

2025 RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

COUNCILS

Affiliate Council

1. The Affiliate Council recommends that Takiyah Ball, Delegate from the Wisconsin Association for Food Protection, be appointed as the next Affiliate Council Secretary.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. The Affiliate Council recommends that an Affiliate Awards flow chart be created to better define the C.B. Shogren Memorial Award application process.

Board Response: The Board approves the development of a flow chart and recommends that the Affiliate Council review/refine the criteria and submit it to the Board for approval by October 1, 2025, to be reviewed at the October 2025 Executive Board meeting.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

1. Recommend that the Board provide feedback on DEI revisions to the exhibitor guide and convenor guides, which were submitted to the Board in February 2025; and that the Board review the presentation/poster templates for meeting presentations.

Board Response: The Board does not feel it is necessary to create an exhibitor requirement guide at this time but will continue to monitor feedback from exhibitors and attendees. Board feedback on the convenor guide was provided to the Council in November 2024; please send additional comments to the Board. The Board requests that the DEI Council review the existing poster/presentation guidelines and make specific recommendations.

2. Recommend that IAFP provide, in advance of future meetings, information on how dietary restrictions (sensitivities, intolerances, allergies, vegan, etc.) will be accommodated for all lunches and receptions.

Board Response: IAFP will work with the New Orleans conference center to see what accommodations can be made through the caterers. Include additional IAFP 2026 budget funds for the rent or purchase of supplemental items for the Quiet Room, such as mats, lights, pillows, or bean bag chairs. IAFP will continue to provide a furnished (seating) Quiet Room. The Board recommends that the DEI Council work with local IAFP Members to acquire the supplemental items.

3. Recommend that IAFP consider offering hearing-assistive headphones to hearing-impaired attendees, so they are not reliant on microphones or speakers that do not position them closely enough to the mouth. In addition to time limits, add a Student Monitor deck card with the words, “speak up,” or “microphone closer.” Presenters should be reminded not to turn their faces away from the audience since people also rely on lip reading.

Board Response: IAFP will provide “speak up” cards for sessions and add language to the Session Convenor Guide reminding convenors/moderators to monitor the volume and intervene when appropriate.

4. Recommend incorporating interactive activities within the Annual Meeting communal spaces, such as jigsaw puzzles, chess, Jenga, or Connect 4, to encourage interaction for introverted people.

Board Response: The DEI Council is welcome to provide these items to be used if space allows.

5. Recommend renaming of the “Cheese and Wine Reception” or adding language to better describe the event. Ensure that attendees under 21 know the reception is open to them and that non-alcoholic beverages are also served. Ensure that the cheese menu includes vegan, non-dairy, and gluten-free options.

Board Response: The Board will communicate, during the Opening Session, that the reception is open to attendees under 21, with non-alcoholic beverages available. The cheese is donated, and the menu will not change at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Food Protection Trends Management Committee

1. We recommend the approval of the appointments of Dr. S. Balamurugan as Chair and Jovana Kovacevic as Vice Chair of the *FPT* Management Committee.

Board Response: The Board approves these appointments.

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.

Board Response: The Board approves this recommendation and asks *FPT* Management Committee to create a position description and submit it to the Board for approval by October 1, 2025, to be reviewed at the October 2025 Executive Board meeting.

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 or a mini webinar, or be posted to the *FPT* landing page to engage members and external stakeholders. Motion unanimously passed.

Board Response: The Board approves this recommendation and asks *FPT* Management Committee to create these materials for future use.

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.

Board Response: The Board agrees to increase the number of articles per issue to increase capacity. The Board will schedule a meeting with Judy Luther to understand the immediate/early access details, and on how to expand the reach of *FPT* through enhanced XML, DOI, and Metadata. This will be further discussed at the October 2025 Executive Board meeting, and recommendations will be submitted to the *FPT* Management Committee.

***Journal of Food Protection* Management Committee**

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

Board Response: The Board approves these reappointments.

Program Committee

None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

3-A Committee on Sanitary Procedures

None.

Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness

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 their lifetime. This request was made last year and CCFI is still interested in this information as we evaluate the need to update the manuals.

Board Response: IAFP will work with the publisher to provide this information.

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 a quality submission by this date.

Board Response: This was discussed at the PDG/Committee Chair meeting, and it was decided not to change the deadline, which allows the Program Committee time to conduct a thorough review for delivery of a quality scientific program for the Annual Meeting.

3. CCFI requests that the Board approve an electronic election of a new Chair and Vice Chair after the Annual Meeting.

Board Response: The Board approves this recommendation.

