

RESPONSES TO RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

COUNCILS

Affiliate Council

1. The Affiliate Council recommends that Helen Taylor, Delegate for the United Kingdom Association for Food Protection, be appointed as the next Affiliate Council Secretary.

Board Response: Agree.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council

1. The IAFP DEI Council recommends having free-standing lactation pods for nursing mothers at future annual meetings.

Board Response: The staff will investigate if pods or an alternative space is available at the Convention Center.

2. The IAFP DEI Council recommends having additional stickers for name badges to self-identify languages spoken and if the member is hard of hearing.

Board Response: The Board requests that the DEI Council investigates sticker options, taking into consideration size limitations.

3. The IAFP DEI Council recommends the IAFP Board consider having closed captions and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters for the Opening Session/Ivan Parkin Lecture and John H. Silliker Lecture.

Board Response: IAFP asks for ADA requirements at the time of registration. If requests are made, IAFP will make accommodations.

4. The IAFP DEI Council recommends nominating Secretary candidates by geographic region on a rotating basis to increase international representation on the IAFP Board.

Board Response: The Board will share this suggestion with the Nominating Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Food Protection Trends Management Committee

1. We recommend that the Executive Board allow *FPT* to have a special issue on the IAFP Annual Meeting which would consist of *FPT* being able to develop a set of instructions or call for articles from the IAFP symposia, roundtables, technical talks, posters, etc. from members/PDGs (call target Fall 2024; target issue Spring 2025). All approved, Cathy abstained.

Board Response: The Board likes this proposed idea asks that the *FPT* Management Committee develop a timeline for publishing, taking into consideration the timeframe for symposia acceptance, and develop instructions for a special issue.

2. Make *FPT* open-access six months after the publication date.

Board Response: This was implemented per the 2023 recommendation.

3. We recommend that the Executive Board provide input on how to proceed with the Industry Products section of *FPT*, specifically, can *FPT* charge for these product placements/advertisements/promos? All approved, Cathy abstained.

Board Response: The Board discussed and decided to eliminate the Industry Products section of the *FPT* beginning with the January/February 2025 issue.

4. We recommend that the Executive Board remove the President's and Executive Director columns from *FPT*. Instead use any preferred format chosen by the President and Executive Director to provide their IAFP updates, announcements and activity happenings to the membership. This will allow real-time updates. All approved, Cathy abstained.

Board Response: According to the most recent *FPT* survey, these columns were valuable to readers. We will expand our communications beyond the columns to other formats, including short video clips, updates via email, and other communications.

5. We recommend that the Executive Board allow *FPT* to use and support multi-media options (such as videos) to promote *FPT* articles. Maybe a trial period. All approved, Cathy abstained.

Board Response: The Board supports this idea and asks for the Committee to develop a plan which should include the multimedia options.

Journal of Food Protection Management Committee

1. The Committee recommends the nomination of Teresa Bergholz as incoming Vice Chair.

Board Response: The Board approves this nomination.

Foundation Committee

1. Consider making webinars open access (attendance and/or recordings).

Board Response: Webinar recordings are currently an IAFP Member benefit. Webinar attendance is open to all.

Program Committee

None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

3-A Committee on Sanitary Procedures

None.

Committee on Control of Foodborne Illness

1. Based on requests from members, CCFI recommends making a digital edition of the current edition of the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks* open-access and available via the IAFP website. Since this edition was published in 2011, the state of online guidance in this area has changed, with both CIFOR and WHO publishing freely available materials that somewhat overlap with this book. We request feedback from the Board and Staff on available options, including what is possible under the current contract with Springer.

Board Response: Staff will work with Springer to see what options are available.

2. CCFI requests 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 its lifetime. This is necessary as we evaluate revising this book.

Board Response: Staff with request this data from Springer.

3. CCFI requests permission to develop and deploy a survey about the use of and potential revisions to the *Procedures to Investigate Foodborne Outbreaks* book. CCFI is considering such a survey to better understand who is currently using the book and how, so we can make more informed decisions as we consider revisions.

Board Response: The Board supports this. The Committee should work with IAFP Staff to develop and send a survey to the IAFP Membership.

Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

1. We recommend that the Executive Board direct Lisa to work to add language to the website to clarify how the association handles a lapse in membership greater than 90 days, including situations where a major life event causes a lapse in membership.

Board Response: The Board agrees. The staff will work to update the website.

2. We recommend that the Executive Board direct Constitution and Bylaws Committee to propose changes to Constitution and Bylaws to remove/dissolve the 3-A Committee.

Board Response: The Board directs the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws and propose the revisions to dissolve the 3-A Committee.

3. We recommend that the Executive Board direct Constitution and Bylaws Committee to propose changes to Constitution and Bylaws regarding general procedures to dissolve and create PDGs or Committees.

Board Response: The Board directs the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws and propose general procedures to dissolve and create PDGs or Committees.

4. We recommend that the Executive Board direct Constitution and Bylaws Committee to propose changes to Constitution and Bylaws to remove the prohibition on Honorary Life Members serving in Board positions.

Board Response: The Board directs the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws and propose the revisions to remove the prohibition on Honorary Life Members.

Membership Committee

1. It is recommended that the Board considers an additional sustaining member category for public and not-for-profit entities, such as universities and research institutes, government bodies and other relevant organizations, that is tailored in terms of investment and benefit options. Eligibility criteria and benefits for this new sustaining member category as well as possible risks will need to be worked out.

Board Response: The Board requests the Membership Committee to define the terms of investment and benefit options.

2. The committee recommends a) that the Board increases its support to regional meetings and interaction with universities, for instance through offering a number of free membership vouchers or support to travel to annual meeting that can be used as awards; b) that the registration fee for members that are speakers/panelists at regional meetings are waived or significantly reduced (they are currently waived for non- members).

Board Response: IAFP has programs in place to provide funding to speakers, additional funding is currently not economically feasible.

3. It is recommended that a) new ways are explored to visibly recognize long-term membership, for instance through providing certificates (e.g. for 5, 10 and 20 y) or even plaques (for 30, 40, 50 y), mention in *Food Protection Trends* and on the IAFP website; b) that the Board considers introducing multi-year membership options (e.g., 3 or 5y as the lower end and lifetime as the upper end).

Board Response: We currently recognize Milestone Members on the website and in the Program Book. All Members have a digital Membership Certificate and a Member ID with their join date. With the recent changes in the membership structure, the Board will take multi-year membership options into consideration in the future.

Past Presidents' Committee

None.

Webinar Committee

None.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Advanced Molecular Analytics PDG

1. The AMA PDG recommends Mu Ye to the Vice Chairperson position.

Board Response: Agree.

Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG

1. Appoint Dr. Michelle Sayles (Diamond Pet Foods) as the Vice Chair for the Animal and Pet Food Safety PDG, 2024–2026.

Board Response: Agree.

Applied Laboratory Methods PDG

1. Recommend that the Board improve the functionality of the IAFP Meeting App, specifically creating connectivity between the IAFP Annual Meeting website and the application.

Board Response: IAFP will work to continue to make improvements to the app.

2. Recommend to the Board that IAFP establish a yearly award to recognize an individual or individuals for their contributions to the PDGs. The winner should have all or most of the following attributes: A well-established track record of supporting and promoting participation in IAFP Professional Development Groups; a history of membership in PDGs and/or leading PDGs and/or serving on their executive committees; an ability to work within and among the PDGs to develop programs or materials that showcase their value; a voice of support both privately and publicly recruiting others to join PDGs relevant to their areas of expertise or interests.

Board Response: The Board supports PDGs recognizing outstanding Members with their PDG.

Beverages and Acid/Acidified Foods PDG

None.

Dairy Quality and Safety PDG

1. We ask that the Board accept the approval of Kara Mikkelson as the Dairy Quality and Safety Professional Development Group's newly elected Secretary.

Board Response: Agree.

Data Management and Analytics PDG

1. To provide clear recommendations on aspects they are looking for proposal sessions. Give additional guidance and feedback on the proposals.

Board Response: The Board will work with the Program Committee to provide guidance.

