

Food Law PDG

Members Present: DeAnn Benesh (Chair), Christie Gray (Vice Chair), Steven Gendel, Atef Idriss, Tim Jenkins, Shaun Kennedy, Susan Linn, Deon Mahoney, Mark Moorman, Melanie Neumann, Sarah Schober, Jenny Scott, Caroline Smith DeWaal and Gloria Swick-Brown.

Board/Staff Members Present: Don Zink.

New Members: Rishi Banerjee, Christian Blyth, Pam Coleman, Faye Feldstein, Gulu Gwesa, Paul in't Veld, Rajesh Nayak, Nongnuch Promla, Ram Rao, Jeannette Sarac, Angela Shaw, Daniele Sohier, Adisorrn Swetwivathana and Jianmei Zhu.

Visitors/Guests: Brita Ball, Lisa Ruiz, Jeannette Sarac, Marc Scantlin and Adrienne Klijn.

Meeting Called to Order: 9:00 a.m., Sunday, August 3, 2014.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Christie Gray.

Welcome and Introductions:

- Chair DeAnn Benesh called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees. This was followed by individual introductions. The Chair then discussed the anti-trust statement and asked members to sign the attendance sheets.
- Don Zink, Board Liaison, was introduced and provided greetings from the Board. He announced that last year was the largest attendance to date for the meeting and this year IAFP is on track to do the same, if not better. There have been four new affiliates created since last year's meeting. He also indicated that a new exploratory PDG was meeting on Sunday, August 3, "Advanced Molecular Detection Analytics." Don indicated that there has been a 20% increase in exhibitors from last year, which is great news. However, in order to accommodate the increase in exhibitors, next year's meeting in Portland will have to move up one day, with a Saturday start day, rather than the traditional Sunday start day. Don indicated that last year the PDGs held 31 webinars and they were very successful.

Old Business:

IAFP Board Response to 2013 Recommendations:

- Caroline Smith DeWaal brought up the discussion of the white paper series on 7 topics related to FSMA. All 7 of the articles have been completed and there was some discussion about putting the articles together into a booklet that IAFP could have available on their Web site to sell. This would preserve the articles in one place and once the regulations are finalized we would add additional papers to the booklet. Last year a recommendation was made to the Board to get input on who would help publish these articles into a booklet on the Web site without much response. This PDG is seeking assistance on how best to proceed and who would be responsible for actually performing this task.
- Last year this PDG recommended approving Mickey Parrish to the position of Vice-Chair and it was approved. However, he was recently elected to the position of Secretary on the Executive Board and a new Vice-Chair needed to be elected.
- Last year this PDG submitted a list of potential symposia and was approved and moved forward. One symposium "Food Safety or Food Availability: Do We Have to Choose?" was submitted by Tim Jenkins and was chosen by the Program Committee for the 2014 program. It will be held Monday, August 4.

Review of Last Year's Activities:

- DeAnn Benesh indicated that she failed to create a Google group from the previous year. There was a discussion in last year's PDG meeting. She indicated she will investigate further to learn the benefits and determine if it is something that will aid the group in discussions.
- The two White papers "Strengthening Core Elements of Regulatory Systems in Developing Countries" and "Critical Tools for Comparing National Food Safety Programs" are both tied together. Caroline Smith DeWaal indicated that they were approached by Wiley Publishing to publish a book on the first white paper so further discussions will be ongoing with these topics.
 - Hosted 2 webinars this past year: Safe Food for Canadians- Regulatory Framework for Federal Food Inspection.
 - FSMA Proposed Rule for Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food.

New Business:

- Professor Dr. Adisorn Swetwathana of the Faculty Agricultural Industry, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang provided a discussion on food laws in Thailand. He indicated that the Food Act of B.E. 2522 (1979) was the beginning of Food Law in Thailand. Since 2003 there has been a requirement for Good Manufacturing Practice applicable to all domestic and foreign suppliers of 54 food types of products. Importers of covered products must present an equivalent certificate of GMP for factory or plant. Dr. Swetwathana indicated that Thai officials agree that U.S. practices are normally superior to GMP Thai. Therefore they allow any type of statement on imported products indicating that food manufactured under 21 CFR Part 110 would be acceptable if Thai GMP is not followed.
- DeAnn Benesh nominated Tim Jenkins to the position of Vice Chair to start at the 2015 IAFP meeting. It was unanimously approved by the PDG.
- Symposium ideas for 2015:
 - DeAnn Benesh proposed submitting an idea that was submitted several years ago but was not accepted. The title of the proposed symposium is "Regulations, Standardization, Accreditation, Validation, Certification and Verification: What's What?!"
 - Potential speakers: Regulation criteria – Rosa Peran, DGSANCO and Caroline Smith DeWaal, CSPI; Standardization – Paul in't Veld; Accreditation – Roy Betts, Campden BRI; Method Validation/Certification – Daniele Sohier, ADRIA, France.
 - Jenny Scott indicated that it is important that we connect the regulatory portion of the session with the laboratory methods piece of the session.
 - Steve Gendel, along with Isabel Walls proposed a full symposium on how climate change will impact human health. Possible areas of discussion include: how food safety will be affected by climate change; food security issues resulting from climate change; changes in agricultural practices affected by climate change; changes in population movements because of changes in climate change; climate changes causing nutritional changes to food; changes in environment causing increased plant stress and; potential increases in pesticide use on plants. Tim Jenkins suggested that the Fruit & Vegetable PDG may be interested in collaborating on this symposium.
 - Gloria Swick-Brown proposed a short symposium idea which would discuss what happens when no one is following the laws around food. Have speakers discuss the law and the results of not following those laws from a US perspective.

- What are the ramifications? What are the enforcement actions? What legal actions will occur?
 - Another symposium detailing the international system and what is happening in those countries where food laws are not followed was also suggested. Atef Idriss indicated that some international countries do not have a way to penalize people who are not following the law, either because there are not food laws or there is not enough education about what the proper course of action should be. In some countries the science is not available to create the laws and this is why bribery and excessive fees are common ways to bypass the legal system system. In the international community it is important to foster the alliance between the science and the law and build a food safety culture from the ground up.

Additional Business:

- DeAnn Benesh will schedule a meeting in September to discuss symposium ideas.
- DeAnn Benesh was asked to speak at the PDG Chair breakfast to discuss the group's activities.
- Caroline Smith DeWaal suggested having some webinars or talks where FDA can speak to the regulations. Jenny Scott indicated that there will be some supplemental notices coming out and FDA can do webinars discussing those during the public comment periods.
- Atef Idriss asked for some information to be shared and explained concerning FSMA and the requirements. Many folks overseas, particularly those in Africa and the Middle East, are concerned about FSMA and are unclear of the requirements.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Approve Christie Gray as Vice Chair of the Food Law PDG starting at the 2014 IAFP meeting.
2. Approve Tim Jenkins as Vice Chair of the Food Law PDG starting at the 2015 IAFP meeting.
3. Recommend Lester Brown as a speaker for the Ivan Parkin Lecture for next year. He is the author of *Full Planet, Empty Plates: The New Geopolitics of Food Scarcity*, which was released in September 2012.

Next Meeting Date: July 25, 2015.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:23 a.m.

Chairperson: DeAnn L. Benesh.