4. CCFI requests a room with a projector, for IAFP 2026, to conduct a more engaging CCFI meeting.

Board Response: The Board approves this recommendation.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee

1. The Committee recommends that the Board approve Laura Strawn as the incoming Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Foundation Committee

1. Consider including an IAFP historical topic in the Food Safety Bites podcast to include stories about past Members who have included the Foundation in their estate.

Board Response: This will be included in the podcast schedule.

2. Consider asking the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to change the Foundation Vice Chair and Chair terms from a three-year term with an optional renewal to a two-year term with two optional renewals.

Board Response: The Board will discuss this further at the October 2025 Executive Board meeting.

Membership Committee

None.

Nominating Committee

None.

Past Presidents' Committee

1. The Past Presidents' Committee recommends that *JFP* 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 indicates that anything is published without peer review.

Board Response: The current policy of *JFP* is to only publish peer-reviewed papers. This is included in the current instructions to authors.

2. The Past Presidents' Committee recommends 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 a peer-reviewed article be peer reviewed, then the peer review should occur on those papers.

Board Response: Currently, the *JFP* editors are not aware of any publications that have been published in *JFP* that are not peer-reviewed.

3. The Past Presidents' Committee recommends that all articles published in *Food Protection Trends* with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) be clearly identified as peer-reviewed or not.

Board Response: *FPT* already identifies peer-reviewed articles as its current practice and will ensure continuation of this practice in the future.

4. The Past Presidents' Committee recommends that the Board investigate the formal agreements that exist between IAFP, the journal editors, and/or the publishers.

Board Response: The Board will review these agreements.

5. The Past Presidents' Committee recommends that IAFP develop a records retention policy.

Board Response: IAFP currently follows an existing record retention policy.

Webinar Committee:

1. The Committee recommends the appointment of Angela Anandappa as Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

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.

Board Response: The Board requests that the Webinar Committee develop specific recommendations and submit these to the Board by October 1, 2025, to be reviewed at the October 2025 Executive Board meeting.

3. Approve the development of a webinar and official guidelines for creating effective webinars, led by Kaitlin Casuli.

Board Response: Please proceed with this development and submit it to the Board for approval.

4. Explore options for monetizing webinars, including sponsorships, to offset Foundation funding concerns.

Board Response: The IAFP Board will explore options.

5. Endorse use of IAFP Connect for webinar storage, promotion, and discoverability.

Board Response: Currently, *IAFP Connect* is used for promotion of webinars but does not have capacity for storage.

6. Encourage international participation in webinar planning and scheduling.

Board Response: IAFP currently has international participation from both presenters and attendees. Please submit specific ideas to expand this participation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG

None.

Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG

1. Approve appointment of Dr. Deepa Thiagarajan as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Initiation of an AI-focused PDG.

Board Response: The Board will ask the two existing data-focused PDGs (Data Management and Analytics PDG and the Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG) to expand AI topics and discussion.

Applied Laboratory Methods PDG

1. The ALM PDG recommends Amanda Brookhouser-Sinsey as Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. The ALM PDG recommends that the Board start an award to recognize the dedication and efforts of individuals within the various PDG groups. Identifying these individuals may include visibility, publications, or cross-involvement within PDG groups.

Board Response: IAFP values all active Members who participate and volunteer their time. Individual PDGs can issue awards or recognition within their meetings.

3. The ALM PDG recommends creating an icon within the IAFP meeting app that links directly to the web browser and auto-populates the web browser.

Board Response: The Board seeks further clarification on this recommendation and will review it in the upcoming year.

4. The ALM PDG recommends a “feedback” loop/survey after presentations. An example would be a QR code linked to the host’s email that allows direct communication to provide something similar to feedback, or allows communication for further idea development to keep topics moving forward.

Board Response: The Board encourages PDGs to utilize IAFP Connect to continue discussions after presentations and meetings.

5. The ALM PDG recommends creating a track of symposium based on sponsored PDGs, as much as possible. An example would be having five ALM PDG-sponsored symposia or roundtables in a sequential order and not overall, to the greatest extent possible.

Board Response: The Program Committee strives to balance the Annual Meeting program to accommodate speaker capacity and topic diversity to allow members to attend a variety of sessions. IAFP Members have a variety of interests, and the scientific program attempts to balance these topics over the three-day program.

Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG

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

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Dairy Quality and Safety PDG

None.

Data Management and Analytics PDG

1. Recognize Matthew Stasiewicz as Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Approve Gustavo Reyes as Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

3. Approve Carrie Rigdon as Secretary.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

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 IAFP 2026, apply those criteria to 2026 submissions, and provide a report to the Board with recommendations.