2. Better communicate feedback from the Board, which can help upcoming proposals.

Board Response: The Board will work with the Program Committee to improve the feedback provided.

Developing Food Safety Professionals PDG

1. To recognize Alison Cousins as the vice chair elect for the term of 2 years before continuing into the chair role for 2 years.

Board Response: Agree.

Food Chemical Hazards and Food Allergy PDG

None.

Food Defense PDG

1. Approve Megan Francies as incoming Vice Chair for 2025.

Board Response: Agree.

2. Add the definition of food defense for the ones that are new members and are not familiarized with the term.

Board Response: If a revision to the Food Defense PDG Mission Statement is needed, please send to Board for approval.

Food Fraud Prevention PDG

1. Approve Angela Anandappa as the Chair of the Food Fraud PDG.

Board Response: Agree.

2. Approve Katie Zammit as the Vice Chair of the Food Fraud PDG.

Board Response: Agree.

Food Hygiene and Sanitation PDG

None

Food Law PDG

1. The mission statement of the Food Laws PDG was discussed, and a poll was decided to conduct final changes. The PDG is tabling the recommendation to change the mission statement pending discussions during the year, and will reconsider recommendation for 2025.

Board Response: The Board thanks you for your update.

2. Recommendation to appoint April Bishop as Vice Chair.

Board Response: Agree.

Food Packaging PDG

None.

Food Safety Assessment, Audit and Inspection PDG

1. Recommend to appoint Amira Ayad as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: Agree.

2. Longer PDG time. 90 minutes was extremely rushed.

Board Response: Due to the number of PDGs, for 2025 we will schedule meetings for 90 minutes. We recommend scheduling virtual meetings before or after the in-person meeting. We will evaluate after the 2025 meeting.

Food Safety Culture PDG

None.

Food Safety Education PDG

1. Avoid the Food Safety Education and Culture PDGs meeting in the same time slot.

Board Response: IAFP will make an effort to avoid this overlap.

2. If approved, avoid the Nutrition & Food Safety Education and Culture PDGs meeting at the same time.

Board Response: IAFP will make an effort to avoid this overlap.

3. Could similar PDGs combine meetings every few years together?

Board Response: If both PDGs agree and make a request, we will make an effort to combine. Requests should be made by November 1.

4. Could communications, outreach, and education switch up and not end on a Wednesday?

Board Response: The Program Committee makes an effort to schedule topic areas on alternating days each year.

Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG

1. Recommend to the Board that Govindaraj Dev Kumar, University of Georgia, be approved as Vice Chair of the PDG.

Board Response: Agree.

2. Consider returning the PDG meeting to a 2-hour meeting instead of a 90-minute meeting.

Board Response: Due to the number of PDGs, for 2025 we will schedule meetings for 90 minutes. We recommend scheduling virtual meetings before or after the in-person meeting. We will evaluate after the 2025 meeting.

3. PDG Members support the continued implementation of the breakout portion of the meeting, and therefore, would like the Board to consider the room configuration for the PDG meeting. Roundtables with areas to move around would be beneficial.

Board Response: Due to room size limitations, IAFP works to accommodate all meetings in that room on the same day.

HACCP Utilization and Food Safety Systems PDG

1. Continue to motivate students to engage in HACCP PDG via HACCP PDG Student awards.

Board Response: The Board encourages all PDGs to involve and support students.

International Food Protection Issues PDG

1. Develop a system that allows verification that submissions were truly sponsored by a PDG before going for Program Committee evaluation. Since sometimes people can check the boxes and not actually had been reviewed and sponsored at PDG level.

Board Response: The Program Committee currently has a verification process in place.

2. It would be great for non-accepted proposals to have a mechanism where feedback can be asked, when someone wants to present the proposal again, but doesn't know what can be improved.

Board Response: The Program Committee is working on better feedback for a proposal not being accepted. Inquiries are welcome and will be responded to by the Program Committee.

3. See if it is possible to create a way where PDGs may link together before the IAFP Annual Meeting to improve those proposals where similarities were found by Program Committee, for example an instance where similar proposals from different PDGs may be discussed by the PDG's Chair in order to merge them, this was also mentioned as being a good idea for diminish the amount of proposals that are rejected and to facilitate interdisciplinary cooperation, bringing new people or new scientist together since sometimes it is difficult to reach for people on the 2-month time gave between the meeting and the proposal presentation.

