

# AFFILIATE VIEW

To provide food safety professionals worldwide with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR:

### A Year of Affiliate Accomplishments!



Happy New Year! The recent end-of-year festivities are over, with many taking advantage to look back at our commitments to IAFP and to food safety. 2024 was a

highly productive year for our Affiliates; I'd like to highlight a few examples.

In July, we had another excellent IAFP Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California, with many opportunities for Affiliate members to interact. At Sunday's Affiliate Council Meeting, Helen Taylor, Delegate from the UK Affiliate, was elected as the 2024–2025 Affiliate Council Secretary. Several individual Affiliate meetings were held onsite where members from Africa, Southeast Asia, China, India (in North America), and Latin America exchanged experiences and networked among food safety professionals within their respective regions.

Speaking of regional meetings, IAFP Latino 2024, IAFP's Latin American Symposium, was recently held in Santos, Brazil and organized by the Brazil Association for Food Protection (BRAFP). The meeting was well attended with approximately 650 participants from 17 countries, 105 of whom were speakers. The symposium offered five prevent courses, eight plenary lectures, 18 roundtables, and 200 papers presented as posters and oral presentations, along with

**“2024 was a highly productive year for our Affiliates.”**

16 exhibiting companies and 26 sponsors. Like the IAFP Annual Meeting, Affiliate participation at this meeting was relevant, enhancing the event. Members of IAFP's Latin America Affiliates were responsible for various technical sessions, courses, and roundtable discussions, including those from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, and Chile who discussed the Food Safety

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### 59 AFFILIATES ACROSS THE GLOBE

African Continental	Southeast Asia
Argentina	Spain
Australia	Taiwan
Brazil	Turkey
Canada	United Arab Emirates
Alberta   British Columbia	United Kingdom
Ontario   Quebec	United States
Bangladesh in	Alabama   Arizona
North America	Arkansas   California
Chile	Capital Area   Carolinas
China	Colorado   Connecticut
Chinese in North America	Florida   Georgia
Colombia	Idaho   Illinois   Indiana
Hong Kong	Iowa   Kansas   Kentucky
Hungary	Michigan   Minnesota
Indian in North America	Upper Midwest
Japan	Missouri   Nebraska
Korea	New Jersey   New York
Lebanon	Ohio   Oklahoma
Mexico	Pennsylvania
Nepal	South Dakota
New Zealand	Washington   Wisconsin
Portugal	

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Regulatory Scenario for Latin America and the challenges and initiatives to promote food safety culture in each country. A big thank you to IAFP for its collaboration and support of this successful event! Lisa Garcia, IAFP Executive Director, represented the Association as an exhibitor, welcoming Members, creating connections, and promoting IAFP. Mark Carter, IAFP President, also participated as part of the IAFP Executive Board Speaker Program.

To top off a successful year for Affiliates, we are proud to announce the establishment of TWO new IAFP Affiliates: the Kentucky Association for Food Protection and the Nepalese Association for Food Protection (see page 12)! Both were recently approved by the Executive Board and will formally receive their Affiliate charters during IAFP 2025 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Affiliate Council is preparing an upcoming webinar, “How to Establish a New Affiliate,” which will present the various requirements for establishing a new Affiliate in simple and accessible ways. More information and a date will be shared soon.

Our next one-hour Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Susan Smith, Affiliate Liaison, will send reminders in advance. Let us know if you have a topic to add to the agenda. We hope you can join us for updates and lively discussions!

Finally, I wish all of our Affiliate Members a new year full of joy and cheer! Stay safe!

*Caio Carvalho*

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# AFFILIATES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

FEATURING YOUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH IAFP

## CONTRIBUTORS

### Indian Association for Food Protection in North America: Annual Meeting Held During IAFP 2024

Reported by Kavita Shripati Patil, Vice President

The Indian Association for Food Protection in North America (IAFPNA) held its Annual Meeting on July 15, 2024, during IAFP 2024 in Long Beach, California. Forty-five attendees were present. President Manreet Bhullar welcomed the attendees, followed by introductions. An overview of the meeting’s agenda and objectives was presented.

The minutes from the IAFPNA 2023 Annual Meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

Surabhi Watson provided updates on recent Affiliate meetings and activities. She discussed new members, the Affiliate’s bank account status, and enhancements made to the website. A review of past events, challenges faced regarding attendance, and planning for future monthly meetings also took place.

Nine symposia were submitted for IAFP 2024, from which three were accepted. Submitted symposia were:

- Empowering the Detection and Characterization of Foodborne Pathogens Using Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Analytical Techniques (accepted);
- Beyond Pathogens: GRAS Microbes as Silent Carriers of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Genes, Posing a Challenge to Food Safety (accepted);

- Rapid *Listeria* Detection in Post Lethality Environment of RTE Meat Processing Plants: Developments, Applications, and Challenges (accepted);
- Climate Change Impact on Food Safety – 21st Century Challenges to Protect Public Health;
- Foodborne *Cyclospora* Outbreaks Around the Globe: Current Status and an Update on Control Strategies;
- Unifying Food Safety Through One Health;
- Advancing Food Safety Through Machine Learning Algorithms;
- An Update on Technologies for Protecting Organic Food Safety: International Trade; and
- Challenges and Outlook to the Future Revolutionizing Era of Artificial Intelligence-Based Electronic Technology and Data Mining Applications in Food Safety.

Dr. Shalini Seghal, University of Delhi, was a guest speaker. Dr. Sheghal’s topic, “Indian Regulatory Perspectives on Risk Assessment in Foods,” covered the regulatory framework in India and its impact on food safety risk assessments.

The Graduate Student Competition followed, with 12 submissions. Five finalists were selected (four in attendance), with each finalist sharing eight minutes total on their respective topic. Presenters and topics were:

Amrit Pal – “Investigation of Biofilms of *Salmonella* and *Listeria* in Retail Environments”;



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Sahaana Chandran (third from left) received First Place in the IAFPNA Graduate Student Competition. Presenting (from left) are Vijay Juneja, Jitu Patel, and Manan Sharma during the Affiliate's Annual Meeting on July 15, 2024.

Sahaana Chandran – "Utilizing Zebrafish Embryos for Replication of Tulane Virus";  
 Arshpreet Kaur Khattria – "Efficacy of Gaseous Ozone Bubbles to Prevent Cross-Contamination of *Lm* on Cantaloupe"; and  
 Trushenkumar Shah – "Efficacy of Trans Cinnamaldehyde and Caprylic Acid Nano Emulsions in Broiler Chickens."

Winners in the Graduate Student Competition were:  
 First Place: Sahaana Chandran (\$300)  
 Second Place: Trushenkumar Shah (\$200)  
 Third Place: Arshpreet Kaur Khattria (\$100)  
 Certificate of Participation: Amrit Pal

Open positions for Affiliate Secretary and Student Liaison were announced for the upcoming term.

Ranjeet Klair, The Acheson Group, served as the second guest speaker, discussing "Current Food Safety Challenges with Food Exports from India."

Officers elected for terms beginning September 2024 were:

President: Vijay Krishna  
 Vice President: Kavita Patil  
 Secretary/Delegate: Arshpreet Kaur Khattria  
 Past President: Manreet Bhullar  
 Student Liaisons: Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Amrit Pal, Trushenkumar Shah

Next steps for IAFPNA include finalizing the election of new leadership positions, and organizing the next Affiliate meeting and monthly events.

