

Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness

Members Present: Ewen Todd, Judy Greig, Lee-Ann Jaykus, Kristina Barlow, Denise Eblen, Mitchell Gilgour, Jack Guzewich, Andrew Maccabe, Sherri McGarry, Maria Nazarowec-White, Thilde Peterson, Ruth Petran, Agnes Tan and Guodong Zhang.

New Members: Craig Henry, Oscar P. Snyder, Deborah Herr, Nate Bauer, Ali Al-Sakkaf, Yousef Alsaadi, Bobby Krishna, Muhammad Qamar and Phyllis Posy.

Visitors/Guests: Yale Lary, Moustapha Oke, Michael Michel, Masi Rajabi, Jairo Romero, Katherine Lyle, Judy O'Brien, Helen Barela, Michael Brodsky and Gordon Hayburn.

Meeting Called to Order: 8:15 a.m., Sunday, August 1, 2010.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Judy D. Greig/Agnes Tan.

Old Business:

1. Approval of last year's minutes: moved by Tilde Peterson, seconded by Ruth Petran, and agreed unanimously.
2. *Symposia*: two issues arose. In 2009, for the October symposium approval deadline, it was required that speakers be asked and agreed to come to the meeting before approval could be given. This took a considerable amount of time by the Committee compared to the past when speakers were suggested and then confirmed if the symposium was accepted. Last year the CCFI had six rejected symposia meaning 36 speakers had to be contacted and told that their presence and contribution would not be needed. This makes it difficult for them to be approached again for later symposia suggestions, and CCFI members will be discouraged from submitting proposals in the future. We were told that new speakers would be given a higher priority than those who had been heard year after year on the same subject. Our symposia have tried to get a mix of new (fresh ideas) and old (experience). Also, there are increasing number of late breakers that add to the approval process confusion. The Board really needs to a clear policy on how to get committee and PDG members to have meaningful input. Partnering with other committees/PDG should have a higher priority. The second point is that the CCFI would also like symposia and technical presentations to be put on an IAFP Web site. Another possibility is for the CCFI sponsored symposia to be put on the CCFI Web page. Can speaker presentations be put on the Web site now if we have speaker approval? For this, we would need a speaker release form.
3. *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Illness*: The 6th edition is completed and forwarded to Springer Publishing. Reformatting the keys was the major activity in this edition with input by Kristin Delea (CDC), Jack Guzewich (lead), Ewen Todd and Bert Bartleson. Three issues arose for discussion from the release of this publication:
 - (a) Need to identify appropriate individuals to be responsible for updating the electronic version and we propose that the CCFI be responsible for this with a final review once a year; share files used by members would facilitate updates.
 - (b) Marketing of electronic document: how would releases be managed on the Web site and who would have access to this; the CCFI has been on record that this type of information should be freely available to all persons seeking information. One approach is to put it on the Internet so it will be found by search engines; the more links, the higher the Google rating. This approach reinforces the branding of the organization. However, the Committee will require help (via Board) to locate members or staff with Web site knowledge (maybe hire a part time student). CDC may want this on their Web site as well.
 - (c) The electronic 6th edition version tables and investigative forms need to be searchable by food type, pathogen, etc., like using Access, but this database format may not be practical because there needs to be a printable version with pdfforms available for use on site.
4. *CDC Diseases Transmitted by Foods* (1982 last edition): This would be as complete a list as possible of all pathogens associated with foodborne disease. However, a title change was suggested of "Agents of Acute Foodborne Disease" to limit its scope to acute agents only (discussion arising from where mycotoxins fitted in). The aim is to have symptoms, incubation period, sequelae, implicated food, etc., included. We may want to link this searchable document to be hyperlinked to other sites. The process was agreed to by Rob Tauxe (CDC) and the Board, with the Board providing funds for a student to prepare draft documents with member input. This would be best in an Access database format for ease of searching for specific data used in foodborne disease outbreak investigations (see above for searching electronic versions of databases of tables and keys). Members of CCFI have already self-identified to work on the updates, but others have to be approached. For instance, Guodong Zhang of FDA, who attended the CCFI meeting for the first time, will locate updates on *Shigella* and *Campylobacter*. The following persons at FDA could also be useful contributors: james.fear@fda.hhs.gov; allen.gelfius@fda.hhs.gov; janet.williams@fda.hhs.gov.

