kristin Sanders, Kristen Saniga, Larry Kohl, Mark Lebednick, Mandy Sedlak, Michael Roberson, Michael Wood, Natalie Seymour, Nicolas Vivanco, Quincy Lissaur, Roger Hancock, Sabahnur Demirci, Savana Everhart Nunn, Sean Martinos, Sharon Humphries, Sharmeen Khan, Sima Hussein, T.J. Fu, Tom Ford, Todd Frantz, Tracie Sheehan, Vianca Tashiguano, Yinqing Ma, Zhinong Yan.

Total Number of Attendees: 51.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:30 A.M.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business: The meeting was welcomed by Chair Briana Lorenzo and Vice Chair Sarah Kozak-Weaver. Announcements from the IAFP Executive Board included that over 2,900 people were registered for IAFP 2025, thanks were given to the Ohio Affiliate and Local Arrangements Committee, and Members were encouraged to recruit students and colleagues. New initiatives were announced, including the launch of an IAFP podcast, the piloting of AI-generated closed captioning, and the availability of a Quiet Room.

It was noted that PDGs are critical to symposia, roundtables, and workshops, and that the 2025 acceptance rate for sessions was 36%. Members were encouraged to focus on the quality of submissions over volume. It was also announced that webinars are free when live but are behind a paywall after they are recorded, and that IAFP webinars were made public for Food Safety Month in June 2025, with over 16,000 views. Submissions for IAFP Latino 2026 and European Symposium 2027 were encouraged, and Members were reminded to engage with exhibitors. A list of accepted roundtables and symposia was provided.

The submission deadline for IAFP 2026 is September 30, 2025, and late submissions will not be accepted. The PDG's goal for 2025 is to have at least four webinars, and volunteers were encouraged to propose topics or present.

Six breakout sessions were held to explore food safety challenges and brainstorm ideas, and the ideas generated will be posted on *IAFP Connect*. The topics for the breakout sessions included Class I recalls, Food Code compliance, brand audit schemes, data analysis, underserved sectors, and FSMA 204.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Briana Lorenzo.

Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design PDG

Names of Attendees: Jason White (Chairperson), Aikansh Singh (Vice Chair), Aaron Patch, Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Adwy van den Berg, Alejandro Echeverry, Amber Richards, Annamaria Carone, Babak Faraji Gougerdchi, Brian Perry, Chris Paradise, Chyer Kim, Craig Lorei, Dale Grinstead, Dan DeBee, David Rasmussen, Emma Shoemaker, Eric Schweitzer, Gina Cullerton, Jennifer Acuff, Jestin Bose, Josie Greve-Peterson, Juzhong Tan, Larry Kohl, Lisa Lucore, Mark Moorman, Megan Jensen, Meijun Zhu, Meri Beth Wojtaszek, Michael Barnett, Mike Morrison, Mohana Neelakrishnan, Monica Osorio-Barahona, Nathan Mirdamadi, Nicolas Vivanco, Nuradeen Yusuf, Patrick Wouters, Rob Middendorf, Sanghyup Jeong, Vanessa Whitmore, Yuqian Lou.

Total Number of Attendees: 40.

Board/Staff Member Present: Manan Sharma.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Monica Osorio-Barahona.

Old Business: Approved 2024 meeting minutes.

New Business: Networked in small groups, and three surveys were taken to help align the future direction of the PDG. Surveys included: what do you expect from the 2026 PDG meeting, what type of outreach can the PDG do to further the education of other IAFP Members, and what improvements would you like to see from your PDG. Survey results will be evaluated and distributed to the PDG. Also, a fall webinar was discussed on understanding the process and benefits of implementing a Cross-Functional Sanitary Design program into your Food Safety Management System.

Members discussed Symposia and Roundtable ideas.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recognize Aikansh Singh as incoming Vice Chair.
2. For the Program Committee to send an detailed explanation of why a symposium or roundtable was rejected to help improve future submissions.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10:15 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Jason White.