Dinner followed for the meeting attendees at a local restaurant.

## Mexico Association for Food Protection: Annual Meeting Draws 102

Reported by Maria Teresa Jimenez Munguia, President



The Mexico Association for Food Protection (AMEPAL) hosted its 2024 Annual Meeting on September 6-7, at the Universidad de las Americas Puebla (UDLAP) in Puebla, Mexico, with 102 attendees.

The meeting was centered on "Advances in Intelligent Systems and Applied Technologies for Food Safety," offering a platform for interdisciplinary discussions and innovations. Esteemed speakers from academia and industry shared insights on emerging tools and strategies to address challenges in foodborne pathogen control, sustainability, and risk management.



Dr. Michelle Danyluk (left), University of Florida and an IAFP Past President, attended as part of IAFP's Executive Board Speaker Program. She emphasized the importance of mitigating risks associated with foodborne pathogens in fresh produce. She explored contamination sources and proposed effective strategies to enhance safety in fruits and vegetables. Similarly, Dr. Marlon Rogas López, CIBA, introduced gold nanoparticles as a revolutionary diagnostic tool for detecting pathogens in food and water, highlighting their precision and potential.

Gustavo González, Neogen Food Safety, detailed the application of ISO 16140-3:2021, providing practical insights into verifying validated microbiological methods. His session bridged industry standards with laboratory implementation.

Meanwhile, nanotechnology emerged as a key theme, as Dr. Jose Manuel Silva Jara illustrated its role in pathogen control through cellular disruption mechanisms. In addition, Dr. Orlando de la Rosa extended the discussion to sustainability, showcasing bioprocess innovations that transform waste into valuable bioactive compounds while promoting circular economies and preventive risk monitoring systems.



The meeting also featured a "Master Class" on thermal treatments, emphasizing microbiological principles in food processing. The class was presented by Verónica Ortiz de Montellano, SIALICO Consultant Company, and Dr. Aurelio López-Malo, UDLAP.

A "Student Forum" spotlighted research trends, awarding standout presentations to Maria Teresa Riezco Herrera, an undergraduate at UDLAP, and Janeth Gasca Corona, a master's student at BUAP.



Dr. Emma Mani Lopez (left) presented Dr. López-Malo's legacy in food safety, reflecting on pivotal advancements in the field over the past three decades. The Affiliate recognized Dr. López-Malo for his outstanding contributions

to food safety science and training professionals in food microbiology.

The AMEPAL Annual Meeting highlighted the integration of cutting-edge technologies and collaborative efforts to advance food safety, sustainability, and innovation, while fostering a proactive response to global challenges in the food supply chain.



Michelle Danyluk (right) snaps a selfie with members of the Mexico Association for Food Protection at its 2024 Annual Meeting. From left: Raul Avila-Sosa, Gustavo González, Eduardo Lucero, Emma Mani Lopez, Avelina Franco, Mari Tere Jiménez, Ernesto Cantú, and Luz Garay.

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## New York State Association for Food Protection: Celebrating 101 Years!

Reported by Jacob Green, Newsletter Editor



The New York State Association for Food Protection (NYSAFP) returned to the Tailwater Lodge by Hilton in Altmar, New York for its 101st Annual Conference.

The event was held September 10–12, 2024 and hosted approximately 130 members, speakers, and guests. Attendees were met with more than 20 presentations over three days, along with an Awards Banquet, raffle, and a Silent Auction. Colleagues gathered nightly for beverages around the fire pit, taking advantage of the pleasant fall evenings. Founded in 1923 by Emmett R. Gauhn, along with other pioneering health officials, today's Executive Board continues to strive to fulfill its mission of offering educational and collaborative opportunities to food safety professional across the state of New York.

The conference “uncorked” on Tuesday evening, September 10, with a wine and cheese pairing event hosted by the experts at Wegmans. Attendees received several samples of its artisan cheeses and, after discussing the aging process, flavors, and textures, were able to experience them with an appropriate wine.

Wednesday's General Session began with the Presidential Address from Angela Montalbano, followed by a presentation of the “100-Year History of the PMO” by Casey McCue, Director, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Ruth Petran, Ruth Petran Consulting, LLC and a Past IAFFP President who is part of IAFFP's Executive Board Speaker Program, spoke on “Food Allergy Considerations: What We Know and What We Need to Know.” Mitch Weinberg, INSCATECH, presented “Food Fraud/Authenticity – Intersection with Food Safety – Whose Problem is This and What Can be Done About It?”

The morning ended with the Association's Business Meeting and lunch before the General Session resumed with afternoon presentations. Brian Kraus, Wells Enterprises, Inc., presented “*Listeria* Management and Control,” followed by Doug Joslin who provided updates from the FDA and FSMA. The afternoon wrapped up with two speakers from Cornell University: Kim Bukowski, who spoke on “A Successful Food Safety Culture from an Auditor's Point of View”; and Dr. Ann Charles Vegdahl discussing “Natural Preservatives and Non-Thermal Processing for Enhanced Food Safety and Quality of Food.”



Those receiving awards during the NYSAFP Annual Meeting were (photos top to bottom) James Baldwin, recipient of the Emmett R. Gauhn Memorial Award, pictured with Angela Montalbano; Amy Rhodes, recipient of the Howard B. Marlatt Memorial Award, pictured with Steve Murphy; Cynthia James, recipient of the William V. Hickey Memorial Award, pictured with Angela Montalbano; Connie Kuhlman, recipient of the Dr. Theodore Reich Memorial Award, pictured with Dave Gaston; and Kim Bukowski, accepting on behalf of Rob Ralyea, recipient of the Honorary Lifetime Membership Award, pictured with Angela Montalbano.

The NYSAFP Conference annually hosts the popular breakout sessions on Thursday, where experts are split into specialty groups of Field (dairy farm inspection), Food, and Laboratory. Presenters gave a total of nine presentations pertaining to their respective areas of expertise.

The Food Session kicked off the morning with “PSA Water Testing” from Dr. Betsy Bihn, Cornell University, followed by “Allergen Control: Hindsight to Foresight” by Rebecca Phillips, also from Cornell. Cory Skier, NYSDAM, brought this group back together with a discussion on the “NYS Animal Food Safety Program – Regulatory and Inspection Requirements.” The session wrapped up with a panel discussion on the Ice Cream House Recall with David Nicholas, NYSDOH; Milan McGorty, FDA; Chris Hylkema, NYSDAM Dairy Services; and Maria Ishida, NYSDAM Food Lab.

The Field Session led with a panel discussion on “What We Have Learned About AMI After 20 Years,” presented by Eric Glaude, NYSDAM; Levi Cahan, IBA Inc.; and Paul Virkler, QMPS. Due to high-interest current events that hosted conversations appealing to a larger group of attendees, the committees decided to bring together the Field and Lab Sessions for the final two speakers. Dr. Diego Diel, Cornell University, hosted the first discussion on “Highly Pathogenic Influenza Virus H5N1 Spillover into Dairy Cattle: Impact on Health Production and Food

Safety.” This was followed by an FDA Update from Barbara Williams.

The Laboratory Session hosted two morning speakers prior to joining with the Field Session for their sessions (described above). A Neogen representative presented “Mycotoxins in Dairy and Other Foods and Ingredients: Overview, Regulations, and Testing,” followed by Nicole Martin, Cornell Food Science, speaking on “New Insights into Bacterial Spore Contamination and Implications in the Dairy System.”

