

2018 CAFPNA Annual Meeting Report

9/13/2018

By Zengxin Li, President Elect of CAFPNA (2017-2018)

The annual meeting of Chinese Association for Food Protection in North America (CAFPNA) took place on July 9, 2018 in Salt Lake City, UT, during IAFP's 2018 annual meeting. More than 80 members from North America, mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong attended the meeting. Most of the attendees well represented professionals from academia, industry and government, and students from US and International Universities.

Dr. Luxin Wang, the incumbent president of CAFPNA delivered the welcome speech to all the attendees. She summarized the accomplishments that the association had achieved during 2017-2018, and encouraged members to continue their contribution towards food safety arena and developing our association. IAFP Executive Director, Mr. David Tharp followed to also give a warm welcome remark on behalf of IAFP, and appreciated what CAFPNA has accomplished in the last year. He encouraged all attendees to continue to make progress towards professional development and also volunteer to participate in IAFP's programs.

Student committee chair, Hongye Wang from Clemson University then presented 2017-2018 mentors and mentee program, in which enlisted 10 mentees and equal amount of mentors to participate. All the participants felt the program was effective and useful for their career development, knowledge sharing and building professional connections. Best practices were also shared to improve our next year program.

Our featured event in this year annual meeting was the round table discussion, topic as "current trends involving food safety in China and America". We invited experts from academia, industry and government to give their perspective around the topic, the panelist included:

Dr. Zhinong Yan, Executive Director, Walmart Food Safety Collaboration Center, China
Dr. Xiangyu Deng, Assistant Professor, Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia, US
Dr. Li Maria Ma, Associate Professor, National Institute for Microbial Forensics & Food and Agricultural Biosecurity, Oklahoma State University, US
Dr. Guodong Zhang, Research Microbiologist, CFSAN, FDA, US

Panelists faced a set of questions which were submitted by our members prior to the meeting, around hot topics in the forefront of food safety area, including block chain technique, Whole Genome Sequencing, FSMA regulation, etc., and provided valuable insights towards those questions on how those technology and regulation update would be beneficial as to direct research and industry compliance.

We did not hold any election this year during the meeting. The positions of the CAFPNA board were staffed through our board members and officers. Here is the new board of CAFPNA 2018-2019 after the year's annual meeting:

President: **Zengxin (Scott) Li, Rich Products**
President Elect: **Dr. Wen Zou, FDA**
Past President: **Dr. Luxin Wang, UC Davis**
Secretary: **Dr. Guodong Zhang, FDA**
Treasurer: **Zengxin (Scott) Li, Rich Products**
Delegate: **Dr. Luxin Wang, UC Davis**

Lastly, president elect Zengxin Scott Li gave a brief speech about the activities planning for 2018-2019, including continue our education webinar series, mentor-mentee program. He encouraged our member to donate to CAFPNA through membership fee or other contributions, to fund our activities and support students in the association.

This year meeting was a success as we united our existing members, welcomed new friends, and shared our successful stories to enhance our community and association. We look forward to our new journey under upcoming leadership and meeting next year in Kentucky.