Seafood Safety & Quality PDG

Names of Attendees: Evelyn Watts (Chairperson), John Boyce (Vice Chairperson), Andrea Cerrato, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Annie Iniya John Benedict Ashok, Bonolo Mathekga, Eric Moorman, Evan Chaney, Jacqueline Woods, Jens H. Kjaer, John LoPorto, Joshua Owade, Katheryn Parraga-Escalante, Kristin Butler, Lisa Weddig, Md Ashrafudoulla, Meijun Zhu, Michael Ciaramella, Neha Shantanu Wavare, Padmini Ramachandran, Philip Bwalya, Salina Parveen, Sanaz Mirtalebi, Sarah Smith-Simpson, Sharmeen Khan, Susan Teegardin, Suresh Pillai, Tom Sidebottom, Tori Stivers, Vashti Campbell, Xiaoyan Zhang.

Total Number of Attendees: 30.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Andrea Cerrato.

Evelyn Watts started the meeting by welcoming everyone, new and old Members, and thanking them for attending the Seafood Safety and Quality PDG. Evelyn introduced herself as the current PDG Chair, and John Boyce was introduced as the incoming PDG Vice Chair. IAFP Executive Board announcements were given by Wendy White. John Boyce reviewed the Antitrust guidelines for everyone, followed by a brief introduction from every attendee.

Old Business: Evelyn Watts requested a motion to approve the 2024 meeting minutes.

Katheryn Párraga made a motion; Jaculina seconded the motion. The motion was accepted with all votes in favor and none against. Evelyn Watts reviewed the recommendations given to the Executive Board during the previous year: 1) Recommend to the Board notify/update PDG Chairperson/s with the date and time of webinars when sponsored by the respective PDG. *Board Response:* The staff will make certain that the PDG Chair is notified. 2) Recommended to the Board to update the app to possibly have a Zoom feature. *Board Response:* Currently, this is not available. A total of 5 proposals were submitted, but only one was accepted. Evelyn encouraged to work on quality not quantity. She also recommends watching the Webinar How to Develop a Strong Symposium, Roundtable, Workshop, and Abstract Submission available through *IAFP Connect* (How to Develop a Strong Symposium, Roundtable, Workshop, or Abstract Submission – Aug 18th, 2018 on Vimeo). Members were encouraged to attend the Seafood PDG Session: Smoking for Food Safety – Clean Labeling and Integrated Strategies, Session 53.

New Business: The student liaison invited Members of the Seafood PDG to get involved with the Student PDG through different activities that included Meet Your Favorite Scientist, 3-Minute Thesis Competition, and Proposal submissions. Evelyn Watts mentioned that the *JFP* editors have developed a list of Potential Invited Reviews to help increase the *JFP* impact factor. John Boyce from Boyce Food Safety was the first guest speaker who presented about “Fostering a Mature Food Safety Culture in the Primary Seafood Industry”.

Padmini Ramachandran from FDA/HFP/OLOAS/OAMT was the second guest speaker who presented about “*Vibrio* Detection and Characterization from Oysters, Crabs, and Scallops Using Metagenomics.”

Evelyn, Jacqueline and John led a brainstorming discussion on session proposals for the IAFP 2026 Annual Meeting. Multiple ideas were developed, and champions/points of contact were identified for numerous topics. Session proposals for the topics will be further developed and refined via email/virtual meetings before the submission deadline. Submissions are due September 30, 2025. Some of the proposal ideas include topics such as the impact of expected new food regulations by FDA, seaweed food safety, dry aging reviewing historical experience for meat products, identification of scientific gaps and inviting chef(s)/industry currently practicing dry aging, seafood fraud, sequence safe methodology for improving safety, and Iodine in foods– Risks vs Benefits.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the Board to accept John Boyce as incoming vice chair.

Next Meeting Date: July 26, 2025, New Orleans, LA.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:30 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Evelyn Watts.