Several individuals were honored during Wednesday evening's Awards Banquet. Award recipients are:

- James Baldwin – Emmett R. Gauhn Memorial Award
- Amy Rhodes – Howard B. Marlatt Memorial Award
- Cynthia James – William V. Hickey Memorial Award
- Connie Kuhlman – Dr. Theodore Reich Memorial Award
- Rob Ralyea – Honorary Lifetime Membership Award (Kim Bukowski accepting on his behalf)

Newly elected officers include:

- President: Angela Montalbano
- President-Elect: Cynthia James
- Past President: Sara Kelly
- Board Members: Jeffrey Van Sice, Heather Torino, Elizabeth Sullivan, Kevin Culm

## Washington Association for Food Protection: 73rd Annual Conference Held

Reported by Connie Fisk, President-Elect/Delegate



Beautiful Chelan, Washington was once again the site of the Washington Association for Food Protection's (WAFFP) Annual Conference held September 12–13, 2024, with an additional networking opportunity provided by the Annual Golf Tournament on September 11.



WAFFP 73rd Annual Conference Planning Committee poses for a photo.

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This year marked the Affiliate's 73rd anniversary, and it was exciting to offer a comprehensive meeting that reflected the diverse interests of our members. Affiliate President Stephanie Smith welcomed attendees and announced the two Luedecke Scholarship recipients, Sherine Cynnette Ortiz and Marek Fitos-Link. Stephanie Olmsted, long-time WAFFP Executive Board Member who has served as President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Delegate, provided a presentation honoring the 100-year anniversary of the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance, complete with prizes for attendees correctly identifying key figures in the history of food safety.

John Haugen, Washington State University (WSU) Creamery Manager, talked about "WSU's Creamery's Past, Present, and Future;" and Latasha Robinson, FDA, provided a virtual update from the Agency on "Infant Formula."

Following lunch, Chris Voigt, Washington State Potato Commission, shared his experience with "Washington Grown," a PBS series that tells the story of what the state's 300+ crops provide to our meals, culture, economy, and the world. Nidal Kahl, BIOGEN Labs, spoke on label claims and food fraud. Attendees learned more about food safety culture from a panel of academic, regulatory, and industry experts.

A "Science and Cocktail Hour" was held prior to the Awards Banquet. This event allowed time with students who presented their research posters. It also encouraged networking with a Bingo game that required participants to move about the room, identifying attendees with whom they had facts in common (i.e., birth month). This activity proved so much fun, it has been requested for next year's conference! The evening ended with Diep Wisniewski, WAFFP Past President and current Treasurer, presenting an Award of Excellence to Stephanie Olmsted (left) for her many years of service to the Affiliate.



for her many years of service to the Affiliate.

Day 2 included three student research presentations, along with presentations from:

Waimon "Meelay" Tellier, Washington Department of Health - "2023 Foodborne Outbreaks and Lessons Learned," and "What Now, Dairy Cow?"; and

Amber Itle, Washington State Veterinarian, who provided an update on "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza."



Amber Itle, Washington State Veterinarian, spoke at the WAFFP Annual Conference.

The day's final speaker was renowned foodborne illness attorney Bill Marler, Marler Clark Attorneys at Law, whose virtual presentation was on the topic of foodborne illness litigation.



Outgoing WAFFP President Stephanie Smith passes the gavel to incoming President Kent Dowding.

Newly-elected officers include:

- President: Kent Dowding
- President-Elect/Delegate: Connie Fisk
- Past President: Stephanie Smith
- Secretary: Celina To
- Treasurer: Diep Wisniewski

### Quebec Food Protection Association: Symposium Under Banner of Digital Transition

Reported by Catherine Fontaine-Lavallée



The Quebec Food Protection Association (AQIA) held its Annual Meeting on September 19-20, 2024, in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec. More than 90 food safety professionals from industry, academia, and government met for 1.5 days at the Saint-Hyacinthe Research and Development Centre, a center linked



IAFP President Mark Carter spoke on behalf of the IAFP Executive Board Speaker Program during the 2024 AQIA Symposium, held September 19-20.

to Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. In addition to the program, student oral presentations and a panel discussion were included, along with 13 industrial booths and 20 student posters displayed in the center's lobby for discussion and networking among participants.



Speakers at the AQIA Symposium included (L-R): David Prescott, Julien Defferrard, and Sebastien Villeneuve, who are pictured with AQIA President Anne-Marie Masella.

AQIA held its Annual General Meeting on the opening afternoon, along with a tour of the CRD de Saint-Hyacinthe facilities presented by the site's research members. A non-alcoholic networking cocktail event (that was anything but boring!) followed, with members enjoying delicious



Speakers at the AQIA Symposium included (L-R): Anne-Marie Beaulieu, Tanguy Etoqa, Vanessa Lessard, Anne-Marie Masella (AQIA President), Julie Jean (AQIA Delegate), Theophilus Anyam, Nancy Ing, and Nassima Rabhi.

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appetizers and signature mocktails with melilot, apple, and raspberries, along with sparkling beverages from Domaine Harrington.

Newly-elected Affiliate officers include:

- President: Anny Lainesse
- Vice President: Pierre-André Roy
- Secretary: Dalphone Sène
- Treasurer: Marie-Hélène Dufresne
- Past President: Anne-Marie Masella
- Delegate/Honorary Member: Julie Jean
- Development Committee Director: Khaled Abdallah
- Administrators: Sophie Canobio, Christophe Cordella, Sylvie Nadai, Cyril Roblet

We thank Anne-Marie Masella, who chaired the Association for five years. AQIA has never been in better health, thanks to the efforts put into its activities and outreach to industry players. Anne-Marie handed over her seat to Anny Lainesse for many more years of growth.

Symposium Day was held on Day 2, which included lectures, FLASH (180-second) student presentations, networking, student poster sessions, and panel discussions. Many thanks to our partners for their support of this much appreciated and vital



event for members of Quebec's food safety community.

Our research colleague, Julie Jean, Delegate, a Past Affiliate President, and full professor at Université Laval, became the first Honorary Member of AQIA's Executive Committee. This recognition honors the important role she played in the resumption of AQIA's current activities, and her active role in the Association's management ever since. Congratulations, Julie!

Congratulations also to five students who received awards in the form of scholarships for the quality of their respective presentations at the symposium. Recipients in the FLASH Oral Presentation Competition included:

- First Prize: Linda Amaye Sanka, INAF, Université Laval; and
- Second Prize: Rosie Beaulieu, INAF, Université Laval.

Scholarships for best poster presentations were offered by Université Laval's Institute on Nutrition and Functional Foods (INAF), which is committed to supporting the next generation of food safety researchers. Recipients include:

- First Prize: Ziyun Xu, INAF, McGill University;
- Second Prize: Micaela Miyauchi, Université de Montréal; and
- Third Prize: Vahideh Vahdatmanesh, INAF, Université Laval.

Finally, special thanks go to those responsible for organizing the event, supported by the Organization Committee, including:

- Louis Sasseville and Sebastien Villeneuve, CRD, Saint-Hyacinthe, and INAF research members; along with Catherine Fontaine-Lavallée and Marie-Pascale Gagné, Symposium Coordinator and AQIA Coordinator (respectively), INAF, Université Laval.

