

Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis PDG

Members Present: Alejandro Amézquita, Yuhuan Chen, Elizabeth N. Williams, Donald W. Schaffner, Robert L. Buchanan, Roger L. Cook, Elena Enache, Faye J. Feldstein, Jeffrey M. Farber, Kathy K. Kordana, Shigenobu Koseki, Anna M. Lammerding, Deon Mahoney, Bradley P. Marks, Deog-Hwan Oh, Salina Parveen, Régis Pouillot, Abani Pradhan, Joe Shebuski, Panagiotis Skandamis, Jeyamkondan Subbiah, Ewen C. D. Todd, Richard C. Whiting and Kisun Yoon.

Board/Staff Members Present: Donald Schaffner.

New Members: Clare Narrod, Tanya Roberts, Barbara Kowalczyk, Arie Havelaar, Duncan Craig, Ben Tall, Erin Headley, Senya Finney, Wendy Fanaselle, M. Evelyn Gutierrez, David Oryang, Craig Thornley, Ganyu Gu, Karin Hoelzer, Wen Wang, Min Li, Xiaoyu Song, Ryan Dias and Nenge Njongmeta.

Visitors/Guests: Lisa Plemons and David Melka.

Meeting Called to Order: 2:02 p.m., Sunday July 22, 2012.

Recording Secretary of Minutes: Yuhuan Chen and Alejandro Amézquita.

Chair Alejandro Amézquita welcomed attendees and introduced new vice chair Yuhuan Chen. This year the PDG also welcomed a new student liaison, Noelia Williams, a graduate student at the University of Maryland. Alejandro invited IAFP Board Liaison Don Schaffner to give remarks.

Report from the Executive Board: Don Schaffner thanked the members for their attendance and involvement in the PDG. Don indicated that IAFP significantly increased the number of webinars and encouraged the MMRA PDG to build on the success from last year and do more webinars as a means of communication. He noted that IAFP is trying several new features for the Annual Meeting including mobile apps and session recording and he asked for feedback from the members to bring to the Board. Don informed the group that IAFP has just finished a Strategic Plan (still being finalized and it may change based upon member input). He encouraged the PDG to align its goals with the Strategic Plan. Don encouraged every attendee to get more involved in the MMRA PDG activities (e.g., by becoming members) and to get in touch with the chair and vice chair to find out more about activities planned throughout the year. He also indicated that IAFP will make selection/appoint members to various special or standing IAFP Committees and those interested in serving should let him know. Don also informed the PDG about the use of Google Groups which are now available for each PDG and encouraged members to make use of this means of communication.

Alejandro reviewed the meeting agenda and called for additional items; there were no additions.

Old Business: Appreciation of past chair Deon Mahoney: Alejandro thanked Deon for his outstanding leadership and service in the two years as chair. Members applauded Deon for all his efforts on behalf of the PDG.

Minutes from the 2011 PDG meeting were tabled for comments or edits. Yuhuan suggested corrections for a typo; the correction was made as suggested. Motion to adopt the minutes from 2011 by Bob Buchanan; second by Dick Whiting. Minutes approved and adopted.

Webinars and other matters arising from 2011 PDG meeting minutes: Alejandro provided a recap for webinars. The PDG conducted successfully two technical webinars. The first was held on 17th January 2012, and it was titled “Assessment of the Microbial Risk of Leafy Greens from Farm to Consumption” open to both MMRA PDG and Fruit & Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG. The webinar featured Don Schaffner from Rutgers University as speaker and it was attended by close to 100 participants. The second webinar was held on 18th April 2012 on the topic of ComBase, latest developments and the new features of the website. This webinar featured József Baranyi from the Institute of Food Research as speaker. More than 50 participants attended. Both webinars were recorded and are available on the IAFFP MMRA PDG Web page.

New Business:

International Committee on Predictive Modelling in Food (ICPMF): Don Schaffner provided a brief overview. ICPMF has been historically a meeting that takes place every two years. In the last meeting in 2011 it was decided to give more structure to the meeting and the Committee was appointed. ICPMF is looking for collaboration with IAFFP. The Committee is planning a conference next year in France. Scope may include predictive modeling (exposure assessment) as well as data collection and definitely risk assessment topics. ICPMF has a scope similar to MMRA PDG and is interested in more collaboration.

Guest speakers: Clare Narrad gave a presentation on JIFSAN and FoodRisk.org. She provided an overview of the JIFSAN programs, through partnerships between University of Maryland and FDA, and partnership and collaboration with industry, consumer and trade groups and international organizations. Clare indicated that demands for food safety and risk analysis training have been increasing due to driving factors such as global supply, consumption patterns, Food Safety Modernization Act and core elements recommended by an Institute of Medicine committee report. Key training programs include risk analysis, Good Agricultural Practices, and international food safety training laboratory which are provided at JIFSAN and in many countries around the world. JIFSAN also hosts the FoodRisk.org Web site and the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium (IRAC) Web site. A number of risk analysis resources are available on www.FoodRisk.org, including risk assessment tools, databases, cost benefit analysis database, interactive risk assessment online catalogue and a food commodity intake database.

