



International Association for
Food Protection®

2022–2023 IAFP Secretary Candidates

IAFP Members have until Tuesday, March 8 to cast their vote.

The link and passcode will be mailed to non-student Members on February 1.

[Click here to access the voting center or for assistance in obtaining your passcode](#)



Alejandro “Alex” Castillo
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas



Manpreet Singh
University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia

Alejandro “Alex” Castillo

Texas A&M University College Station, Texas



Dr. Alejandro “Alex” Castillo is an Associate Professor in the Department of Food Science and Technology at Texas A&M University in College Station. He also served as Chair of the Graduate Faculty of Food Science from 2008–2010 and leads a food safety program for Latin America, seeking partnerships with Latin American universities in developing joint teaching programs, industry training, and collaborative research. Within this program, Dr. Castillo taught as invited faculty at various universities in Mexico, Central America, and South America.

Before joining Texas A&M in 2002, Dr. Castillo worked at the University of Guadalajara in Mexico for nearly two decades, holding a faculty position, conducting research, and teaching food microbiology and food safety. He also has an active research program focused on the development and validation of control measures for minimizing and reducing pathogens in fresh and fresh-cut food products; the bacterial reduction on beef and pork products and fresh produce by sanitizing rinses; the ecology of bacterial populations on the surface of raw fruits and vegetables; and the use of non-thermal treatments for food safety purposes. As a result, he has published 90 peer-reviewed articles, 11 book chapters, and three books as editor. Dr. Castillo has delivered numerous invited presentations in Latin America, as well as in the U.S., Kenya, Armenia, and Australia. He currently serves as academic editor of the *International Journal of Food Science and Foods*, both recognized peer-reviewed publications.

Since 1983, Dr. Castillo’s involvement in support of the food industry is reflected by many training courses taught on various topics of food safety, and in-plant validation studies conducted over several years. He is also an accredited trainer-of-trainers in the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA), and lead instructor for the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA) and the International HACCP Alliance, using these qualifications to collaborate with the Texas Department of Agriculture in training industry personnel, particularly the produce industry.

Dr. Castillo joined IAFP in 1995 and has since been actively involved throughout his Membership. He has served on several of IAFP’s Standing Committees including the Editorial Board for the *Journal of Food Protection (JFP)* (2000–2008), the *JFP* Management Committee (2012–2018), the Program Committee (1998–2001 and 2003–2006), and the Produce Quality & Safety PDG (2006–2010), including as Chair. He has also been a member on Special Committees, such as the Audiovisual Committee, Nominating Committee, and several Award Selection Committees. He currently serves on the IAFP Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council.

From 2017–2018, Dr. Castillo served as the Affiliate Council Chair, representing Affiliates on the Executive Board. His work with IAFP Affiliates includes his past positions as Delegate and as Treasurer for the Texas Association for Food Protection. He helped establish the Mexico Association for Food Protection, of which he was the first president, and is a frequent collaborator in the creation of new IAFP Affiliates.

Dr. Castillo received his B.Sc. and M.Sc. From the University of Guadalajara and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M in 1998, where he also completed post-doctoral work conducting research on microbial food safety.

Manpreet Singh

University of Georgia

Athens, Georgia



Dr. Manpreet Singh is a Professor and Department Head for the Department of Food Science and Technology at the University of Georgia (UGA) on the Athens campus. Dr. Singh's research over the years has focused on persistence, prevalence, and transmission of foodborne pathogens in food processing environments and processed foods; development and validation of intervention strategies to improve microbial safety of foods; and antimicrobial resistance of foodborne pathogens associated with food animals, specifically poultry. His Extension Program includes teaching processing programs related to FSMA, HACCP, seafood, and validation and verification programs. His current research activities involve international development, specifically in Senegal, focused on the dairy value chain as part of the USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Safety.

Throughout his academic career, Dr. Singh has served on numerous departmental, college, and university committees. He received the Seeds for Success – Excellence in Research Award in 2016 at Purdue University and the Bravo Award for Operational Excellence in 2016, and served as a university fellow for the Scholarship of Engagement and Outreach in 2015 at Purdue University. In 2017, Dr. Singh received the Project Team Award Auburn University (AU) as part of the AU farm and consumer environmental safety and security working group. In 2015, Dr. Singh was elected to serve on the USDA-FSIS National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection for one year.

Dr. Singh has attended nearly every Annual Meeting since joining IAFP in 2001 and has organized, convened, and presented several IAFP symposia. His involvement with IAFP includes serving on the *Food Protection Trends* Management Committee (2010–2015), the *Journal of Food Protection* Editorial Board (2010–2015), and the IAFP Program Committee (2015–2020), serving as its Chair in 2020 for the virtual Annual Meeting. He received the Presidents' Recognition Award in 2013 for his service on the *Food Protection Trends* Management Committee. Dr. Singh also served on the Developing Scientists Award Committee and is currently on the Webinar Committee, serving a term as Chair. Dr. Singh is a member of several PDGs within IAFP and has been a Member of several IAFP Affiliates throughout his career. He was a co-founding Member of IAFP's Affiliate, the Indian Association for Food Protection in North America (IAFPNA) and served as its treasurer for two years. In addition, he has consistently supported international activities of IAFP.

Dr. Singh holds a bachelor's in Agricultural Sciences with a specialization in Food Technology from Punjab Agricultural University in India. He earned his master's in Food Science and Technology from Kansas State University and his Ph.D. in Food Science and Technology from Iowa State University.