### Indiana Environmental Health Association: Record Attendance at 73rd Meeting!

Reported by Andrew Pappas, President-Elect



On September 23-25, 2024, the Indiana Environmental Health Association (IEHA) hosted its 73rd Annual Educational Conference at the Monroe Convention Center in Bloomington, Indiana. The event was attended by more than 250 people, the highest registration in the organization's history.

Members and attendees enjoyed a plenary session led by Senator Shelli Yoder, who encouraged the audience to stay involved in their communities while embracing the incredible changes happening in

public health, and advocating for the wellness of our communities.

The General Session speakers discussed the critical needs of both environmental science for good policy decisions; the essentials of self-care to keep ourselves operating as an asset; and how big data is important when understanding trends or future direction. Andrew Pappas, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, presented use cases for the integration of Artificial Intelligence in our work; discussed the novel uses of blockchain to secure our critical data; and talked about the emerging sciences impacting our daily lives.

The Awards Banquet honored the 'best and the brightest' while raising more than \$1,200 from the Silent Auction. The event's Platinum Sponsors,



HSGovTech and Infiltrator Water Technologies, enabled the Affiliate to hold an amazing barbecue feast with live music from a local band, "Don't Call Me Betty." With all the entertainment, it may have proved surprising that Food Protection Breakout Sessions were standing room only in the largest available rooms on both days.

This year, IEHA received an incredible outpouring of commitment from our members to make for an outstanding event. The Leadership Team is looking forward to seeing everyone again on April 10, 2025, for the Annual Spring Educational Conference in Indianapolis!

### Arkansas Association for Food Protection: High Participation at Annual Conference

Reported by Jennifer Acuff, Delegate



The 2024 Arkansas Association for Food Protection (AAFP) Annual Education Conference took place September 24-26, in Fayetteville,

Arkansas, featuring an engaging lineup of technical sessions, networking opportunities, and poster presentations. With more than 200 attendees, the event showcased advancements in food safety with speakers from all corners of the food industry. The conference and its special networking hours were supported by more than 20 vendors and 16 corporate sponsors, which are listed on



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From left: Byron Chaves, Amy Parks, Jennifer Acuff, Kristen Gibson, and Manan Sharma pose for a photo at the 2024 AAFP Annual Education Conference held September 24–26, 2024.

the AAFP website at: [www.arkafp.org/2023-  
sponsorship-and-exhibit-options](http://www.arkafp.org/2023-sponsorship-and-exhibit-options).

The meeting opened on Tuesday afternoon with a hands-on workshop sponsored by Kikkoman and Weber Scientific, allowing attendees an opportunity to experience the Easy Plate system. The evening event featured a poster competition, Welcome Reception, and a presentation from Keynote Speaker Dan Fone, Vice President of Food Safety, Quality & Sanitation, Dollar Tree, Inc. He spoke at the Don Tyson Center for Agricultural Sciences on the future of food safety leadership. The poster competition featured entries from regional universities, highlighting research innovation, with prizes provided by AAFP.

Wednesday's sessions at the Fayetteville Town Center included discussions on ready-to-eat (RTE) food safety, produce safety challenges, and frozen food industry priorities. Sponsor talks highlighted cutting-edge technologies such as rapid pathogen detection and automation in food safety. Afternoon sessions explored leadership development, human error reduction, and advancements in AI and imaging for microbial detection. The day concluded with a well-attended networking reception, allowing attendees to connect over hors d'oeuvres and beverages.



Manan Sharma and Byron Chaves were part of the speaker lineup at the AAFP Annual Education Conference.

Thursday's agenda focused on processing challenges, regulatory updates, and preventive controls, featuring presentations on pathogen zoning, clean-label preservative strategies, and allergen management. USDA and FDA representatives provided updates on new regulations and risk assessments. The conference ended with a panel discussion on avian influenza's impact on the food system, moderated by Kristen Gibson, AAFP President.

AAFP extends its gratitude to the Planning Committee, attendees, sponsors, and volunteers for making the 2024 conference a success! Special thanks goes to Manan Sharma, USDA, who spoke on behalf of the IAFP Executive Board as part of the IAFP Speaker Program. The agenda and photos can be found on the AAFP webpage at: [www.arkafp.org/conferences-2024#conf\\_agenda\\_2024](http://www.arkafp.org/conferences-2024#conf_agenda_2024). We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 event!

### Upper Midwest Dairy Industry Association: Eleven Student Scholarships Awarded

Reported by Dan Erickson, Delegate



The Upper Midwest Dairy Industry Association (UMDIA) held its 2024 Fall Conference at the Best Western Plus Kelly Inn in St. Cloud, Minnesota September 25–26, with 71 participants in attendance. A golf outing preceded the event.

The Affiliate boasted another banner year by extending 11 \$1,000 scholarships to students enrolled in dairy industry related to studies from institutions of higher learning located in Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin – a remarkable effort for an IAFP Affiliate! Recipients and their institutions include:

- Olivia Adams (University of Wisconsin – Platteville)
- Kenson Boelke, Briana Maus, Ifran Tun Nur (South Dakota State University)
- Sarah Hagenow, George Lemke, Megan Meyer, Megan Ratka (University of Minnesota – Twin Cities)
- Hunter Holewinski (University of Wisconsin – Madison)
- Rachel Rynda (University of Wisconsin – River Falls)
- Anne Simpson (Iowa State University)

A networking opportunity for attendees was held in the evening at the Red Head Creamery, an "old dairy farm" milk processing facility known for its exceptional Artisan cheese manufacturing near Brooten, Minnesota. Bus accommodations were provided for the 40-mile roundtrip. The Creamery has an extraordinary kitchen and restaurant-type atmosphere, which was enjoyed with various special treats and beverages. The visit included tours of the creamery and the robotic cow milking facility provided by the operating family.

The following day, presentations at the meeting site included the following speakers and topics:

- Dr. Jeffery Bewly, Holstein Association USA, "Next Gen Mastitis Management with Precision Dairy Technology";
- Drs. Erin Corus and MaryGrace Erickson, University of Minnesota, "Shared Experiences in Environmental Sustainability Assessment"; and
- Sandra Godden, University of Minnesota, "Bedding Selection and Management."

Presentations were also given by Lisa Wetzel and Sarah Current, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Dairy and Meat Inspection Division.

At the next day's Annual Breakfast and Business Meeting, organization awardees were recognized by Dale Heintz, Affiliate President. Award recipients included:



President's Award:  
David Weinand,  
Minnesota Department  
of Agriculture and UMDIA  
Board Member



Dairy Service Award:  
Art Holdvogt, Minnesota  
Department of  
Agriculture



Field Service Award:  
Rich Hanson, Land  
O'Lakes



Award of Merit:  
Mike Schutz, University  
of Minnesota

Honorary Membership & Certificate of Retirement: Jeff Johnson, Alltech, and Lisa Ramacher, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

### Ontario Food Protection Association: 67th Annual Conference Held

Reported by Jess Burke, President



The Ontario Food Protection Association (OFPA) hosted its 67th Annual Food Safety

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Conference on September 30–October 1, 2024, at Bellevue Manor in Concord, Ontario, bringing together more than 160 industry leaders, regulators, food safety professionals, and students for two days of engaging presentations, collaborative discussions, and exciting networking opportunities. The Affiliate is incredibly grateful for the support of its 32 sponsors, whose contributions made this conference possible.



