

# International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods

Note to IUMS on ICMSF activities (2015-2016)



## Membership

As of April 2016, ICMSF membership consisted of 15 food microbiologists and related experts from 13 countries, with 5 female and 10 male experts ranging in ages from 49 to 63. ICMSF members' joint professional food safety expertise is wide-ranging, including risk assessment, research, product and process development, public health, agriculture, food technology, food safety management, quality control and education.

## Meetings, Workshops and Projects

ICMSF held its Annual Meeting from 14-23 November 2015 in Tokyo, Japan. Fifteen members attended – one member, Dra. Bernadette Franco, retired; and a new member was elected, Dr. John Donaghy. Work efforts focused on final revisions for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of *Microorganisms in Food 7 – Microbiological Testing in Food Safety Management*, which is anticipated to be published in 2016. Projects for 2016 include a new book on emerging issues on microbiological safety and stability of food, a paper on practical issues on use of microbiological criteria for food, renewal and transition of the ICMSF website to a new host site, and a Q&A document on microbiological sampling for food. Plans are underway for the October 2016 Annual Meeting which is to be held in Penang, Malaysia.

The Commission conducted a workshop on microbiological testing of food on 14-15 November 2015 in the Akasaka-Tameike Tower Hall in Tokyo, in conjunction with its' annual meeting. The workshop focuses on particular chapters from *Microorganisms in Food 8 – Use of Data for Assessing Process Control and Product Acceptance*, in addition to providing speakers to separate meetings of the Japanese Society for Food Microbiology and the Food Safety Commission.

Members of ICMSF continue to participate in important technical FAO/WHO expert meetings and consultations as well as in Codex. For example, on behalf for the Commission, Drs. Leon Gorris and Lucia Anelich contributed comments on the revision of the General Principles for Food Hygiene and its HACCP annex. The Commission also received an invitation to participate in the First Global Meeting of WHO Collaborating Centres on Food Safety and Other Stakeholders, scheduled for May 2016. The Commission's *Microorganisms in Food 8*, which provides recommendations on useful testing to ensure operational control of food safety for various foods has been translated into Chinese, Spanish and Portuguese. The Commission's website has been moved to a new host site and is under revision to update content as well as facilitate functionality for easier maintenance. Once the new site goes live, an updated tool to assess performance of microbiological sampling plans, developed by ICMSF member Dr. Marcel Zwitering, will be available. The public website remains <http://www.icmsf.org/>.

Respectfully submitted,

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