

International Commission on Microbiological Specifications for Foods



Note to IUMS on ICMSF activities in 2017 to 2018

Membership

ICMSF membership consists of 19 experts from 14 countries. The members' joint food safety expertise is wide-ranging, including risk assessment, research, product and process development, public health, agriculture, food technology, food safety management, quality control, education, systems thinking and process engineering.

Meetings and outcomes

Since the last report, August 2017, ICMSF held two annual meetings:

- 2-13 October 2017: Vlaardingen, The Netherlands. Attended by 18 members, including two newly elected members Dr. Roger Cook, Ministry of Primary Industries, New Zealand and Dr. Paul Cook, Food Safety Agency, UK.
- 11-19 October 2018: New Delhi, India. Attended by 15 members and 5 consultants (Dr. Wang Jun, CFSA, China, Dr. Bobby Krishna, Dubai Municipality, Dr. Sarah Cahill, FAO, Rome, Prof. Robert Buchanan, Univ. Maryland, USA; Prof. Bernadette Franco, Univ Sao Paulo, Brazil).

During the 2017 Annual meeting, ICMSF started new work assessing the impact of global megatrends on food safety, with the aim to publish opinion papers and possibly a book on the topic. A workshop entitled *The Role of Food Safety and Stability in Assuring Global Food Security* was held with invited experts in the areas of Food Security and Sustainability to inform the Commission on the relevant megatrends and help scope out the new work. During the 2018 Annual meeting, work on opinion papers and book chapters continued, while also capability building events were held in association with the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the CII-HUL Initiative on Food Safety Sciences (CHIFSS). Along the annual meeting, CHIFSS and ICMSF discussed plans for further collaboration to be firmed up in a MoU and collaborative projects. Past members Bob Buchanan and Bernadette Franco attended both the 2017 and 2018 Annual meeting. The 2019 Annual Meeting is being planned and will focus on the role of water regarding water Food Security and Sustainability.

In April 2018, several ICMSF members organized and presented a well-received workshop on the role of microbiological testing for food safety food safety issues in Beijing. This workshop was co-hosted by the China Institute for Food Science and Technology (CiFST, Beijing) in collaboration with the International Union for Food Science & Technology (IUFOST), the Walmart Food Safety Collaboration Center (Beijing), and the Unilever China Consumer Safety Products Collaboration Center (Shanghai).

Several ICMSF members continued to participate in important technical FAO/WHO expert meetings and consultations, as well as in electronic and physical meetings of Codex Alimentarius Committees and working groups.

The Commission's website has now been moved and completely refurbished. The public website is <http://www.icmsf.org/>. Officers of the commission and contact information can be found on the website. As a modern means of outreach, a suite of 10 short video clips have been established on the topic of useful testing for food safety management and can be found on the ICMSF website under the tab "videos".

Respectfully submitted,

Leon G.M. Gorris
ICMSF Secretary
19 November 2018