5. *Food worker papers in JFP*: Ewen Todd updated the Committee on the status of five new foodworker papers currently in press (August to December, 2010) be combined with the 6 already published (2007–2009) (total 11). A last paper (#12) should focus on practical aspects of hygiene. Attention was drawn to the fact that FDA retail section (Glenda Lewis, Kevin Smith) have published a similar paper on retail hygiene this year and they should be approached for input.
6. *Revisions to the Procedures to Investigate Waterborne Illness manual*: This will be initiated by the Committee in combination with the Water Safety and Quality PDG. Scope should include algal toxins and possibly natural disaster management. Contacts for revision process could be several, e.g., at CDC and FDA – Vince Radke – waterborne disease surveillance for states vradke@CDC.gov; Richard Gelting – environmental engineer rug7@CDC.gov, Michael Beach – Head waterborne disease at CDC mjb3@CDC.gov and at FDA – Thomas Hill Thomas.Hill@fda.hhs.gov and Jack Guzewish John.Guzewish@fda.hhs.gov, Christine Moe, Emory University. Larry Cohen, Kraft foods; Phyllis Posy (new Committee member), Israel have agreed to be involved. Marilyn Lee is coordinating the review team. Ewen as Chair is an ad hoc member.
7. *Foodborne crisis document*: Following on the recommendation from NAFSS to create a document or manual on “How to respond to a foodborne disease crisis,” the CCFI will begin with a proposal for a symposium or Webinar to generate interest from the response side, followed by a possible workshop and a manual on crisis communication. Scope of document must be decided. More research needed before committing to an e-doc manual. Thilde Peterson and Michael Roberson are taking the lead.
8. *Other manuals to be considered for updates by CCFI in 2011*: Vector-borne disease, HACCP.
9. *Electronic version of manuals*: It was agreed that all manuals produced by this Committee should be available in an electronic format. Craig Henry volunteered to help with the set up with the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA) expertise for all electronic manuals.
10. *Committee history*: Frank Bryan completed a history of this Committee in 1999 and he requested that the Committee add to this for a 100-year history in 2014 (agreed to by the Board). Members should record information on publications, talks and symposia from 1999 to the special edition of *Food Protection Trends*.
11. *CCFI Web page*: the Committee will actively update the Web page with presentations, symposia ppts/abstracts and publications with the help of IAFF staff. A list of items will be developed for regular updated, keeping the site current. Judy Greig agreed to forward the material to IAFF staff for posting. In the Members Only section, minutes, member lists, Board recommendations to the Committee, and how to join the Committee, could be included. It would also be useful to enter information to help generate the “history” project. We should have something on the general area of the IAFF Web page to generate interest in the Committee from non-members of IAFF.

New Business:

1. Sharing Committee expertise: Should the CCFI develop Webinars for either our own Committee or for a broader audience? Could be a method to deliver material from rejected symposia topics, demonstrate the usefulness of our manuals, or share information from the food worker outbreak and hygiene papers. Michael Roberson will look into how to develop Webinars.
2. Ideas for further work by this committee:
 - Agnes suggested that with migration, travel a. and food imports – health protection agencies and consumers are confronted with unfamiliar foods. An online resource that has photos of these foods, what they are called (ethnic names as well as common names), how they are manufactured, how they are meant to be consumed, what risks they pose to food safety, etc. would be useful. These could be put on the CCFI Web page with IAFF and other source hyperlinks.
 - We should work with presenters at our b. symposium and develop the presentations into short papers suitable for *Food Protection Trends*.

Ideas for new symposia for 2011:

- a. How does a new company create their food safety program to protect themselves and the public? Thilde Peterson has done some inquiries and industry public information officers (PIOs) people are keen to help. Craig Henry has led table top exercises on crisis management. There is often confusion as to which agency has the lead role; processes now in place after Canadian *Listeria* outbreaks. Need scenarios for educators of PIOs to run at local level.
- b. How does a new company select a lab, suppliers, co-packers etc.? Thilde Peterson will develop this further.
- c. How do you set up a new food business program with legal council? Co-develop with the Food Law group. Thilde Peterson will develop this further.
 - Setting up a legal council – retail food safety/general emerging issues.

Need support from retail group as well.

Need to be clearly international. Who can you trust? Legitimacy of information – membership in organizations, etc.?

Is the information communicated in a meaningful way – interpretation?

- d. HAV outbreaks associated with semi-dried tomatoes in Australia, France and the Netherlands. New food vehicle. Test methodology for HAV detection is at a developmental level. This could perhaps be developed in conjunction with the Applied Laboratory Methods group. Agnes Tan to develop further.
- e. Roundtable on labeling – Can you hear us now? Food safety messaging. Is the product raw? “Use-by dates.” Are we getting through to the consumer?
- f. Quick service situation could not determine what the food vehicle was in the quick service outbreak? Multi-ingredients on menu items. How useful for attribution?
- g. Workshop on the foodborne worker risk factors and hygiene based on the 11 published papers

Discussions with Board Liaison:

1. *Question: How can this committee increase the IAFP brand?* (1) We can put on workshops, affiliate talks, and discuss the Procedures manuals to market the work of the Committee, etc. (2) Thilde said that her company requires that at least one representative of a collaborating company be an active member of IAFP, and this approach could be suggested for other corporate members to consider. (3) Another suggestion was for IAFP having booths at other meetings – technical meetings lead to dual membership; this may occur for IFT and ASM but could be broadened to national meetings of organizations like NEHA and AAAS (IFT has representation at AAAS). (4) Also, for the IAFP Milwaukee meeting we could ask the local affiliates/chapters/members of local environmental associations to attend IAFP when in their state or to be approached to attend this 100th Annual Meeting.
2. *Question: What role should social media play at IAFP?* Facilitate social media within the committee. This can be done by a mentoring process where a student or younger professional with experience and work with these communication technologies coach the CCFI members. For example, the CCFI member could suggest a topic a week and the coach can facilitate how this would be put up so it becomes an IAFP CCFI blog or Facebook page. It is not only the initiating activity but the monitoring of responses that we need to consider. How do we locate and work such mentors/coaches?

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The Board clarify symposia proposal approval process to avoid speaker embarrassments and committee member fatigue (see full discussion under item #2).
2. The Board consider mechanisms to make speaker presentations available after each Annual Meeting to IAFP members/attendees.
3. The Board create a policy for updating and release of electronic manuals and other CCFI documents.
4. The Board help tailor social media tools for use by the CCFI (Board Liaison issue).
5. The Board consider the CCFI suggestions for branding the organization (Board Liaison issue).

Next Meeting Date: July 31, 2011, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:15 p.m.

Chairperson: Ewen Todd