



Call for Symposium and Roundtable Proposals

Deadline: September 30, 2025

(No late submissions will be accepted)

The Program Committee invites International Association for Food Protection Members and other interested individuals to submit a symposium or roundtable proposal for presentation during IAFP 2026.

What is a Symposium?

A **symposium** is an organized, 1.5, 2 or 3-hour session emphasizing a central theme relating to food safety and usually consists of presenters each giving 30-minute presentations.

Length of Session	Maximum Number of Presentations
1.5 hour	3
2 hours	4
3 hours	6

Symposia may include a discussion emphasizing a scientific aspect of a common food safety and quality topic, issues of general interest relating to food safety and microbiological quality, a report of recent developments, an update of state-of-the-art methodologies, or a discussion of basic and applied research in a given area. The material covered should include current work and the newest findings. Symposia will be evaluated by the Program Committee for relevance to current science and to Association Members. Proposals may be prepared by individuals, groups of individuals, committees or professional development groups (PDGs). Session proposals and presentations must follow the IAFP Policy on Commercialism.

What is a Roundtable?

A **roundtable** is a discussion forum of four to six panelists that is 90 minutes in length with each panelist giving a five-to-six-minute introduction, followed by time for a discussion (1 hour minimum) that includes audience participation. Panelists are not allowed to give presentations and should have no slides. Roundtable convenors cannot also be panelists. Proposals may be prepared by individuals, groups of individuals, committees or professional development groups (PDGs).

Submission Instructions

Proposals must be submitted using the Association's online submission program at www.foodprotection.org. **At this stage, contact potential presenters or panelists to let them know that you are including their name in the proposal. Inform them that you will not know if the proposed session is accepted until after the November 21 notification date.** Proposals are due September 30, 2025. No late submissions will be accepted.

Presenters Who are Not Members

The International Association for Food Protection does not reimburse invited presenters for travel, hotel, or other expenses incurred during the Annual Meeting. However, invited presenters who are not Association Members will receive a complimentary Annual Meeting registration. Presenters who are Association Members are expected to pay normal registration fees.

Travel Support

The International Association for Food Protection Foundation has limited funds for travel support of presenters. After final acceptance of the proposal (March 2026), presenters may submit an application to apply for travel support. REQUESTS SHOULD ONLY BE SUBMITTED WHERE A SINCERE NEED IS DEMONSTRATED. This travel support is not intended to fully pay travel expenses for presenters, but is intended to defray the total travel expense.

Convenors and Organizers must pay registration fees and are not eligible for travel support. **Only one request per 1.5 or 2-hour session and two requests for 3-hour sessions will be considered.**

A maximum of \$1,000 per North American speaker, \$2,000 for European and South American speakers and \$2,500 for other international speakers may be available. Organizers are welcome to seek funding from other sources.

Selection Procedure

The primary focus of the proposal selection procedure is to provide a balanced educational program for attendees of the IAFP Annual Meeting. To achieve this goal, proposals may be combined or modified by the Program Committee during their initial or final review, as appropriate, to prevent overlap of topics among competing sessions. The Program Committee also reserves the right to suggest alternative speakers and/or topics in an effort to round out the program. During the selection process, only the most relevant and promising proposals will be selected for further development.

Submission Guidelines

1. Proposals must be pertinent to IAFP Members and PDGs. Priority will be given to proposals that address one or more of the following program areas:

- Safety and Microbial Quality of Foods (dairy, meat and poultry, seafood, produce, water)
- Viruses and Parasites, Retail Food Safety, Epidemiology and Public Health
- Non-Microbiology Food Safety Issues (food defense, food toxicology, allergens, chemical contaminants)
- General-Applied Food Safety Microbiology (advances in sanitation, laboratory methods, quality assurance, food safety systems)
- General Food Protection for the Future (risk analysis, emerging pathogens, biotechnology, predictive models, etc.)
- Developments in Food Safety Education
- Other pertinent food protection topics may be considered if space is available

2. In addition to addressing pertinent program areas, proposals accepted for further development should:

- Be new, emerging and/or address areas not covered in last 2 years
- If covered in last 2 years, provide new information that warrants another session

3. Submissions must include:

- A 300-word summary describing the theme and purpose of the session.
- Titles that clearly convey the topics to be covered
- Topics that are unique to prevent overlap of basic information among speakers
- Names of suggested speakers from a variety of backgrounds, such as industry, regulatory, academic researchers, or consumer perspective (as appropriate)
- Suggested speakers who are knowledgeable and good communicators

4. Special consideration will be given to submissions that:

- Are directly applicable or provide viable safety options for food manufacturers, including small- to medium-size manufacturers
- Bring an international (outside of North America) focus or viewpoint to the meeting
- Attract or involve students
- Attract or involve local area members who would not otherwise attend the Annual Meeting (e.g., regional specialties like shellfish issues for Gulf States)
- Would attract members of a new PDG or program area that IAFP is trying to develop or encourage

5. Other considerations:

- The Program Committee reserves the right to limit the number of sessions devoted to a single topic area to provide a balanced program.
- Submitters are encouraged to consider new and diverse speakers when preparing their proposal.
- A person should have no more than three roles (speaking, convening, organizing, or serving on a panel).
- If relevant topics are proposed by more than one submission, the Program Committee will make the final decision to combine or modify proposals as appropriate to avoid overlap of topics among competing proposals. In this case, organizers may be asked to work with one another to combine proposals.
- The IAFP Program Committee reserves the right to review proposals, including proposed subjects and speakers, and make modifications (including speaker replacement recommendations) in order to provide the most comprehensive and balanced program. Invited speakers need to be made aware of these conditions when they are contacted.
- Due to space and time limitations, only the most relevant and promising proposals will be selected for further development. Again, the Program Committee will make final decisions regarding symposium breadth and length.
- Selected sessions will be reserved for symposia sponsored by our partner, Institute for the Advancement of Food and Nutrition Sciences (IAFNS). The IAFNS symposia address topics that are of general interest to IAFP Annual Meeting attendees, focusing on emerging food safety issues and technologies, and provide a global perspective.
- Additional sessions may be added at the discretion of the Program Committee or Executive Board to accommodate emerging issues.

Review Process and Timeline

September 30, 2025	Proposal Submission Deadline. No late submissions will be accepted.
November 21, 2025	Organizers notified of proposal status (proposals will either be accepted for stage 2 review or declined).
January 13, 2026	Proposals selected for stage 2 review must be finalized. This includes symposium title, abstract, convenor and speaker information (name, contact information, and proposed title of presentation).
March 10, 2026	Organizers notified of final decisions regarding session proposals.

Who to Contact:

Andrea Belzer
International Association for Food Protection
Phone: +1 515.276.3344
Email: abelzer@foodprotection.org