Board Response: The Board encourages collaboration.

Low-Water Activity Foods PDG

1. Increase accessibility of water activity curricula internationally.

Board Response: The Board seeks clarification on this recommendation.

2. Recommendation to approve Ariel Buehler as Vice Chair for Low-Water Activity Foods PDG.

Board Response: Agree.

Meat and Poultry Safety and Quality PDG

None.

Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG

1. Discuss the possibility of removing "microbial" from the MRA PDG mission of the MMRA PDG.

Board Response: If a revision to the Modeling and Risk Analysis PDG Mission Statement is needed, please send to Board for approval.

2. Recommend Dr. Heidy den Besten as Vice Chair Elect to the Board for approval.

Board Response: Agree.

Physical Hazards and Foreign Material PDG

None.

Plant-Based Alternative Products Quality and Food Safety PDG

1. The PDG recommends Lily Yang as Vice Chair.

Board Response: Agree.

Pre-Harvest Food Safety PDG

1. The PDG recommends Dr. Rafael Davila to serve as the PDG Vice Chair for the next year and the PDG Chair for the following two years.

Response: Agree.

Retail and Foodservice PDG

1. Recommend to approve Sarah Kozak Weaver as Vice Chair of the Retail PDG.

Board Response: Agree.

Sanitary Equipment and Facility Design PDG

None.

Seafood Safety and Quality PDG

1. Recommend the Board notify/update PDG Chairperson/s with the date and time of webinars when sponsored by the respective PDG.

Board Response: The staff will make certain that the PDG Chair is notified.

2. Recommend to the Board to update the app to possibly have a zoom feature.

Board Response: Currently, this is not available.

Student PDG

1. Recommend approval of Sheetal Jha as Vice Chair for the year 2024–2025 SPDG.

Board Response: Approve.

2. Recommend approval of Ivannova Lituma as Chair for the 2024–2025 SPDG.

Board Response: Approve.

3. Host a Roundtable or Symposium about non-traditional career pathways in food safety.

Board Response: The Board encourages the Student PDG to submit this as a session or webinar proposal.

4. Host an event on how to publish in the *Journal of Food Protection and Food Protection Trends*.

Board Response: The Board encourages the Student PDG to submit this as a session or webinar proposal.

5. Work closely with other PDGs on topics and events.

Board Response: The Board encourages collaboration.

6. Host more activities to engage with others and learn from their experiences.

Board Response: The Board encourages collaboration and involvement in the Mentor Match program.

7. Host a webinar on how to find fellowship opportunities for students.

Board Response: The Board encourages the Student PDG to submit this as a session or webinar proposal.

8. Recommend that certain PDGs and sessions do not overlap.

Board Response: IAFP will make an effort to avoid overlap.

Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG

None.

Water Safety and Quality PDG

1. Please consider the cost of attending annual meetings in selecting cities, e.g., hotel, food, transportation. This may especially impact attendees coming from Africa or the Middle East (cost of flight), but many U.S. employers also cap hotel cost/night.

Board Response: IAFP takes costs into consideration when making site selection.

2. Could you clarify the IAFP global vision for how different meetings fit together and/or fill specific niches? e.g., regional discussions, different audiences, all the same?

Board Response: The Board is open to discussion. The International Association for Food Protection (IAFP) represents a broad range of members with a singular focus — protecting the global food supply.

3. Proposed to have webinars free to all (members and not) to watch for 48–72 hrs after the event (in addition to in real-time) to accommodate different time zones and busy schedules.

Board Response: Webinar recordings are currently an IAFP Member benefit. With the new membership structure, membership should be accessible to all.

4. Considering "task force focus groups" of specific duration e.g., 3–4 years to scout out or develop a topic in a planned intentional manner. We may not need new PDGs all the time, or not immediately; this approach would give proper recognition and attention to a topic without the added logistics of a permanent PDG.

Board Response: The Board supports this and is open to this concept.