Student PDG

Names of Attendees: Sheetal Jha (Chairperson), Aakankshya Dhakal (Vice Chairperson), Andrea Cerrato (Treasurer), Stefhanie Loaiza (Networking Coordinator), Julia Fukuba

(International and Affiliate Representative), Alicyn Dickman, Amelia Navarre, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Arshpreet Kaur Khattra, Ava Chavez, Babak Faraji Gougerdchi, Balasubrahmanyam Kottapalli, Bhaswati Chowdhury, Bobby Krishna, Caroline Yates, Carris Jiang, Chrissy Walsky, David Mugabo, Dhananjai Muringattu Prabhakaran, Dikshya Shilpakar, Edmund Afari, Emma Bingham, Emily Woodyard, Fani Gozzi, Fariha Chowdhury Meem, Favour Okunbi, Festus Tawose, Gabriella Pinto, Gillian Kuehnle, Grace Akumu, Hui Key Lee, Indu Aashritha Idumalla, Ivannova Lituma, Katherine Sierra, Kyle Stoutenberg, Lauren Suiter, Lauryn Strong, Linhui Zhou, Lorena Correia, Luke Qian, Maddyson Frierson, Mallika Mahida, Manpreet Singh, Meili Papa, Micah Black, Miriam Ruiz, Narindra Randriamiarintsoa, Neelam Sharma, Nuradeen Yusuf, Philip Bwalya, Philadelphia Gadson, Pratiksha Shrestha, Rakib Ehsan, Rane Anderson, Saehah Yi, Sagar Pokhrel, Shams Adigozalzade, Shanmukh Kottapalli, Sitara Cullinan, Suyapa Rojas, Swapnika Medikonda, Tom Weaver, Tongzhou Xu, Tyler Chandross-Cohen, Veera Venkata Praveenraja Kosuri, Vera Arthur, Vikas Kumar Galipothu, Viona Osei, Wangyi Wei, Yiwen Cheng, Youngmin Park.

Total Number of Attendees: 71.

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 11:00 A.M.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend the approval of Sheetal Jha for Chair of the PDG.
2. Recommend the approval of Aakankshya Dhakal for Vice Chair of the PDG.
3. Recommend the approval of Andrea Cerrato for Treasurer of the PDG.
4. Recommend the approval of Stefhania Sanchez for Networking Coordinator for the PDG.
5. Recommend the approval of Julia Fukuba for International and Affiliate Representative.

Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Diseases PDG

Names of Attendees: Amanda Tabb, Amira Ayad, Amy Parks, Andrea Etter, Andrew Appiah Darkwah, Andrew Morin, Angelina Adjetey, Angela Valadez, Aniket Sharma, Anna Schumann, Anuradha Punchihewage Don, Aytan Pirverdiyeva, Autumn Stoll, Alex Hanley, Alexis Omar, Allisson Guevara Milla, Alvin Lee, Aldo Xoxocotla Sánchez, Abdullahi Idris Muhammad, Benjamin Warren, Beth Wittenauer, Betty Yaohua Feng, Bradd Haley, Brandon Gartman, Brenna DeRocili, Brian Goodwyn, Chi-An Lee, Caroline Yates, Conrad Redlitz, Comfort Kwamikorkor, Christine Bruhn, Cyril Ayuk Etaka, Cristina Resendiz-Moctezuma, Daun Kim, David Mugabo, Deiaa Hassanein, Devin LaPolt, Dikshya Shilpakar, Doris D'Souza, Elma Kontor-Manu, Edith Zambrana, Emma Shoemaker, Esther Haviland, Eurydice Aboagye, Favour Okunbi, Festus Tawose, Francis Torko, Francisco Diez-Gonzalez, Gabriella Strocko, Gerald Lekan, Grace Akumu, Greg Siragusa, Han Chen, Hanyi Shi, Hae Woong Park, Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Hui Key Lee, Irshad Sulaiman, Indu Aashritha Idumalla, Jack Sarcone, Jacqueline Southee, Jacquelinina Woods, Jadé Giordani, Janice Ball, Jennifer McEntire, Jenny Maloney, Jill Stuber, Jim Hartman, John Saniga, Jr., Joshua Owade, Julie Jean, Julian Cox, Kailyn Hanke, Kaitlin Smith, Katherine Sierra, Kate Woo, Keith Ito, Khwahish Jawariya, Kolawole Banwo, Kristen Gibson, Kris Sollid, Kunna Faal, Kyle McCaughan, Kyle Stoutenberg, Ledon Black, Laura Lalonde, Leticia Mallmann, Melanie Rank, Maria Luisa Klobongona, Manan Sharma, Mauricio Durigan, Marie-Ève Collard, Marianne Levasseur, Mark Moorman, Maureen Hanley, Matthew Moore, Mathilde Trudel-Ferland, Micah Black, Michael Ciaramella, Millicent Tetteh, Minji Hur, Miranda de Graaf, Miriam Ruiz, Mohana Neelakrishnan, Morgan Welch, Myoengsin Choi, Myra Maldonado, Md Ashrafudoulla, Nicholas Lippard, Nigel Thorgrimsson, Nitin Puri, Neelam Sharma, Nuradeen Yusuf, Pamela Wilger, Patrick Mies, Puja Boidya, Purnendu Vasavada, Pratiksha Kotkar, Rebecca Crouthamel, Ranee Anderson, Rosemarie

