

## Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Disease PDG

**Attendees:** Julie Jean (Chair), Kristen Gibson (Vice Chair), Lindsey Bowen, Simon Bouchard, Julie Jean, Graham Houle, Rob Donofrio, Chip Manuel, Margarethe Cooper, Preetha Biswas, Martin Duplessis, Devin LaPolt, Michala Krakowski, Hediye Cinar, Kyle McCaughan, Brienna Anderson-Coughlin, Alexis Omar, Eva Chatonnat, Kim Manseau-Ferland, Gabrielle Pageau, Laurence Pélouquin, Mathilde Trudel-Ferland, Keith Lampel, Socrates Trujillo, Mauricio Durigan, Quynh-Nhi Le, Partesha Verge, Tim Jackson, Joyce Njoroge, Hailey Davidson, Rebecca Anderson, Laura Ewing, Karen McWilliams, Karen Pietzen, Marianna Solorio, Yves Oukouomi-Lowe, Patrice Bonny, Efstathia Papafragkou, Samantha Wales, Sanjay Gummalla, Jeremy Faircloth, Season Xie, Harmeen Prasher, William Burkhardt, III, Mario Leone, Carine Nkemngong, Xinhui Li, Alvin Lee, Donna Garren, Erin Crowley, Gurpreet Kaur Chaggar, Lauren Hamilton, Zeb Blanton, Joseph Meyer, Juhong Chen, Carl Custer, Denise Eblen, Paula Herald, Michelle Kotler, Caroline Smith DeWaal, Amani Babekir, Akhila Vasan, Amandeep Dhillon, Ariel Garsow, James Barkley, Allison Howell, Kali Kniel, Gale Beard, Lee-Ann Jaykus, Shelly Ritschard, Emily Kingston, Margaret Kirchner, Tanesia Cole, Ava Weyrich, Gabriella Gephart.

**Number of Attendees:** 75.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Sunday, July 31, 2022.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Pragathi Kamarasu.

The meeting was called to order by Julie Jean (Chair). Julie introduced herself and welcomed everyone. All attendees were invited to introduce themselves. Then, Julie gave an overview of the agenda. Anti-trust guidelines were reviewed by Kristen Gibson (Vice Chair)

**Old Business:** The minutes from IAFP 2021 PDG meeting were approved with no modifications.

**New Business:** Four main topics were on the agenda.

**IAFP Announcements:** Updates from the IAFP Executive Board were provided. Julie Jean (Chair) read the updates. These updates and announcements included the following:

**2022 Meeting Updates** – We expect close to 3,000 attendees at the Annual Meeting this year, that's about 75-80% of the attendance pre-pandemic in Louisville. Exhibitors are at about 80% of normal, please take time to visit them on the exhibit floor and participate in the explore the floor passport (it's in your bag), to win some awesome prizes! Special thanks to Giant Eagle for all their support with local arrangements!

**PDG Updates** – Please remember to submit your PDG minutes and board recommendations. Please respond to IAFP office requests through *IAFP Connect*. As you move forward developing symposia for 2023, please pay attention to DEI principles. Also consider developing webinars, or webinar series.

Donate to the IAFP 4 for 40 campaign! A number of exciting ideas are under development, that include publication support, and meeting attendance support. The Mentor Match program is ongoing – please consider participating. We are excited about the *JFP* transition to Elsevier, representatives will be present at the *JFP/FPT* booth on the exhibit floor to answer any questions you have.

**2023 Meeting** – Please remember this meeting will be in Toronto, Canada. Check your passports to see if they have expired. Apply early if you need a visa.

**Highlights from the IAFP 2022 program relevant to the PDG:** Julie reviewed accepted sponsored or co-sponsored proposals including symposia and roundtables. There was also a note about numerous posters and technical sessions that will be presented and are relevant to the Viral and Parasitic Foodborne Diseases PDG.

**Update on foodborne parasitic diseases:** (Tim Jackson, FDA; Brianna, University of Delaware)

Tim discussed updates specifically on *Cyclospora* with an industry and regulatory perspective. The industry side is primarily concerned with the lack of control measures, especially if found in the water or soil—what can be done once it is there? One of the challenges is understanding how different factors influence the incidence/prevalence of *Cyclospora* in the production environment. There is also a need to determine/validate test methods for *Cyclospora* as well as identify suitable surrogates. Tim also mentioned that there is ample funding available for research. It was stated that Alexander Da Silva leads a research team within the FDA and commented on the seasonality of *Cyclospora*. A *Cyclospora* response action plan is available, and there is an international committee to discuss the plan.

Brianna (University of Delaware from Kali Kniel's lab) provided some updates on research related to *Cyclospora*. There are difficulties with PCR assays for *Cyclospora*. Groups have been collecting water samples with some presumptive *Cyclospora* and confirmed positive *Cyclospora* in samples from April to August. Pond samples (n=33) have been analyzed by PCR; toilet samples (n=26) have been collected but not analyzed. Talks related to *Cyclospora* research at IAFP were noted.

**Update on viral foodborne diseases:** Audience was asked for any updates that may be relevant. Kristen Gibson asked Efi Papafragkou about the recent press release from the FDA regarding the culmination of the study on berry testing for Hepatitis A virus and human norovirus, specifically related to the indication that funding/research partnerships would be pursued in the future. Efi indicated that the FDA would make those decisions once the study was concluded.

**In preparation for IAFP 2023 in Toronto, Canada, July 16 to July 19, 2023, roundtable and symposia topics were suggested and discussed:** PDG participated in breakout groups to consider important questions and areas of research related to viral and parasitic foodborne diseases that would be good symposium topics for IAFP 2023. Ideas have been listed based on group sharing.

**Group 1** – Discussed viruses in shellfish and the application of metagenomics for detection of emerging viruses. There was also mention of transmission of herpes virus via food/sharing of food which may be of interest. Prevention of noroviruses in different types of restaurants (e.g., full-service, fast casual, etc.).

**Group 2** – Discussed surface chemistry and how it affects the persistence of viruses in food products. How does virus infectivity change over time when persisting on a surface? Group discussed need to update information on surrogates. Also mentioned the need to predict shedding concentration of SARS-CoV-2.

**Group 3** – Discussed the need to establish/explore a threshold for infectious virus particles and/or protozoa in food—what would be the level that triggers a recall? Also, what are the implications of identifying contamination in a product for export/import on relationships between governments?

**Group 4** – Interpretation of molecular “yes”.

**Group 5** – Impact of climate change on infectious disease epidemiology, specifically protozoan parasites are not typically investigated.

*Group 6* – Utilization of virus and protozoan surrogates during method development.

*Group 7* – Sharing information and access to it. Standardization across research labs?

*General Announcement:* It was mentioned that we will be electing the Vice Chair in spring 2023 so please consider nominating yourself or others.

**Recommendations to the Executive Board:** None.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 16, 2023, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 2:45 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Chairperson:** Julie Jean.