Day 1 offered an engaging lineup of sessions, providing valuable insights into the latest trends, challenges, and solutions in food safety. Tim Jackson, a Senior Advisor for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, U.S. FDA and IAFF Past President, emphasized the importance of company-wide ownership of food safety. He shared strategies for compliance, including learning from failures and near misses, and highlighted tools like root cause analysis and the “go, see, think, do” process to drive improvement. OFPA thanks IAFF for Dr. Jackson’s attendance as part of its Executive Board Speaker Program.



Ben Chapman, Professor, Food Safety Specialist, Department Head of Agricultural and Human Sciences, North Carolina State University, discussed modern approaches to food safety communication. He presented studies on consumer behaviors such as thermometer usage and misconceptions about washing raw chicken. He stressed the importance of storytelling and data-driven communication in shaping behaviors and introduced platforms like “Food Safety Talk” and “Risky or Not?” as effective tools for engaging audiences.



A panel discussion on traceability and recall featured Geert Van Kempen, Head of Food & Beverage Strategy, Veeva Systems; Tom Ford, Vice President of Food Safety and Quality Assurance, Compass Group; Florentina Gadau, Food Safety Director, Sysco Canada; and Aaron Aboud, Quality Director at RDJ Bakeries. The panel explored the role of technology in enhancing traceability; the challenges of record-keeping and data standardization; and the necessity of building trust and strong communication. Panelists emphasized that proper training and a robust safety culture are essential for effective traceability systems.



Allison Jorgens, Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs and Incident Management; and Jonathan Basha, Senior Manager, both with Loblaw QFR Centre of Excellence, shared insights on harnessing data analytics for proactive food safety measures. They demonstrated how predictive analytics using supplier, product, and store data, along with the integration of AI and machine learning, can help businesses anticipate and mitigate risks, enabling a proactive approach to food safety monitoring.



Another panel discussion featuring Heather Gale, Executive Director, CanadaGAP; Jacqueline Southee, North American Representative, FSSC; Stephanie Sonneveld, Business Development, SQFI; Jessica Burke, Delivery Partner Program Manager and America Lead, BRCS; and Pius Gasser, North American Representative, IFS, highlighted the value of GFSI certification in enhancing operational performance and food safety culture. They discussed the importance of unannounced audits as a tool for continuous improvement and encouraged businesses to view audits as opportunities for growth rather than punitive measures.

The day also included the traditional Clive Kingsbury Competition, where students had the opportunity to present their thesis in a format inspired by the 3-Minute Thesis structure. Participants included:

Timothy Odoh, University of Guelph, “The Role of Technology in Reducing the Impact of Food Bioterrorism”;

Claudia Laiza, University of Guelph, “A Global Perspective on Fusarium Contamination: Climate-Induced Mycotoxin Risks in Cereal Crops”;

Yakini Howell and Youkie Stagg, Centennial College, “Evidence on the Effectiveness of UV-C Technology to Reduce Pathogens on Seaweed”;

Harleen Kaur and Ibukun Oniyinde, Centennial College, “The Effect of Sample Matrix on Early Detection of Spiked *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in Oats Using PCR and SPC”;

Sonal Saini (the winning recipient), Centennial College, “How Changes in Temperature Influence the Rate and Extent of Biofilm Formation of *Pseudomonas licheniformis* in Milk.”



The conference’s first day set a strong foundation with its focus on actionable strategies, innovative tools, and collaborative approaches, inspiring attendees to drive meaningful change in food safety practices. Attendees enjoyed a lively networking mixer that evening, complete with live music provided by Nathian Burke, which fostered connections in a relaxed setting.



Day 2 offered an engaging lineup of sessions tackling critical topics in food safety and innovation. Pam McDonald, Executive Director, CFIA Operations Branch, explored recent outbreaks, including *Salmonella* and caffeinated energy drink issues. She also reviewed food safety controls for raw enoki mushrooms and plant-based milk products. In addition, she highlighted updates to the Safe Food for Canadians Act, recall verification procedures, and the need to differentiate between food safety and food quality. An emphasis was placed on consumer education and industry collaboration as vital components of a robust food safety framework.



Renata McGuire, Global Training Program Manager for Food, NSF, presented an emphasis on training as a critical component of food safety management systems, serving to ensure individual competence and awareness while supporting a strong food safety culture. The session explored the challenges associated with retraining, and shared valuable tips and best practices for designing and delivering effective in-house training programs. These strategies aimed to engage learners and maximize the return on training investments.



In their presentation, Lisa Moody, Senior Q&A Manager, and Shanja Gnanathurai, QA System Analyst, both at Maple Lodge Farms, discussed how the company used a non-conformance from a BRCS audit related to sanitary design to overhaul their entire internal audit program. They highlighted how this process became a key tool for continuous improvement of their food safety systems, demonstrating the value of addressing audit findings to strengthen internal processes and enhance overall compliance.

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Laura Toma, Manager of Learning & Development, Compass Group, emphasized the crucial role of effective communication in food safety, where every detail, action, and decision counts. She highlighted the importance of words in

shaping food safety outcomes, whether for influencing internal or external partners or conveying the impact of food safety initiatives. This interactive breakout session provided practical tools and examples, equipping participants with strategies to enhance their communication skills and become more successful in promoting food safety.



Eric Van der Beek, Sector Specialist Manager for Food and Beverage – North America, Diversey, focused on the challenges of sanitary design, underscoring the importance of designing

equipment that allows for thorough cleaning and sanitation. He stressed that inaccessible or hidden components pose significant risks, as they cannot be adequately cleaned.



Kim Onett, Senior Manager, Mérieux NutriSciences, presented on the essential components of designing effective environmental monitoring programs. She emphasized the importance of ensuring efficiency and

effectiveness in testing programs. Best practices for zoning, investigating swabbing, and root cause analysis were highlighted, with an emphasis on how to utilize results and data for continuous improvement in food safety systems.



Asli Solmaz-Kaiser, CEO, iComplai, delved into the transformative potential of AI in food safety. She explained the distinctions between machine learning, artificial intelligence, deep learning, and large language model,

sharing insights into their practical applications, such as supplier monitoring, visual inspections, predictive maintenance, and animal welfare. Asli also highlighted the need for cross-disciplinary collaboration to implement AI solutions effectively within time and budget constraints.



Deleo de Leonardis, CEO and Co-Founder, Purity IQ, Inc., discussed the critical role of advanced analytical testing in combatting food fraud. She explored how cutting-edge techniques enhance mitigation strategies, including

improving supply chain transparency and strengthening regulatory frameworks to ensure food integrity and maintain consumer trust. Deleo covered the importance of choosing the right testing methods, as not all approaches are equal, and the selection process can significantly impact the effectiveness of fraud prevention efforts.



In the closing Keynote, Spir Marinakis, VP of Food Safety, Quality, Technical Services, and Sanitation, Maple Leaf Foods, Inc., took attendees on a journey through the company's response to its

2008 recall due to the outbreak of listeriosis in Canada linked to cold cuts. She shared the actions taken following the incident and outlined how Maple Leaf Foods has continued to foster a strong food safety culture in the years since. Spir emphasized the ongoing commitment to food safety and the lessons learned that have shaped the company's current practices.

The day ended with an Awards Ceremony to announce the 2024 recipients, recognizing outstanding achievements in food safety and commitment to advancing the industry. These individuals exemplify excellence and dedication in promoting food safety and protecting public health. The award recipients are:

Jennefer Griffith – Food Safety Professional of the Year, honoring an individual who has demonstrated exemplary leadership, innovation, and dedication in the field of food safety;

Arlene Larson and Brett Dooley (photos below) – Awards of Merit, recognizing their substantial contributions to OFPA.