Christopher, Sahaana Chandran, Sabahnur Demirci, Sam Hadden, Sarita Raengpradub, Sean Foster, Sean Montgomery, Seulgi Jeong, Shahram Ajamian, Shuang Yu, Sitara Cullinan, Sonia Almeria, Staci Richardson, Sultan Al Taher, Susan Leonard, Surabhi Wason, Swapnika Medikonda, Tamra Tolen, Tia Glave, Tony Flood, Tongzhou Xu, Trina Garcia, Vanessa de Vasconcellos, Vera Arthur, Viktoria Wagner, Vijay Krishna, Wilfredo Ocasio, Yhuliana Nino.

Total Number of Attendees: 127.

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

Minutes Recording Secretary: Matthew Moore.

Old Business: The minutes from IAFP 2024 PDG meeting were approved with no modifications.

New Business: Updates from the IAFP Executive Board provided by email by IAFP vice president Dr. Manan Sharma were all read at the meeting. For IAFP 2025, more than 2,900 attendees have registered to attend. Among other important information, the IAFP this year is excited to announce its own podcast with a sneak peek at the opening session. In addition, this year IAFP are piloting AI-generated closed captioning for all sessions and welcome feedback after the meeting. We encouraged Members to visit the Exhibit floor and talk to the exhibitors to learn from them and share your needs with them. PDGs are essential to the success of IAFP. Last year, the acceptance rate for submitted symposia/roundtable proposals was 36% so we asked Members to prioritize the quality and information rather than quantity of session submitted from our PDG. Additional IAFP announcements included the message from the Editors of *Journal of Food Protection* about invited reviews and from the chair of the IAFP Webinar Committee for webinar discussion. Additional safety announcements were provided by Sonia

Almeria including the review of the Anti-Trust Guidelines. Dr. Almeria reviewed accepted sponsored or co-sponsored proposals including symposia and roundtables. There was also a note about numerous posters and technical sessions that will be presented and are relevant to the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Diseases PDG. There were three Brief Research Updates (5-10 minutes each) to the PDG: 1) about foodborne parasites by Dr. Laura Lalonde (CFIA, Canada). Summary of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) meeting on protozoal foodborne parasites 2025. 2) on foodborne viruses by Dr. Kristen Gibson (University of Arkansas). Update on research related to noroviruses and viral inactivation, 3) about both foodborne parasites and viruses by Dr. Mathilde Trudel-Ferland (University of Delaware). Highlights of research inquiries of protozoa and viruses in agricultural environments. After the research updates, there were some announcements and thanks from IAFP Board Liaison Dr. Manan Sharma

In preparation for IAFP 2026 in New Orleans, LA, July 26–29, 2026, roundtable, webinars and symposia topics were suggested and discussed. PDG participated in breakout groups to consider important questions and areas of research related to viral and parasitic foodborne diseases that would be good symposium topics for IAFP 2026. Ideas have been listed based on group sharing. The Members broke out into 3 large groups for networking and discussion of session proposals.

