

# 2023–2024 IAFP Secretary Election

*This information is provided to help you make your selection of the next IAFP Secretary.*

*IAFP Members have until Tuesday, March 7 to cast their vote. The link and passcode will be emailed to non-student Members on February 1.*

*Click here to access the voting platform.*



**Dr. Yuhuan Chen** is an Interdisciplinary Scientist in the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Dr. Chen provides leadership and coordination for multi-disciplinary risk assessment activities to inform policy decisions, including in the implementation of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act. She is a past chair of the Technical Committee of the U.S. Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium. Before joining FDA in 2010, Dr. Chen was Director of Science Policy, Food Protection at the Grocery Manufacturers Association (GMA), where she worked at what was then the National Food Processors Association and held several positions over ten years.

At FDA, Dr. Chen serves as the Agency Technical Lead for the development of FDA-iRISK®, an open-access tool that enables users around the world to collaborate on modeling food safety risks and solutions. Dr. Chen and her colleagues were recognized in the Department of Health and Human Services HHS*innovates* Program for developing and applying the FDA-iRISK system to support risk-based decisions. She has led a team to develop the “Risk-Ranking Model for Food Tracing” that informs the development of the Food Traceability Rule. Previously, while serving as staff liaison for the GMA Microbiological Safety Committee, Dr. Chen coordinated the activities of industry task forces that resulted in two widely utilized guidance documents: “Control of *Salmonella* in Low-Moisture Foods” and “Industry Handbook for Safe Processing of Nuts.” She also assisted industry members in the validation and implementation of food safety management systems and served as a lead instructor conducting HACCP workshops in the U.S. and abroad.

As an active member of IAFP since 2000, Dr. Chen has participated in many Professional Development Group (PDG) activities and is a past chair of the Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG. She has continuously volunteered on committees and judging panels over the past 15 years, including IAFP’s Program Committee (2015–2018), and has chaired various Award Selection Committees. She has been active in organizing webinars, including the highly successful Practical Applications of Microbial Modeling Webinar Series. She has co-organized and presented at more than a dozen IAFP symposia, roundtables, or workshops on a variety of topics. Through this wide range of activities, Dr. Chen has enjoyed working closely with a diversity of IAFP members to help advance the goals of the Association with great enthusiasm.

A graduate of Peking University with a B.S. in Biology, Dr. Chen received her M.S. in Nutrition from Eastern Illinois University and her Ph.D. in Food Microbiology from Rutgers University, where she also conducted postdoctoral research on the mechanistic action of antimicrobial peptides for food preservation. She was a research associate at the Rutgers Food Risk Analysis Initiative, where she co-authored a seminal paper on quantifying bacterial cross contamination rates. Dr. Chen has published more than 45 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, including several papers on *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination patterns and dose response relationship. She served four terms on the Editorial Board for the journal, *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*. Dr. Chen was a peer reviewer for the FAO/WHO “Microbiological Risk Assessment Guidance for Food” and has served as an *ad hoc* reviewer for several journals.



**Dr. Manan Sharma** is a Lead Scientist and Research Microbiologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA ARS), Environmental Microbial and Food Safety Laboratory (EMFSL). Dr. Sharma’s research focuses on pre-harvest produce safety issues, evaluating factors which affect the survival of enteric bacterial pathogens in soils, manure, compost, irrigation water, and on fruit and vegetable commodities.

During his time at USDA ARS, Dr. Sharma has conducted and collaborated on scientific research in various roles. In addition to conducting produce safety research within USDA, he has collaborated with other federal agencies including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on produce safety research, the Environmental Protection Agency, and with the FDA on the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring and Surveillance (NARMS) Environmental Working Group. He has also helped lead and co-lead several high-profile collaborative research projects on irrigation water and produce safety with a consortium of universities.

Dr. Sharma has been an active and committed member of IAFP since joining as a Student Member in 2000. He currently serves on the *Journal of Food Protection*’s Editorial Board, the IAFP Annual Meeting Program Committee, and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Council. His involvement on the DEI Council reflects Dr. Sharma’s strong belief that food safety and research is enhanced by encouraging an equitable and diverse approach to establishing an inclusive work environment.

Dr. Sharma previously served on important IAFP committees including the *Journal of Food Protection* Management Committee, the *Food Protection Trends* Editorial Board, the Nominating Committee, Foundation Committee, Tellers Committee, and the Awards Committee. He served as both President and Vice President of the Capital Area Food Protection Association (CAFFA), the Washington, D.C. area Affiliate of IAFP, and was a founding member of IAFP’s Affiliate, the Indian Association for Food Protection in North America. He also served as a past chair of the Student Professional Development Group (SPDG). He has mentored several students and young scientists through IAFP’s mentoring programs in conjunction with the SPDG, and at USDA ARS EMFSL, assisting them in research projects.

Dr. Sharma has been recognized for his research accomplishments and service to IAFP and the food safety community with several awards including the Larry Beuchat Young Investigator Award (2011), the Maurice Weber Laboratorian Award (2018), and the Fellow Award (2022).

Dr. Sharma is a current member of the *Applied and Environmental Microbiology* Editorial Board while also reviewing for several other peer-reviewed scientific journals. He holds a B.S. in Microbiology and Cell Science from the University of Florida, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology from the University of Georgia.