We congratulate these remarkable professionals on their well-deserved recognitions to foster a community committed to excellence in food protection!

### Taiwan Association for Food Protection: Speakers and Election of Officers at Annual Meeting

Reported by Deng-Jye Yang, Secretary



The Taiwan Association for Food Protection (TAFP) held its 2024 Annual Meeting on November 6, at the National Taiwan University in Taipei City, Taiwan. One hundred fifty people took part.

Speakers and topics included:

Dr. Chao-Hsiang Chen, who shared “Experiences From Safe Medicinal Materials on How to Implement Safe Food Ingredients Management”;

Dr. Ming-Tsung Li, who presented “Management and Quality Design of Domestic and Overseas Resources for Medicinal and Edible Ingredients”;

Dr. Jing-Wen Liu, who spoke on “Prioritizing Safety Over Efficacy: Quality Protection and Practices for Health Foods”;

Dr. Chia-Ming Chang, who presented “The Importance of Food Testing in Safe Food Ingredient Certification.”

Officers elected to serve in the upcoming term are:

- President: Pin-Tang Chang
- Secretary: Deng-Jye Yang
- Managing Executive Committee Members: Szu-Chuan Shen, Chao-Hsiang Chen, Kuan-Chen Cheng, Ching-Wen Liu
- Executive Committee Members: Chang-Wei Hsieh, Yu-Shiang Lin, Hsiang-Ming Wang, Tao-Lin Cheng, Hong-Jhang Chen, Yu-Kuo Chen, Ming-Pei Ling, Pao-Chi Liao, Chung-Yu Shen, Hui-Ping Chang
- Managing Supervising Committee Member: Ming-Fu Wang
- Supervising Committee Members: Tin-Chen Hsu, Chih-Kuan Pan, Cheng-Hui Chang, Hung-Ming Chen



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## United Kingdom Association for Food Protection: More Than 150 Attend Annual Conference

Reported by Ellen Evans, Past President



More than 150 food and drink industry professionals came together at the **United Kingdom Association for Food Protection's (UKAFP) 21st Annual Conference** on 6 November 2024 in Cardiff, UK to discuss building resilience in the sector to prevent food crime.

Attendees from across industry, regulatory bodies, and academia heard from a panel of expert speakers. First, Ben Pye, Senior Prevention and Relationship Management Officer, Food Standards Agency (FSA), provided an overview of the work of the FSA's National Food Crime Unit (NFCU) and how it polices food crime. Ben shared tips on how to spot the signs of food crime, including document inaccuracies and customer complaints. He also discussed the support the Agency can offer to food businesses, such as its online food fraud resilience tool.

Next, Claire Yates, Category Technical Services Manager, Co-op, gave a retailer perspective on food crime and how they handle daily challenges such as ingredient and supplier risk. Kevin Barker, 2 Sisters Food Group, followed with a delivery from a manufacturer's viewpoint on food integrity, including the approach to intelligence gathering, risk mitigation strategies, and supply chain monitoring.

Three speakers completed the day's lineup. Nicola Smith, partner at Squire Patton Boggs, provided an overview of the legal framework and enforcement regime for food crime in the UK. John Points, Food Authenticity Network, highlighted some of the common tools that food businesses can use to reduce the risk of becoming a victim of fraud. Tim Jackson, U.S. FDA and IAFP Past President, gave a North American and global perspective on food crime and prevention.



UKAFP Officers (L-R): John Holah (President), Carol Wallace (Vice President), Helen Taylor (Delegate), Deb Smith (Treasurer), Heather Curwen (Officer), Richa Bedi-Navik (Officer), and Simon Burns (Officer).



Helen Taylor, Technical Director, ZERO2FIVE Food Industry Centre, UKAFP Delegate, and IAFP Affiliate Council Secretary, stated: "The global food system is increasingly complex, and it is imperative that we keep abreast

of current and emerging issues and take opportunities to learn from each other. In the current climate, food safety professionals are increasingly required to develop effective mechanisms to prevent food crime and fraud. This latest UKAFP conference brought together a wealth of knowledge and experience from across industry and academia for a series of insightful talks. I'm sure the output of this year's discussions will have practical applications for those in the food and drink sector in Wales and further afield."

Ben Pye added, "Engaging directly with industry has been a key target over the past 12 months for the NFCU, so this year's UKAFP conference provided an invaluable opportunity to showcase all the guidance and support available for food and drink manufacturing businesses, and to also share our future plans for collaborating with industry in the fight against food crime."



A Student and Early Career Scientist Poster Competition provided an additional opportunity for emerging researchers to share their food safety-focused research. First prize went to Rana Kebbi (left) with her poster titled, "Misconceptions About Food Date Labels and Their Effect on Food Waste in

Lebanon," which was undertaken as part of her M.Sc. in Food Analysis and Safety at Beirut Arab University, under the supervision of Professor Nada El Darra and Dr. Alissar Al Khatib.

The 21st Annual Conference was organized by Cardiff Metropolitan University's ZERO2FIVE Food Industry Centre via the Welsh Government-funded Project HELIX. UKAFP exists to provide UK food safety professionals with a forum to exchange information on protecting the food supply chain.



UKAFP Officers and Speakers (L-R): John Holah, Nicola Smith, Helen Taylor, John Points, Heather Curwen, Claire Yates, Simon Burns, Carol Wallace, Richa Bedi-Navik, Deb Smith, Ben Pye, and Kevin Barker.

The Association represents people involved in all aspects of growing, storing, transporting, processing, and preparing foods including educators, government officials, microbiologists, food industry executives, and quality control professionals.

Presentations from this year's conference are available to download free at: [www.CardiffMet.ac.uk/UKAFP](http://www.CardiffMet.ac.uk/UKAFP).

## Florida Association for Food Protection: Fall Educational Luncheon Held

Reported by Rachel McEgan, President



The **Florida Association for Food Protection (FAFP)** held its Fall 2024 Educational Luncheon on November 19 at the Publix Corporate Office in Lakeland, Florida. The event brought together approximately 50 attendees, including food safety professionals, academia, regulatory, and students, for a day of insightful presentations, networking, and collaboration.

Rachel McEgan, President, opened the meeting with a warm welcome, expressing gratitude to Publix Super Markets for hosting the event. She also encouraged members to participate in the ongoing voting for the 2025 FAFP Board, and thanked current Board members.

The educational program, moderated by Jamie Irwin, featured dynamic presentations addressing some of the most pressing challenges in food safety today. Speakers and topics included:



Nicole Martino (left), Universal Orlando Resort, speaking on "Allergens, Menu Labeling, and Consumer Expectations in the Theme Park Environment";



Lourdes Tamborello (left), Del Monte, presenting "Traceability - FSMA 204 and Technology Enablers"; and

Kelly Vance, Dr. Matthew Curran, and Ben Rosson, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS), delivering two presentations, including "Hurricane Emergency Response" and "Control and Prevention of *Listeria* at Retail."

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(From left): Kelly Vance, Matthew Curran, and Ben Rosson, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, spoke at the FAFP Fall 2024 Educational Luncheon on November 19, 2024.

Attendees enjoyed a networking break and a delicious lunch provided by Publix Super Markets, creating opportunities to connect with peers and discuss the day's topics in more depth.