Group 1 – proposals: -Viral and parasitic Next generation sequencing updates in foods as well as source tracking, Surveillance studies of viruses and parasites in foods, and what we have, what we need and what we can learn from them, Persistence/prevalence in foods, soil, agriculture water, processing environment and water, Overview of FAO report on parasites.

Group 2 – proposals: FAO parasites joint meeting overview (could be combined with idea from Group, Prevalence of viruses and parasites in different water sources, how to apply new methods? NGS for viruses and parasites in water and food (mollusks) highlighting novel probe-capture based methods (maybe combine with method comparison?) BAM versus ISO methods for virus detection (Jaykus, Guix, Esseili).

Group 3 – proposals: Symposium on HPAI in food processing environments and what we know about HPAI in current processing of high-risk foods. Potentially roundtable discussion on foodborne virus vaccination, and vaccination in food handlers; updates on norovirus vaccine. Potential collaboration with retail PDG; include Members of panel from industry, government, academia. Understanding the zoonotic risk of hepatitis E virus, given what is known about their prevalence, Hydroponic food safety, including viral risks. Could potentially involve Produce PDG. Virus/Parasite-bacteria (especially biofilms) interactions and their potential influence on viral and parasitic persistence in foods and food processing environments, Updates on viral recovery/concentration and detection in foods and the environment.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Dr. Matthew Moore was elected Vice Chair of the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG on March 26, 2025. We recommend that this is approved by the Executive Board.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 10:00 A.M.

Chairperson Name: Maria (Sonia) Almeria.

Water Safety and Quality PDG

Meeting Called to Order: Sunday, July 27, 2025, 10:31 A.M.

Minutes Recording Secretary: Alyssa Rosenbaum.

Old Business: 2024 PDG Meeting Notes Approval, July 27, 2025, 11:18 A.M. ET – First, Betsy Bihn; Second, Phyllis Posy.

New Business: Board updates – Wendy White: Highlights include deadline for proposal submission on September 30, 2025, with submission options to 2026 Annual Meeting, 2026 Latino Symposium, and 2027 European Symposium. Proposal acceptance rate was 36% (97/231) in the 2025 submission cycle. Student flash talks – Kevin Tarwa, Brenna DeRocili, and Alyssa Rosenbaum.

Submitted eight symposiums/roundtables for 2025, with five accepted (62.5%). One webinar sponsored by the PDG on crop and field flooding over the past year. Student PDG updates provided.

JFP invited review – 58 hot topics, with many related to water. Topics will be emailed out and Water PDG can collaborate with interested individuals across the IAFP Membership or other colleagues.

Open discussion on scope of the water PDG – impetus to maintain a broad scope of topic area while recognizing and responding to current level of interest in produce and agricultural water. Members highlighted opportunities to collaborate with other PDGs to broaden topics. Topic areas beyond agricultural water include certifications, PFAS, monitoring contaminants in source water

for various uses, water recycle and reuse, soil and water interface, antimicrobial resistance. Chairs and participants also noted that the interest in agricultural water has been a positive, meeting the needs of the IAFP Membership as indicated by the PDG above-average acceptance rate.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. We ask the board to extend the proposal submission deadline beyond September 30, 2025.
Since the 2025 meeting was later in July, this adjustment will allow Members sufficient time following the annual meeting to develop and submit thoughtful, well-formulated proposals.
2. We request that the Board provide access to, or clear instructions on how to access, data within the IAFP portal that allows Members to view and track the number of views for webinars they have organized, moderated, or presented.
3. We recommend exploring strategies to streamline the delivery of Board updates in a way that preserves the value of the information while minimizing the time taken from PDG meeting agendas.
4. We recommend the approval of Don Stoeckel for Vice Chair of the PDG.

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

Meeting Adjourned: July 27, 2025, 12:05 P.M.

Chairperson Name: Claire Murphy.