Board Response: The Board will review this draft when submitted.

Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG

None.

Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG

None.

Food Defense PDG

None.

Food Fraud Prevention PDG

None.

Food Hygiene and Sanitation PDG

1. There is a strong desire to have the Food Hygiene and Sanitation PDG annual meeting and the Retail and Foodservice PDG annual meeting to occur at different times due to the large membership overlap.

Board Response: IAFP makes every effort to adjust the PDG/Committee meeting schedules to prevent overlapping.

2. David Buckley will be moving forward as the new Chair with Eric Moorman stepping into the Vice Chair position. Jack Burnett was elected as the incoming Secretary before the meeting and has assumed the role.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Food Law PDG

None.

Food Packaging PDG

None.

Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG

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

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Recommend Jose Guerrero as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Food Safety Culture PDG

1. Recommend Andrea Griffiths as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Food Safety Education PDG

1. Could the communications, outreach, and education sessions switch up and not be in the final slot of the IAFP Annual Meeting (Wednesday afternoon session)?

Board Response: The Program Committee strives to balance the Annual Meeting program to accommodate speaker capacity and allow members to attend a variety of sessions. Please keep in mind that all two-hour sessions are automatically scheduled for Wednesday.

2. Recommend Approval of Betty Yaohua Feng as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG

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.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Recommend Adam Baker as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG

1. Continue to support and expand the HACCP PDG Student Award to promote student engagement.

Board Response: The Board appreciates the PDG's focus on increasing student engagement. Please provide details if further action is needed.

2. Encourage inter-PDG collaboration on shared topics such as sanitation, alternative proteins, and digital transformation.

Board Response: The Board encourages collaborations between PDGs for shared topics.

International Food Protection Issues PDG

1. Recommend the approval of Alvin Lee as Vice Chair of the IFPI PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves this appointment.

2. Recommendation for the Executive Board to consider a proposal process that could carry forward to the next meeting for sessions involving international presenters needing to apply for a visa where a visa to the U.S. is either denied or not approved on time. The visa application process remains uncertain and unpredictable, with some 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 as possible for the visa application process.

Board Response: We understand the frustrations of obtaining visas, but proposals need to be resubmitted each year, or considered for submission as a webinar.

3. Recommendation for the Executive Board to explore if a later Session Proposal Submission date is feasible. It seems that September 30 could be too early, given the start of school year and vacations.

Board Response: This was discussed at the PDG/Committee Chair meeting, and it was decided not to change the deadline, which allows the Program Committee time to conduct a thorough review for delivery of a quality program for the Annual Meeting.

Low-Water Activity Foods PDG

None.

Meat and Poultry Safety and Quality PDG

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

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG

None.

Physical Hazards and Foreign Material PDG

1. Recommend the approval of Sarah Smith-Simpson as Chair of the PDG. The previous incoming Chair was not able to fulfill the term.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Recommend the approval of Paula Schwarz as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Plant-Based Alternative Products Quality and Food Safety PDG

None.

Pre-Harvest Food Safety PDG

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

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Retail and Foodservice PDG

None.

Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design PDG

1. Recognize Aikansh Singh as incoming Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Recommend that the Program Committee send a detailed explanation of why a symposium or roundtable was rejected, to help improve future submissions.

Board Response: The IAFP Board will work with the Program Committee to continue to provide feedback on rejected submissions.

Seafood Safety and Quality PDG

1. Recommend that the Board accept John Boyce as the incoming Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Student PDG

1. Recommend the approval of Sheetal Jha for Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

2. Recommend the approval of Aakankshya Dhakal for Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

3. Recommend the approval of Adrea Cerrato for Treasurer of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

4. Recommend the approval of Stefhanie Sanchez for Networking Coordinator for the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

5. Recommend the approval of Julia Fukyba for International and Affiliate Representative.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG

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

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.

Water Safety and Quality PDG

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.

Board Response: This was discussed at the PDG/Committee Chair meeting, and it was decided not to change the deadline, which allows the Program Committee time to conduct a thorough review for delivery of a quality scientific program for the Annual

Meeting.

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.

Board Response: Anyone wishing to receive webinar data should reach out to Dina Siedenburger (dsiedenburger@foodprotection.org) with a request.

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.

Board Response: The Board will take this into consideration for future meetings. Currently, the Board emails the updates to the PDG Chairs and Vice Chairs and leaves it to the PDG Chairs' discretion on how to make these announcements. The Board is happy to receive suggestions on other modes for dissemination.

4. We recommend Don Stoeckel for Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: The Board approves the appointment.