

Applied Laboratory Methods Professional Development Group

Committee Minutes

Members Present: Vanessa Cranford, Leslie Thompson, Christine M. Aleski, James Agin, Bassam A. Annous, Patrice Arbault, Daniel D. Belina, Reginald W. Bennett, Michael Brodsky, Mark Carter, Jinru Chen, Alessandra O. Chiareli, Jinru Chen, Stefano Colombo, Julian M. Cox, William C. Cray Jr., Hari Prakash Dwivedi, Hesham A. Elgaali, Elena Enache, Jeffrey M. Farber, Stephen Grove, Julie Kase, Sun K. Kim, Keith A. Lampel, Wendy McMahon, Indaue G. Mello-Hall, Molly F. Mills, Nandini Natrajan, Xiangwu Nou, Omar A. Oyarzabal, Patricia Rule, Amy B. Smith, L. Michele Smoot, Thierry Sofia, Sandra Tallent, Mary L. Tortorello, Erdal U. Tuncan, Purnendu C. Vasavada, Tamara L. Wood, Charles Young and Heidi G. Zanecosky.

New Members: Denise Eblen, Nate Bauer, Dan Belina, Cindy Stewart, Yousef Alsaadi, Yi Chen, Michael Wendorf, Staci DeGeer, Tyler Berg, Patrice Chablain, Joe Meyer, Sa Xu and Robert Tebbs.

Visitors/Guests: Vishnu Patel, Denise Lindsay, Pancita Manalili, Alejandro Rojas, Deana DiCosimo, Anh Nguyen, Stan Bailey and Don Schaffner.

Meeting Called to Order: 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 1, 2010.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Leslie Thompson and Vanessa Cranford.

Old Business:

1. Symposia and Roundtable: The organizers dis-cussed the following symposia and indicated the progress of the speaker presentations.

a. Mon., Aug. 2, p.m.: Less Recognized and Presumptive Pathogens: What Now, What Next? (Organized: Joshua Gurtler, Reginald Bennett and Purnendu Vasavada.)

b. Tues., Aug. 3, a.m.: Significance and Detection of STEC or Non-O157:H7 *E. coli* (Organized: Michael Brodsky and Beatriz Quinones).

c. Tues., Aug. 3, p.m.: Food and Food Environment Test Considerations in View of Changing Regulations (Organized: Jeffrey Kornacki).

d. Wed., Aug. 4, p.m.: Bacterial Toxins: A Past or an Emerging Issue for Food and Beverage Safety? (Organized: Patrice Arbault and Julian Cox).

e. Roundtable Wed., Aug. 4, a.m.: Non-O157 Shiga-toxin producing *E. coli* (STEC) current methodology and method development. (Developed by USDA FSIS and coordinated by the Applied Lab Methods PDG) Aug. 4 from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

2. Sample Prep Update-Mary Lou Tortorello announced that the sample prep white paper was published in 2009 in the *Journal of Food Protection*. The white paper from the meats subgroup is still in progress.

3. Educational Webinars Offered-Vanessa Cranford updated the PDG on a summary of the Webinars that were offered during the past year.

a. The Webinar titled "Use of Predictive Microbiology Information Portal, the USDA-Pathogen Modeling Program and COMBASE" (Vijay Juneja USDA, ARS) had 41 attendants that participated. It discussed the following topics: PMIP <http://portal.arserrc.gov> - a comprehensive Web portal for predictive microbiology that includes food pathogen data, predictive models and other useful information about microbial food safety, ComBase <http://combase.arserrc.gov> - an international database of experimental data on the growth, inactivation and survival of food pathogens, and PMP <http://www.ars.usda.gov/Services/docs.htm?docid=6786> - Pathogen Modeling Program, a stand-alone windows application that can be used to make prediction on the growth, inactivation and survival of food pathogens.

b. The Webinar titled "*Clostridium perfringens* - An Overview, Impact, Current Methods for Detection and Areas of Concern to the Food Industry," (Vijay Juneja USDA, ARS and Keith Schneider, UF) had 34 attendants. It discussed the following topics: an overview of the organism *Clostridium perfringens*, transmission, impact, current methods for detection, and areas of concern to the food industry; including controlling growth during cooling of the cooked foods, USDA regulations, including of less than 1 log increase in case of cooling deviations, and FDA code - timetemp for cooling; the latter part of the presentation would include predictive models for *C. perfringens* applicable to the cooling of cooked products and how these models are developed.

c. The Webinar titled "Campylobacters in Foods and Their Implications for Public Health" (Omar Oyarzabal, Alabama State University) had 48 attendants. It discussed the following topics: Module 1 will present information on the organism and epidemiology in general, Module 2 will present the latest on methods used for isolation, reviewing the protocol from the FDA and the USDA, and Module 3 will present the information on current Regulatory requirements and what may be on the horizon.

4. The upcoming meetings offered by members of the PDG were discussed:

i. Omar Oyarzabal announced the 4th Annual *Campylobacter* Workshop- Alabama State University, Fall 2010.

ii. Purnendu C. Vasavada announced the 30th Food Microbiology Symposium - University of Wisconsin, Oct. 17-20 <http://www2.uwrf.edu/afs-all/institutes/foodmicro/>.

