

Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG

Members Present: Kalmia Kniel (Chair), Achyut Adhikai, Bassam Annous, Samir Assar, Elizabeth Bihn, Alejandro Castillo, Hyun-Jung Chung, Antonio Cid, Faith Critzer, Michelle Danyluk, Kaiping Deng, Julia DeNiro, Mario Estrada, Harold Ewell, Jeff Farber, Peyman Fatemi, Faye Feldstein, Tong-Jen Fu, Gary Gensler, David Gombas, James Gorny, Robert Gravani, Miguel Gutierrez, John Guzewich, Sanja Ilic, Lee- Ann Jaykus, Tim Jenkins, Tony Jin, Stephen Kenney, Karen Killinger, David Kingsley, Larry Kohl, Sharan Lanini, Alvin Lee, Jeff LeJeune, Lisa Lucia, Li Ma, Wendy Maduff, Karl Matthews, Rachel McEgan, Sherri McGarry, Sudarsan Mukhopadhyay, Suresh Pillai, Juan Ponce De Leon, Donna Rosenbaum, Manan Sharma, Sujata Sirsat, Michelle Smith, Patrick Spanninger, Stacy Stoltenberg, Trevor Suslow, Gloria Swick- Brown, Laura Tobilla, Zeynal Topalcengiz, Mike Villaneva, Gretchen Wall, Qiuhong Wang, Keith Warriner, Michael Wood, Randy Worobo and Hyun Gyun Yuk.

Board/Staff Members Present: Linda Harris.

New Members: Shirin Abd, Sarah Allard, Rishi Banerjee, Rebecca Burnworth, Gordon Davidson, Bryan DiMenna, Wilfredo Dominguez, Jill Dunlop, Malak Esseili, Christie Gray, Dorey Gray, Thomas Ingram, Fawzy Hashem, Kirsan Hirneisen, Joe Holt, Lauretta Johnson, Yayin Jou, Chelsea Kaminski, Shige Koseki, Sarah Markland, Beatriz Mazon, Claudia Narvaez Bravo, Ruiqing Pamboukian, Salina Parveen, Brian Sauders, Juming Tang, Jane Van Doren, Qing Wang, Yeru Wang, Stephanie Wilkins, Christina R. Wilson, Ruben Zapata and Meijun Zhu.

Visitors/Guests: Richard Brouillette, Gustavo Gonzalez, Judy Harrison, Ernest Julian, Penelope Kirsch, Modesto Olanya, Hao Pan, Eric Puente, Andrea Ray, Heather Saxton, Adrienne Shearer and Xinhe Wang.

Meeting Called to Order: 1:05 p.m., Sunday, August 3, 2014.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Kali Kniel and Sherri McGarry.

Old Business: Discussion of 2013 minutes was E-mailed and available on the IAFP Web site. PDG publicly thanked David Gombas for his dedication and service as past PDG Chair.

New Business: Election of PDG vice chair. In keeping with the order that the Executive Board uses, the PDG elected an individual from a government agency to serve as the vice chair of the PDG. Both Sherri McGarry and Bassam Annous offered to serve in the capacity of vice chair. Sherri McGarry was elected to vice chair by the group present using paper ballots prepared before the meeting.

Historically, the FVSQ PDG provides a series of updates to the members, which are outlined below.

Outbreak Update: The outbreak update was given by Sherri McGarry (FDA). Discussions included information on epidemiology and trace back issues of the 2014 (January-June) sprouted chia seed outbreak associated with *Salmonella*; *E. coli* O157 outbreak associated with clover sprouts; Romaine lettuce outbreak; *E. coli* O111 with green cabbage as suspect food involved; recall of peaches and other stone fruit and *Listeria* illnesses only reported consumption of the recalled peaches; and ongoing *Cyclospora* outbreak (January-June).

Regulatory Update: The regulatory update was provided by Samir Assar (FDA). The supplemental notice on water and manure associated with the Proposed Produce Rule is anticipated to be released in the summer of 2014. Discussions included use of education before regulation and assistance with compliance for growers. Remarks were also made on sampling assignments and potential for data usage.

Alliance Updates: The Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) is developing educational tools and training for growers across the United States. Betsy Bihn provided the update on the PSA (<http://producesafetyalliance.cornell.edu/>). The educational slide sets are complete and the PSA is currently developing a pilot train the trainer program. Training will begin prior to the release of the final rule in October 2015. An update on the Sprouts Safety Alliance (SSA), a group developed to enhance knowledge and best practices for the sprouts community was provided by Kaiping Deng. The SSA is currently developing novel training modules. Information is available at http://www.iit.edu/ifsh/sprout_safety/. There was some discussion on how microgreens might relate to the SSA.

Other Topics: Members requested a discussion on the potential for norovirus to contaminate berries, following the European Food Safety Authority report, EFSA Journal 2014;12(6):3706 (<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/3706.pdf>). Lee-Ann Jaykus provided commentary on this report. The discussion centered on aspects of berry production identified in Europe as potentials for risk of contamination by norovirus. Fresh berries are harvest manually for direct consumption and both manually and mechanically for frozen berries. The concern for risk is that berries may be contamination and the used in multi-ingredient foods. GAPs and GHPs are important within the country of origin. Shelly Feist introduced the PDG to Produce Pro Educational materials, since education is the key to keeping produce safe. These materials are available for use and can be disseminated by anyone who wishes to use them (www.fightbac.org).

Suresh Pillai updated the PDG on APHIS extended use of irradiation on produce commodities for insects and pests to increase shelf-life. Commodities can be picked outside of the US, shipped to the US, and treated by irradiation within the US all within 24-48 hours of harvest. This is being done now for mangos harvested in some countries outside of the United States.

Discussion of Symposium Topics:

1. Issues associated with sprouted seeds (A short symposium including sprouted chia seed outbreak, sprout guidance, *Salmonella* on tahini) – in conjunction with the Pre Harvest PDG.
2. Chasing Zero – in collaboration with the Risk Analysis PDG.
3. Risks ahead concerning microgreens and aquaponics – Roundtable.
4. Microbial indicators: they are what you make of them... (Use of indicators across the produce environment) – in collaboration with Applied Lab Methods and Sanitation PDGs.
5. Proceed with Caution...interpretation of big data.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Recommend to the Board that Sherri McGarry serve as the Vice Chair for this PDG.
2. Recommend to the Board that the arrangement of the furniture in the PDG meeting space be more conducive to discussions with large numbers of people. Typically we have had a large circle of chairs with a second set of chairs around the perimeter. This previous set-up is advantageous compared to the lecture-style format of today's meeting.

Next Meeting Date: Saturday July 25, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:52 p.m.

Chairperson: Kali Kniel.