During the presentation there was a comment on the lack of integrated monitoring of foodborne illness events around the world and collaborate opportunity. Clare reported that this issue is being addressed in an ongoing project and discussion among JIFSAN, the World Bank, WHO and APEC as part of a capacity building initiative.

Alejandro highlighted several selected Symposia and Technical Sessions of interest to PDG members:

- S4. The Impact of Climate Change on Food Safety: Using Korea as an Example.
- S8. Making a Difference: Data Collection for Risk Assessments through Innovative Approaches.
- S16. Drug Residues in Milk and Milk Products Risk Assessment.
- S28. Long Term Health Outcomes (LTHO) of Foodborne Illnesses and Their Contribution to Risk Assessment and Policy Evaluation.
- T3. Technical Session 3 - Risk Assessment.
- RT4. Zero Risk Policies in a Non-zero Risk Environment.

During the discussion it was emphasized that the PDG had enjoyed good success with the Program Committee accepting two symposia from those submitted by PDG members.

IAFP 2013 symposia – Deadline 16th October 2012: several ideas were suggested and discussed.

- A. Régis Pouillot suggested an idea on integrating risk assessment in policy context. Possible case studies for produce, nuts, how to take risk models and apply them in regulatory practice. Potential outreach to Fruit and Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG.
- B. Barbara Kowalcyk. Data integration to inform policy and decision; connect silo programs and integrate them more fully.

May explore possibly combining ideas A & B.

Bob Buchanan discussed that despite the vast amount of microbial risk assessments (MRA) developed so far industry primarily uses HACCP as the main risk management tool. A symposium on how to use risk assessment tools in industry decision-making and highlighting the relationship between MRA and HACCP would be very beneficial for IAFP members. Possible co-sponsoring a symposium with the Student PDG; point of contact Noelia Williams.

John Bassett (via Alejandro Amézquita): use of omics data in MRA. This could include mechanistic dose-response modeling. Case studies could be used to illustrate the feasibility of such approaches for bacterial and viral pathogens based on some ongoing activities in Europe. Possible outreach to Isabel Walls for mechanistic dose response information from SRA workshop. There was a suggestion that omics information also exists for chemical dose response and can be considered. Another suggestion was to contact ILSI on Key Events Modeling framework.

Ben Tall and David Oryang (with support from Wendy Fanaselle) suggested considering the use of risk assessment approaches to identify level of risk in the specific context of “to harvest or not harvest”, such as using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in risk assessments to inform decision making to maximize harvest safety, e.g., shell fish and produce. Possible outreach to Seafood Safety and Quality PDG and Fruit & Vegetable Safety and Quality PDG.

Ideas for webinars: Roger Cook suggested that symposium proposals that were not selected for the Annual Meeting program can be presented as webinars.

Bob Buchanan: in the context of FSMA: revisit the use of risk management objectives, e.g., Performance Objectives. It was suggested that this webinar would be of interest to the entire IAFP membership (and outside IAFP), so it could be run using the ‘for-fee’ webinar option.

Marcel Zwietering (via Alejandro Amézquita): A webinar based on ILSI Europe document on distributions describing microbial contamination in foods. To be offered to PDG members only (free of charge).

Régis Pouillot: A webinar that focuses on comparing available risk assessment tools ranging from relatively “simple to use”, such as iRISK, to more sophisticated tools would be very useful for PDG members. There was a suggestion for consideration of criteria for evaluating tools that are fit for purpose. Another member emphasized the importance of discussing how to validate the adequacy of a tool. Target audience: PDG members. Speaker to be identified.

A question was raised regarding free webinars vs. charging a fee. Don Schaffner indicated that in general a webinar would be free if it is opened only to PDG members but a nominal fee would apply if participants are from outside the PDG. A discussion about exploring several means for funding webinars was held.

Other Business: Yuhuan reported that the Interagency Risk Assessment Consortium co-organized symposium S8 on innovative approaches to data collection and shared a brochure about IRAC.

Recommendations to the Executive Board:

1. Approve corporate sponsorship for PDG ‘for-fee’ webinars if the PDG secures the sponsorship.
2. Clarification regarding co-sponsoring vs. co-organizing a symposium/workshop/webinar between MMRA PDG and another organization. Is funding required to designate “co-sponsorship” by another organization?

Next Meeting Date: July 28 – 31, 2013, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:45 p.m.

Chairperson: Alejandro Amézquita.