

## **Student PDG**

**Attendees:** Manita Adhikari, Grace Akumu, Basim Alohal, Courtney Aminirad, Juan Archila, Aadeya Arora, Jyoti Aryal, Arzu Irem Aydogdu, Jakob Baker, Charles Bakin, Akshaya Balaji, Grace Bannister, Ronny Barrera, Michael Batz, Adwy van den Berg, Laura Pineda- Bermudez, Sujitha Bhumanapalli, Micah Black, Hannah Blackwell, Jack Burnett, Isabella Casas, Hema Sai Samhitha Chalamalasetti, Sergio Nieto-Chavez, Linyun Chen, Pavana Harathy Chennupati, Sejin Cheong, Sneha Chhabra, Daria Clinkscales, Paola Corea, Sitara Cullinan, Michelle Danyluk, Brenna DeRocili, Aakankshya Dhakal, Ujjalpreet Kaur Dhatt, Megan Dixon, Aaron Dudley, Cyril Nsom Ayuk Etaka, Savana Everhart, Jeff Farber, Loretta Friedrich, Julia Fukuba, Yupawadee Galasong, Gabriella Gephart, Binita Goshali, Luis Guzman, Olivia Haley, Nicolette Hall, Ruth Harper, Yawen He, Eelco Heintz, Haknyeong Hong, Allison Howell, Minji Hur, Divya Joseph, YeonJin Jung, Tom Kasputis, Erin Kealey, Arshpreet Kaur Khattra, Minji Kim, Minh Kim, Ian Klug, Anne Lamson, Ivannova Lituma, Mallika Mahida, Adeel Manzoor, Ariel Martin, Kyle McCaughan, Ellen Mendez, Abigail Aba Mensah, Marlee Mims, Markanna Moore, Nooshin Moradi, Juan Moreira, Caroline Motzer, Claire Murphy, Cecil Barnett-Neefs, Kasey Nelson, Kefang Nie, Alexis Omar, Keorimy Ouk, Chelsey Patch, Pranita Patil, Gabriella Pinto, Breanna Polen, Jorge Quintanilla Portillo, Rodrigo Portillo, Simone Potkamp, Shivaprasad Doddabematti Prakash, Chenhao Qian, Rawane Raad, Erin Ramsay, Aishwarya Rao, Gustavo Reyes, Nadira Espinoza Rock, Alyssa Rosenbaum, Zachary Rosenzweig, Kaylee Rumbaugh, Joy Saha, Amaryllis Rivera-Santiago, Mari Schroeder, Sofie Schryvers, Elisa Guardado Servellon, Aakash Sharma, Katherine Sierra, Amritpal Singh, Yesutor Soku, Doina Solis, Pauline Spagnoli, Sloane Stoufer, Sriya Sunil, Dushyanth Kumar Tammineni, Vianca Tashiguano, LaTaunya Tillman, Marvin Tzirin, Pranaya Udash, Sasikala Vaddu, Claudia Pegueros Valencia, Leya Susan Viju, Xiaohong Wei, Kelli Woods, Linghuan Yang, Caroline Yates, Galante Yu, Yuzhen Zhang.

**Total Number of Attendees:** 123.

**Meeting Called to Order:** Sunday, 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time, July 16, 2023.

**Minutes Recording Secretary:** Jyoti Aryal.

**Old Business:** The meeting was called to order and the chair extended warm welcome to all participants. The Anti-trust guidelines were discussed to ensure compliance. The chair introduced and acknowledged the all the outgoing and incoming Board members.

Attendees were encouraged to approach the Board members for any questions, networking opportunities or getting more involved with IAFP. The voting process for the Board members was discussed, with appreciation expressed for the participation of 14 candidates and the 75 votes cast. Attendees were urged to sign up for *IAFP Connect* to familiarize themselves with the Student PDG. Instructions were provided to visit the IAFP website, access *IAFP Connect*, and follow along the Dashboard for updates and information. Volunteer activities within *IAFP Connect* were emphasized, and attendees were encouraged to volunteer for the upcoming annual meeting. Following the Student PDG on LinkedIn was also recommended.

Several achievements and initiatives of the Student PDG were highlighted. These included the successful 3MT competition, where 11 videos were submitted, featuring 7 competitors from 3 countries, and judged by 8 individuals. The winner of the competition would be announced at the luncheon, with gratitude expressed to the sponsor, Phi Tau Sigma. The availability of student liaison opportunities was mentioned that provides valuable networking experiences and attendees were informed that a total of 42 student liaison positions had been assigned this year. The Meet Your Favorite Food Scientist initiative was introduced as an open forum for students to engage with renowned scientists from government, industry, and academia. The mentor-mentee program was also emphasized as a means of support for students. It was noted that the Student PDG opened an Instagram account last year to highlight volunteer opportunities, events, webinar information, and more. The mentor-mentee program was also emphasized as a means of support for students.

An overview of yearlong events and webinars organized on an international platform was provided, with encouragement for students to engage with local affiliates. The reintroduction of the t-shirt was celebrated with a design competition with more than 450 votes for 8 shirt design submissions. Attendees were encouraged to visit the student booth 439. The initiation of newsletters was acknowledged as a new way to disseminate information about past and upcoming events. The success of several webinars, specifically targeting domestic and international students, was recognized.

Congratulations were extended to recipients of the student travel scholarship, and all attendees were encouraged to apply for future opportunities.

All the 2022 - 2023 sponsors and partners: 3-A Sanitary Standards, Inc., BCN Research Laboratories, Inc., Capital Area Food Protection Association, Chobani, Conagra Brands, Jennifer McEntire, Merck Animal Health, New York State Association for Food Protection, Ontario Food Protection Association, OSI Group, Texas Roadhouse, Inc., and Wisconsin Association for Food Protection were acknowledged. Appreciation was expressed to the staff, scientists, 3MT judges, students and Board members for their contributions.

**New Business:** In the annual meetings, two sessions (S15 and RT21) are being sponsored and co-sponsored by SPDG. SPDG activities (luncheon and mixer) for the annual meeting were announced and ideas for fall and spring events were requested from the attendees. The continuation of the "Meet Your Favorite Food Scientist" initiative was highlighted, with attendees encouraged to provide scientist suggestions. The importance of highlighting student achievements and activities on LinkedIn was stressed, along with the continuation of virtual coffee hours.

The session monitoring process was explained, and attendees were thanked for signing up. Detailed reminders regarding the process were provided, with any queries directed to the IAFP staff. The possibility of organizing more webinars was discussed as an alternative for those topics which may not have been accepted for symposia or roundtables.

#### **Recommendations to the Executive Board:**

1. Recommend approval of Ivannova Lituma for Vice-Chair of the Student PDG.
2. Recommend having a medium affordable luncheon rate for new professionals along with promoting the inclusion of new professionals in luncheon and mixer.

3. Recommend providing guidelines or maybe a social media series for first-time attendees at IAFFP on getting more involved with SPDG and other networking opportunities at IAFFP.
4. Recommend a webinar on career-related visas, building on a previous visa-related webinar for professional scientists.
5. Recommend a webinar on providing valuable tips and information on how to attract and engage audience specially focused for those students without teaching backgrounds.
6. Recommend webinars for new professionals discussing how to continue maintaining networking with IAFFP.
7. Recommend webinar on writing manuscripts and ideas on networking opportunities with prominent industry professionals.
8. Recommend to issue certificates for the 3MT competition winners and finalists.

**Next Meeting Date:** July 14, 2024, Long Beach, California.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 12 p.m. Eastern Time.

**Chairperson:** Ellen Mendez Sosa.