Taylor O'Brien, University of Florida, FAFP President-Elect and incoming 2025 President, closed the event by encouraging attendees to save the date of the 2025 FAFP Annual Educational Conference in May, building excitement for the year ahead.

The Fall 2024 Educational Luncheon exemplified FAFP's mission of fostering collaboration, education, and innovation in food protection. The Affiliate looks forward to continuing its work in shaping the future of food safety in Florida.

### British Columbia Food Protection Association: Fall Hybrid Meeting Held

Reported by Melinda Ren, SPDG Coordinator



On November 25, 2024, the **British Columbia Food Protection Association (BCFPA)** hosted its in-person and livestreamed (through Zoom) Fall Hybrid Speaker's Evening at the Langara Clubhouse in Vancouver, British Columbia. The event brought together members and the public to explore the critical topic of "The Importance of Shellfish Food Safety for First Nations' Food Security."

The program opened with a warm welcome before the introduction of three distinguished speakers.



Lorraine McIntyre, Food and Environmental Specialist, BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), spoke on "Prioritizing Indigenous Shellfish Needs at BCCDC Within a One Health Context." She emphasized the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health in addressing food safety for indigenous communities.



Jennifer Kopetzky, Research and Development Team Lead of the Environmental Microbiology Research Laboratory, BCCDC, continued with insights of the newly-launched GEMSTONE (Genomic Ecological Microbial Source Tracking for Oceans, Nature, and Environment) project, which aims to identify shellfish toxins and support indigenous food security.



After a dinner intermission and networking, Tim Green, Director of the Centre for Shellfish Research and Canada Research Chain in Shellfish Health and Genomics, Vancouver Island University, concluded the meeting with "Let's Get Clams Back on the Menu." He highlighted the rising threats of marine heatwaves, storms, and ocean acidification to shellfish safety, stressing their implications for food security.

The evening event served as a valuable platform for the exchange of knowledge and collaboration, underscoring the urgent need to address climate change's impact on shellfish safety and its critical role in supporting First Nations' food security. The evening ended with closing remarks, door prizes, and a 50/50 Student Professional Development Group raffle, won by Sion Shyng, who kindly donated his winnings back to the PDG.

## AFFILIATE BRIEFS

### Kansas Association for Food Protection: 40 Attend 2024 Annual Fall Conference

Reported by Allison Blodig, Past President



The **Kansas Environmental Health Association (KEHA)** held its 2024 Annual Fall Conference October 8-9 at the Bluemont Hotel in Manhattan, Kansas. Approximately 40 attendees gathered to hear a broad range of speakers from the environmental health field.

New officers were elected at the KEHA Annual Meeting. A motion was passed by membership to increase Association dues. Newly-elected officers include:

President: Lance Karmann  
 First Vice President: Shawn Esterl  
 Second Vice President: Keena Privat  
 Past President: Allison Blodig  
 Secretary/Member at Large: Matt Debo  
 Treasurer: Brian Falk

### Iowa Association for Food Protection: 35 Attend 2024 Annual Fall Conference

Reported by Lynne Melchert, Secretary/Treasurer

The **Iowa Association for Food Protection (IAFP)** 2024 Annual Meeting took place on October 16 at Hansen's Dairy Tour Center in Hudson, Iowa with 35 members in attendance.

Speakers included Larry Travel presenting "Farmer Personalities and Mental Health Tactics"; Paul Baumgartner providing updates on the PPR Digital Recorder; Patrick Gorden highlighting current dairy topics; and Jurgen Ehler giving a review on Iowa dairy updates.

Highlights of the meeting included the presentation of the Merle P. Baker Award to Kate Ehits. Election of officers took place, and include:

President: Carrie Corlett  
 Vice President Pro Tem: Wade Brunsmann  
 First Vice President: Teresa Pratt  
 Second Vice President: Ben Moetsch  
 Past President: Curt Larson  
 Secretary/Treasurer: Lynne Melchert

## AFFILIATE NEWS

### TWO NEW IAFP AFFILIATES JOIN IAFP!

IAFP is pleased to announce the addition of two new Affiliates to the Association. The Executive Board recently approved the applications for the following Affiliates, whose board members are listed:

#### [Kentucky Association for Food Protection \(KAFFP\)](#)

President: Sharon Humphries  
President-Elect: Kristin Sanders  
Vice President: Nathaniel Wilson  
Secretary: Virginia Hamilton  
Delegate/Contact: Eric Martin

#### [Nepalese Association for Food Protection \(NepAFP\)](#)

President: Achyut Adhikari  
President-Elect: Subash Shrestha  
Vice President: Vijay Singh Chhetri  
Treasurer: Manoj Shah  
Executive Secretary: Janak Dhakal  
Secretary/Delegate: Karuna Kharel

Congratulations to our newest Affiliates! Charters will be formally presented during IAFP 2025 in Cleveland, Ohio.

### AFFILIATE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025

This serves as a reminder that all Affiliate Annual Reports are due Tuesday, March 4, 2025 for activities that took place during 2024. Periodic reminders were emailed to all Affiliate officers who have yet to submit a report for their respective Affiliate.

Annual Reports are required to be submitted to the IAFP office to comply with IAFP Bylaws. These reports serve as valuable information to keep the Association updated on current officers; past and upcoming meetings; websites; etc. All Annual Reports are to be submitted electronically; membership lists are not required. We also encourage applications for one or more Affiliate awards during your submission process. Contact Susan Smith, Affiliate Liaison, with questions.

### NEXT AFFILIATE COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 26, 2025

Plan now to attend the next Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, 12:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). Invitations and agendas will be sent in advance to those who are on *IAFP Connect*. All virtual meetings are recorded and available shortly after on *IAFP Connect*. And mark your calendar for Thursday, May 22, 2025, 9:00 a.m. (Eastern Time) for the last Affiliate Council Virtual Meeting prior to the Affiliate Council Meeting during IAFP 2025.

## IAFP HEADLINES

### REGISTRATION, HOUSING OPEN FOR TWO IAFP CONFERENCES

Registration and housing are open for IAFP's two largest conferences. [IAFP's European Symposium on Food Safety](#) will take place in Madrid, Spain, 6–8 May 2025. Early registration rates end 8 April. Registration and housing are open for [IAFP 2025](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, July 27–30. Early registration rates end July 2. To register and book your hotel for each of these important conferences, visit the IAFP website.

### POPULAR WORKSHOP RETURNS!

IAFP's [Microbial Challenge Testing for Foods Workshop](#) returns April 2–3, 2025, in Des Plaines (Chicago), Illinois. This two-day workshop is intended for food industry professionals, testing lab personal, and regulators. Seating is limited, so don't wait to register on the IAFP website.

### TAKE TIME TO VOTE IN IAFP 2025–2026 SECRETARY ELECTION

Voting opens February 3, 2025 for the upcoming IAFP 2025–2026 Secretary Election. Candidates standing for election are Panos Skandamis, Agricultural University of Athens, Athens, Greece; and



Wendy White, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia. Profiles of the candidates can be viewed on the home page of the IAFP website. IAFP Members have until March 4, 2025 to cast their vote. The link and passcode will be emailed to non-student Members on February 3.

