

Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG

Members Present: Andrew Benson, Jeffrey Bloom, Rhonda Brant-Heddinger, Rocelle Clavero, Charles Czuprynski, Ken Davenport, Ginny Edleman, Albert Elboudwarej, Anthony Flood, Tong-Jen Fu, Steven Gendel, Mitchell Gilgour, Linda Leake, Lisa Lucore, Mark Moorman, Gale Prince, Dojin Ryu, Thomas Schwarz, Peter Slade, Pamela Wilger and Zhinong Yan.

Board/Staff Members Present: Isabel Walls.

New Members: Yang Chen, James Cook, Nicole Henderson, Jim Honeycutt, Ted Labuza, Carlos Navarro, Ravi Ramadhar, Pete Snyder and Helen Taylor.

Visitors/Guests: Alaa Aljomah, Paul Baxter, Jan Corrandini, Michael Corrandini, Sarah Finn, Mitchell Ramslund, Connie Sandell and Ryan Waters.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:00 p.m., Sunday, July 31, 2011.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Ken Davenport.

Linda Leake gave an introduction and welcome to the PDG members, new members, and guests. Linda then gave a review of IAFP antitrust guidelines to the attendees. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Old Business:

Linda Leake led a review and approval of previous year's minutes which were accepted by the attendees.

Linda Leake then went through a brief review of symposia from this PDG that were accepted for 2011. Tony Flood described the allergen symposium he was presenting with Steven Gendel. Linda Leake mentioned the beer symposium and Albert Elboudwarej and Chuck Czuprynski shared details of their BPA symposium.

Next the PDG reviewed symposia from last year that were rejected. T.J. Fu reported that she took one of the rejected symposia she had submitted, "Allergen Management in Dry Manufacturing Plants," and turned it into a non-IAFP workshop by securing outside funding. Fliers supplied by T.J. Fu relative to this workshop were passed out to the attendees.

New Business:

A presentation was given by a guest speaker. Dr. Michael Corrandini from the University of Wisconsin presented information about the recent Japanese tsunami and resulting nuclear disaster in his talk entitled: "Fukushima – Can It Happen Here?"

Linda Leake handed out a few tokens of appreciation to the speaker as well as to the attendees of the PDG.

Linda Leake gave an update on the PDG's 100-year celebration activities. Linda Leake had proposed a time capsule and has obtained a current copy of a Wisconsin newspaper to include in the capsule. Linda Leake then requested participation from the other members of the PDG, indicating that we have until the end of the year to finish the capsule and seal it.

Rhonda Brant-Heddinger presented her work on a PDG logo. A paper with depictions of six options for the logo was presented to the group and circulated for comments. The group expressed its appreciation for Rhonda's work and provided comments and feedback. Andrew Benson indicated that perhaps the proposed flask and allergens are too negative as they focus on the threats to food safety rather than on the actual purpose of the IAFP and the Food Chemical Hazard and Allergen PDG – namely, to protect consumers against food allergens and chemical hazards. Linda Leake recommended that the six logo options be sent via E-mail to the group to stimulate additional ideas to recommend to Rhonda. Rhonda Brant-Heddinger was requested to send the files to the group.

Ken Davenport described the design and purpose of the proposed monthly group communication entitled "Tips and Tricks That Teach the Team". This communication was to be a forum for sharing interesting news, articles, Web sites, or other materials to the PDG members. However, Mark Moorman voiced his concern for already cluttered E-mail and questioned if this was the best tool for the group to further the goals of the PDG. Ken Davenport called this question to a vote and a majority of the PDG attendees who voted indicated that the communication was not necessary so the project was discontinued and the PDG moved on to the next topic on the agenda.

Isabel Walls gave a greeting from the IAFP Board to the members and visitors to the PDG session. Linda Leake asked about the list of 100 food safety tips that were requested last summer by the Board for the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of the IAFP. Isabel Walls indicated that she did not know what had happened and that she would check into this further.

Linda Leake briefly reviewed the new format for reporting PDG activities to the IAFP board at the Chairpersons/Vice Chairpersons breakfast, effective on Monday, August 1, 2011.

Linda Leake then opened the discussion about symposia to be submitted for the 2012 IAFP annual meeting. The symposia ideas are listed below:

1. "Chicken Little Redux: (Un-)Natural Disasters and Resulting Chemical Hazards" was presented by Ken Davenport. This mini-symposium would review catastrophic disasters including the British Petroleum spill in the gulf and the Fukushima reactor event to retrospectively review the actual effects of the disasters in comparison to the rhetoric that surrounded the actual events. Mark Moorman suggested adding the Chernobyl disaster to the list and Andrew Bensen suggested focusing more on the lessons surrounding the risk communication at the time of the disasters.
2. Linda Leake and Chuck Czuprynski suggested a symposium dedicated to green movement in the food Manufacturing Industry. This symposium would look at challenges in the food industry in regards to energy and water conservation as well as broader sustainability considerations.
3. Mark Moorman suggested a symposium around the topic of Generally Recognized As Safe (GRAS) designation. One talk in this symposium would focus on what is the GRAS process. A second topic would be how to go about getting food ingredient approvals. A third topic would describe the potential and challenges of using computational toxicology in place of traditional testing. Ravi Ramadhar indicated that he would be interested in working with Mark Moorman to further develop the symposium.
4. Peter Slade indicated that a symposium around the topic of claims on food packaging would be very useful. Specifically, claims regarding "peanut free" or "gluten free" are being made in the marketplace and it is unclear how are these claims should be made, what the claims actually mean, and how they are substantiated.
5. T.J. Fu indicated that she would like to resubmit a previously submitted (and rejected) symposium idea related to Food Allergen Labeling. Linda Leake suggested that this would be an excellent idea and encouraged T.J. Fu to pursue the idea.

This raised a question by Mark Moorman on how to go about setting up a formal proposal. Linda Leake indicated that she and Ken Davenport would send out an E-mail soon after the 2011 annual meeting with information and guidelines for setting up a symposium submission. Linda Leake then proceeded to describe verbally how the online submission process had worked in the past and the improvements that had been made in the system.

6. Ken Davenport then presented a symposium to be submitted in collaboration with the Hygiene and Sanitation PDG entitled "I'm Gonna Wash That Germ Right Outta My Plant: Cleaning in Food Manufacturing and Retail." The key focus on the seminar is

on effective cleaning in food plants, verification of cleaning, and the special challenges of removing allergens and difficult ingredients from surfaces in a food plant.

Linda Leake then thanked the attendees for participating in the PDG meeting and adjourned the meeting.

Recommendations to the Executive Board: None.

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, July 22, 2011, Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, Rhode Island.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:00 p.m.

Chairperson: Linda Leake.