



IAFP

Applied Laboratory Methods PDG

TELECONFERENCE MINUTES – Sept 25th 2009

MEETING ATTENDEES:

Present: Patricia Rule, Angelo Depaola, Yvonne M. Salfinger, Molly Mils, Sally C. Foong-Cunningham, Michael H. Brodsky, Kathleen Rajkowski, Frank Burns, David J. Evanson, Leslie K. Thompson, Wendy McMahon, Jeffrey L. Kornacki, Ruth F. Eden, Bradley A. Stawick, Sun K. Kim, Nandini Natrajan, Purnendu C. Vasavada, Mary L. Tortorello, Byron-Brehm Stecher, Vanessa Cranford

MINUTES: Leslie Thompson and Vanessa Cranford

AGENDA

- Discussion of 2010 IAFP Symposium and Workshops for submission:
(**Symposia/ Workshop Completed Submission due October 19th 2009**)

Symposia Planning 2010 Update

- Significance and Detection of STEC or non O157:H7 E.coli (Michael Brodsky & Beatriz Quinones)
- Bacterial toxins: A past or an emerging issue for food safety (Patrice Arbault & Julian Cox)
- Less recognized and Presumptive Pathogens (Purnendu Vasavada)
- Food and Food Environment Test Considerations in View of Changing Regulations (Jeff Kornacki)
- The Science and Art of Epidemiologic Investigations in the Food Industry- Emerging Approaches and Implications (Jeff Kornacki)
- From Farm to Fork to Physician: Detection of Human Pathogens Across the Production to Consumption to Disease Continuum (Byron Brehm-Stecher and Mary Lou Tortorello)
- Additional Symposia for Discussion

Workshop Planning 2010 Update

- PCR Olympics with *V. parahaemolyticus* (Angelo Depaola)
- Joint Committee with the Seafood PDG on sampling and sample preparation
- Additional Workshop for discussion

SUMMARY:

I Symposiums

- **Significance and Detection of STEC or non O157:H7 E.coli** (Michael Brodsky & Beatriz Quinones)

Initial contact with speakers and all have accepted. There were more speakers suggested and they are reviewing who best to use as speakers. It was questioned if Australia is included and the response was that there was not enough time in symposia to cover everything. It was also asked if International PDG was consulted if they wanted to co-chair. As a group the PDG decided proposal was good as it stands and did not need joint submission.

- **Bacterial toxins: A Past or an Emerging Issue for Food Safety** (Patrice Arbault & Julian Cox)

This submission is between the Applied Lab Methods PDG and the Beverage PDGs-Frank Burns (Chair of Beverage PDG) confirmed joint symposium. Speaker 6 has not yet been chosen it was recommended looking at Dr Li Ma who did some research with the outbreak isolates in carrot juice in cooperation with CDC. She may be a good choice to speak on this subject. The recommendation was sent via email by Guodong Zhang with the FDA. Symposium outline finalized and 5 speakers confirmed.

- **Less Recognized and Presumptive Pathogens** (Purnendu Vasavada)

Challenges and Why less recognized, Approaches to meeting those Challenges; “What Now, What Next”. PC think this symposium should be an overview and that it doesn’t have the time to go very deep. Leann Jaykus suggested for Food viruses speaker but indicated that she may already be stretched with prior commitments. It was suggested that the topic on Bacillus and STECs should be omitted since they are already because covered in the two previous symposiums.

It was suggested to look at:

- a) Organisms that effect the global market
- b) Organisms that we do not know much about- such as water-borne parasites.

It was decided that the PDG should recommend possible speakers who would be qualified to discuss the outlines topics below and send their name and contact information to Purnendu Vasavada, for consideration as speakers. These are suggestions and recommendations only from the PDG, the symposium creators will make all contact for inviting the speakers and determining the final outline of the symposium. Speaker recommendations needed for:

- Lesser Recognized Members of the Family Enterobacteriaceae
- Lesser Known Foodborne Viruses
- Infrequently Identified Food- and Water-borne Parasites
- Gastrointestinal Yeast Infections- *Cryptococcus* and *Candida*
- Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*, *Helicobacter pylori* and other pathogens associated with Gastrointestinal Illnesses, IBD and Cancers
- Mycotoxigenic molds

- **Food and Food Environment Test Considerations in View of Changing Regulations** (Jeff Kornacki)

PC suggested addressing surrogates for testing process efficiency; give definition of surrogate versus indicator organisms. It was suggested to have a symposium lead by the regulatory agencies for a regulatory perspective. It was suggested for a balanced discussion to have a

FDA speaker to discuss the Food Registry and their interpretations of the regulations combined with a speaker from GMA or a lawyer.

PC suggested speakers for the second topic to be Mark Carter, Dr. Flowers, or Dr. McNamara. Jeff will re-look at the proposal.

- **The Science and Art of Epidemiologic Investigations in the Food Industry- Emerging Approaches and Implications** (Jeff Kornacki)

Jeff explained that this symposium will address epidemiological investigations, national policy implication and the MMWR document. Legal challenges and test methods past, present and future. Also how epidemiology is used for tracking back to disease. It was suggested to add a case study-covered in the first topic and that symposium should be revised and reviewed for submission.

- **From Farm to Fork to Physician: Detection of Human Pathogens Across the Production to Consumption to Disease Continuum** (Byron Brehm-Stecher and Mary Lou Tortorello)

It was suggested that since Chuck Gerba was a speaker he could possibly add him as a speaker for the symposium Less Recognized and Presumptive Pathogens to enable his expenses to be covered. All invited speakers have said that they are willing to participate, funding has not been broached. It was recommended that this is a novel topic with linking the clinical perspective to the farm to fork approach.

- **Additional Symposium:**

It was mentioned that there was a symposium on *Chronobacter* but the developer was not sure which PDG to submit the symposium. It was recommended that the symposium could be sent to the Applied Lab Methods PDG for review by the PDG for submission for the Oct 19th deadline. The submission should be made to the PDG prior to the next call on Oct 8th.

II Workshops

- PCR Olympics with *V. parahaemolyticus* (Angelo Depaola)

The details of the workshop still have not been established. The original proposal discussed that the PCR Olympics would be an opportunity for the different PCR application for *Vibrio* analysis to be compared. It was then suggested that this may be a workshop with Qualicon only demonstration of the PCR assay. The PDG as a group discussed that if the workshop show cased only one vendor it would be rejected because of commercialism. The PDG also questioned the level of attendance and the target audience for the workshop. It was recommended that the FL Dept of Health and FDA should be willing to bring their methods for the workshop. A suggestion was also made to open enrollment to the surrounding areas for participation. It was requested that if a PCR comparison was to be performed that the preparation samples would need to be supplied from an outside trusted reference source. A sub- group will meet separately to pull a proposal together prior to the final submission date to get the details finalized for submission.

- Joint Committee with the Seafood PDG on sampling and sample prep (Mary Lou Tortorello & Kathleen Rajkowski)

It was discussed that this is a committee that will be established but since the Seafood PDG will be working with the PCR Olympics workshop this sub-committee may need to be discussed at IAFP 2010.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for **Oct 8th 2009** with symposium and workshop updates.

CONCLUSION:

- The PDG symposium and workshop planners were thanked for their hard work and dedication to the PDG. The call participants were thanked for participating in the call and their input on the symposium and workshop planning.