Vanessa thanked the PDG symposia organizers and Webinar participants for their hard work, dedication and commitment to the PDG.

New Business:

It was discussed during the preparation teleconference call in July for the Annual Meeting that the time would be split for discussing topics for development of articles for *Food Protection Trends* and Symposia/Workshop/Roundtable topics.

1. Articles/ Papers:

a. The first paper discussed that the roundtable being held on Wednesday, Aug. 4, would be compiled and developed into a paper.

i. The United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service (USDA FSIS) is trying to identify the most appropriate methodology for non-O157 STEC testing of raw ground beef and manufacturing trim. USDA FSIS will share expectations for method fitness-for-purpose, performance characteristics and method equivalence determination. The goal of this meeting of government scientists, academia, technology companies, and industry is to discuss the capabilities of existing methodologies and the feasibility for implementation of such methods by food testing laboratories.

ii. Denise Eblen, Leslie Thompson and Vanessa Cranford as points of paper.

b. The second paper discussed was pet food testing.

i. Indaue discussed that animal feed methods for both indicator and pathogens should be addressed. She also discussed that the *Salmonella* serotypes that are missed by current methods of detection should be included.

ii. Indaue informed the PDG that pet food is an issue because there are people who are buying pet food to eat.

iii. Julian Cox stated that it is useful to publish hints and tips around methodology even if there are negative findings.

iv. Pat Rule suggested that this could be a 2-3 page paper with general overview of issues and concerns regarding testing.

v. Indaue Mello-Hall and Pat Rule will be points for the development of this paper. Symposia/Workshop/Roundtable:

2. It was shared with the PDG that October 18, 2010 is the deadline for symposia submissions. Therefore, this meeting will be used as a collaboration of ideas and all suggestions discussed will be developed. On the next meeting date, September 17, 2010, the PDG will decide which topics will move forward for final submission to the board. It

was also recommended to use the Annual Meeting for determining what topics were not covered or where there were gaps in the program to focus on topic development.

a. From serotyping to molecular typing of pathogens-characterizing the needle in the haystack. Purnendu Vasavada submitted this topic prior to the meeting and the PDG agreed that this would be a topic of interest.

i. Purnendu Vasavada as point for symposium outline development.

b. Environmental Monitoring Validated Use

i. Pam Wilger discussed this topic on the last PDG call. She also indicated that this symposium will focus on methods available for indicator and pathogens, methods not validated, and sanitizer residue.

ii. Indaue suggested this would be best as a short symposium.

iii. Pam Wilger as point for symposium development.

c. Patrice suggested a symposium on *Campylobacter* for poultry to discuss regulations and methodology.

i. Patrice and Omar as point for symposium.

d. Spoilage microorganisms was a topic suggested to the PDG that could possibly be joint with another PDG.

e. Molly suggested pathogen modeling for limited scope models.

i. Molly as point for outline development.

f. Amy Smith suggested *S. Enteritidis* specifically for methodology of eggs. Dr. Brodsky mentioned that it would be an opportunity to partner with the meat and poultry PDG.

i. Amy Smith as point for outline development.

g. Indaue mentioned that method equivalence is a topic for development and what needs to be addressed for regulatory agencies to accept method.

i. Mark mentioned that what the regulatory agencies are looking for when performing a comparison should be considered.

ii. Nandini discussed that it should cover what are inspectors looking for to validate equivalence.

iii. It was mentioned to the PDG that FERN has methods that has been compared posted to their Web site.

iv. Michael Brodsky will be point for symposia outline.

h. Suitable surrogates was discussed for a symposium.

i. *Microbacterium avium paratuberculosis* (MAP) in milk and feed industry.

ii. Molly to discuss with the Dairy PDG.

i. Antibiotic resistant *Salmonella* and what is on the horizon, it was mentioned that this should be discussed with the Meat and Poultry PDG.

It was agreed that the PDGs next meeting date will remain September 17th for discussing the development of symposia outlines.

Other Business:

It was requested if job postings could be shared with the PDG. Vanessa informed the PDG that IAFP has a job-posting site for sharing any open positions. Omar inquired about the use of the PDG logo for posters. Stan Bailey indicated it would be logistically difficult and the PDG indicated that the posters are not discussed with the PDG. The PDG had a fund raising donation during the meeting and raised \$187.00 for the IAFP Foundation. Pat Rule donated three books that were given to three random names that donated to the IAFP Foundation on behalf of the Applied Laboratory Methods PDG.

The PDG was informed that paid Webinars for \$25 per person are suggested. However, if Webinars were still held for the PDG members for discussion it does not have to be paid. The PDG should also consider increasing visibility of the IAFP brand and that the IAFP 100-year anniversary will be next year and they are looking for 100 food safety tips.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. The PDG recommended that IAFP consider corporate sponsorship or the IAFP Foundation as the source of funding for the Webinars.
2. The PDG recommended having the Applied Laboratory Methods Annual Meeting commence as an afternoon session to enable PDG members to attend other PDG sessions usually scheduled in the morning also.

Next Meeting Date: September 17, 2010.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:04 a.m.

Chairperson: Vanessa Cranford.