# AFFILIATE CALENDAR

PROMOTE YOUR MEETINGS THROUGH IAFP

## Affiliates in Action Fourth Quarter 2024

### October

- ◆ Kansas Environmental Health Association
- ◆ Iowa Association for Food Protection

### November

- ◆ Taiwan Association for Food Protection
- ◆ United Kingdom Association for Food Protection
- ◆ Latin American Symposium on Food Safety (Brazil Association for Food Protection)
- ◆ Florida Association for Food Protection
- ◆ British Columbia Food Protection Association

### December

- ◆ Wisconsin Association for Food Protection

To be featured in the next issue of *Affiliate View*, send your news and photos by March 28, 2025 to Susan Smith at [ssmith@foodprotection.org](mailto:ssmith@foodprotection.org).

### January 2025

**22:** Ohio Association for Food Protection, 2025 Winter Annual Business Meeting, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Connie Freese at [cfreese@phdmc.org](mailto:cfreese@phdmc.org).

### March 2025

**4:** Georgia Association for Food Protection, 2024 Spring Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia. Visit [www.gafoodprotection.org/](http://www.gafoodprotection.org/).

**5–6:** Australia Association for Food Protection, Annual AIFST Food Microbiology Conference, Sydney, Australia. Contact Mark Turner at [aafp.exec@gmail.com](mailto:aafp.exec@gmail.com).

**13:** Michigan Environmental Health Association, 2025 Annual Business Meeting, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Visit [www.meha.net/](http://www.meha.net/).

**18–19:** Idaho Environmental Health Association, 2025 Annual Business Meeting, Boise, Idaho. Visit [www.meha.net/](http://www.meha.net/).

## IAFP Support for Affiliate Meetings

Whether to complement the mission and promotional materials of your Affiliate, or to show your relationship with the International Association for Food Protection, we offer the following supplies for use or distribution at your meetings:

- ◆ IAFP pop-up display. This updated and attractive pop-up display shows attendees that you are affiliated with IAFP.
- ◆ IAFP 2024–2025 Presentation. A PowerPoint slide show with a suggested 15-minute script. This is the same presentation used by members of the IAFP Executive Board when invited to speak at Affiliate meetings.
- ◆ Promotional materials box. Contents include a complimentary IAFP Membership certificate and brochures, current issues of *FPT* and *Affiliate View*, and IAFP Annual Meeting flyers. Additional complimentary resources are available upon your request.

To request these items for your next meeting, call or email Susan Smith at the IAFP Office.

# IAFP EXECUTIVE BOARD SPEAKER PROGRAM

FOR AFFILIATES



**Mark Carter, MC Squared**  
President

- Method Development and Validation
- Statistical Sampling Plans and Development



**Manpreet Singh, Ph.D., University of Georgia**  
President-Elect

- Managing Risks in Meat & Poultry Processing
- Food Safety Management Systems in Food Processing
- Antimicrobial Resistance of Foodborne Pathogens



**Manan Sharma, Ph.D., U.S. Department of Agriculture/ARS**  
Vice President

- Produce Safety (Irrigation Water, Soil Amendment)
- Bacteriophages and Food Safety
- Detection Methods of Pathogens in Water/Water Filtration



**Pam Wilger, Post Consumer Brands**  
Secretary

- Environmental Monitoring
- Dry Industry Microbiology and HACCP
- Sampling, Micro Testing Methods and Lab Management



**Tim Jackson, Ph.D., U.S. Food & Drug Administration**  
Past President

- Food Safety Management
- Food Microbiology
- Regulatory Food Safety



**Caio Carvalho, Cargill Brazil**  
Affiliate Council Chair

- Food Microbiology
- Career Plan for Young Professionals in Food Safety & Microbiology
- Thermal Process and Aseptic Validations



**Helen Taylor, Cardiff Metropolitan University**  
Affiliate Council Secretary

- Food Safety & Quality Management Systems
- HACCP - Food Safety - Auditing
- Food Manufacturing - Small & Medium Enterprises - Auditing

## How It Works

1. IAFP Board Members are available to speak at Affiliate meetings on numerous topics involving food safety.
2. Each Affiliate may request one Executive Board speaker for one Affiliate meeting within a 12-month calendar year.
3. A minimum of 15 minutes should be allowed for the Board Member to deliver information about the International Association for Food Protection in addition to their main subject(s) (see #1).
4. IAFP will pay the Board Member's expense to travel to the Affiliate meeting location.
5. The Affiliate covers local expenses, including meals, lodging, and local transportation for the Board Member.
6. The Board Member makes their own travel reservations and will submit an expense report to the IAFP office within 10 days of completion of their travel to the Affiliate meeting. Any local expense (see #5) will be billed to the Affiliate.
7. A two-month advance notice is required.
8. To invite a Board Member to speak at your Affiliate meeting, contact Susan Smith, IAFP Affiliate Liaison, at +1 515.276.3344; or email [ssmith@foodprotection.org](mailto:ssmith@foodprotection.org). (Please do not contact Board Members directly until approved by IAFP.)

# IAFP SPEAKER PROGRAM (EXPANDED)

**Jim Dickson, Ph.D.**  
Iowa State University



- Foodborne Pathogens in Meat: Progress and Challenges
- Interventions to Control Foodborne Pathogens in Meat
- Food Safety Issues with Pet Food
- Process Validation for Food Safety

**Kathy Glass, Ph.D.**  
University of Wisconsin – Madison



- Opportunities and Limitations of Clean Label Antimicrobials
- Validating Formulation Safe RTE Foods
- Intervention Strategies to Control *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Foods
- Control of Sporeforming Bacteria During Extended Cooling and Refrigerated Storage
- Efficacy of Nitrate Alternatives to Inhibit the Growth of Bacteria

**Kali Kniel, Ph.D.**  
University of Delaware



- One Health
- Foodborne Viruses
- Foodborne Parasites
- Produce Food Safety Issues

**Alejandro Mazzotta, Ph.D.**  
Chobani, LLC



- Dairy Food Safety and Spoilage
- FSMA and Regulatory Compliance
- Food Safety and Quality Systems

**Ruth Petran Ph.D.**  
Ruth Petran Consulting, LLC



- Sanitation Preventive Controls
- Norovirus Management
- Hazard Analysis

**Gale Prince**  
Consultant



- Human Factor Considerations for Achieving Food Safety Compliance
- Driving Forces for Hygienic Design of Food Equipment
- The Cost of a Product Recall – Should You Budget For It?
- Food Allergens
- A Fifty-Year Food Safety Career Based on a Bar Napkin

**Don Schaffner, Ph.D.**  
Rutgers University



- Understanding and Managing Food Safety Risks
- Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment of Foods
- Development and Application of Predictive Models for Food Microbiology
- Handwashing, Hand Sanitizers, and Cross-Contamination

**Don Zink, Ph.D.**  
IEH Laboratories & Consulting Group



- Environmental Pathogen Monitoring
- FSMA Implementation – Foreign Supplier Verification and Preventive Controls
- Controlling *Listeria* and *Salmonella*

# Be a Food Safety Rock Star!



Advance your professional potential by joining us for four days of presentations, discussions, and networking with the leading minds in food safety research and technology.

Explore, learn, participate at the  
IAFP 2025 Annual Meeting.  
July 27–30, 2025  
[foodprotection.org](http://foodprotection.org)

## Future Annual Meetings | Save the Dates!

IAFP 2026, July 26–29, New Orleans, Louisiana  
IAFP 2027, July 18–21, Kansas City, Missouri  
IAFP 2028, July 23–26, Charlotte, North Carolina

*Affiliate View* is a quarterly publication for Affiliates of the International Association for Food Protection. Please submit articles, photos, news items, or comments to:

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