**ABOUT THE TASK FORCE**

Foodborne diseases are common, costly, yet preventable public health problems. Several important factors like climate, global trade, the usage of new ingredients and consumer behaviours are changing, and these changes might affect microbial populations in food.

This task force investigates microbial issues in foods that are related to public health risks, via for example microbial risk assessment (MRA). It facilitates the development of and raises awareness of harmonised, science-based approaches to predict and prevent risks, supporting an international dialogue for decision-making by regulators and food industry. The task force critically reviews the existing knowledge on pathogen behaviour and ecology and why they persist.

**WHAT’S NEW?**

**LATEST PUBLICATION**

The publication from Jagadeesan et al. provides guidance on how to use NGS tools for industrial practice.

**EVENTS**

The Task Force will organise the following:

- **Webinar on 'The Integration of Omics in Microbiological Risk Assessment'** is organised jointly by the Task Force together with the IAFP’s Microbial Modelling and Risk Analysis Professional Development Group.


**ACTIVITIES**

**Guidance on Process Validation of Control Measures for Foodborne Pathogens in Foods – Ongoing**

Currently, there are no generic protocols which could guide manufacturers and ensure that all relevant aspects are considered, when undertaking a validation. The expert group aims to develop a practical and easy to use protocol for validation studies which will help to control food borne pathogens in various food matrices during processing and manufacturing. The expert group will review and outline experimental designs to validate control measures. Furthermore, the invited experts will identify target pathogens for products and processes. It is also intended to explain the key necessary steps/considerations to perform a successful validation.

**The Use of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS): Translation into Practice – Completed**

Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) tools are fast evolving techniques, which are already applied in many different fields spanning from epidemiology, outbreak investigations, antimicrobial resistance, ecology and evolution of microorganisms. However, there is a lack in communication and understanding on how NGS tools are being used and interpreted by regulators to investigate food safety incidents. This expert group aimed to provide guidance on how to use NGS tools for industrial practice. Since the issue is not solely European, this activity is a collaboration with other ILSI branches; ILSI North America, ILSI Southeast Asia Region and ILSI Japan.
Control Options for Viruses in Food Processing – COMPLETED

Viruses are frequent and, probably, the most under-recognised cause of foodborne illnesses. Unfortunately, viruses are quite resistant to many treatments used in food processing. The experts will review and summarise the control options for viruses in different food processing systems, collect published prevalence data on viruses in one place and evaluate data/knowledge gaps which need to be considered in order to determine specific performance objectives for viruses in foods.

EU PROJECT – COMPLETED
EFFORT – Ecology from Farm to Fork Of microbial drug Resistance and Transmission

The EFFORT project provided scientific evidence and high quality data that will inform decision-makers, the scientific community and other stakeholders about the consequences of AMR in the food chain. ILSI Europe is involved as a scientific and dissemination partner. The final EFFORT conference was held on 26-28 November 2018 in Utrecht, NL.

Recent Publications


All publications available on our website: www.ilsi.eu. For more information on ILSI Europe’s activities, don’t forget to follow us on Twitter @ILSI_Europe and connect with us on LinkedIn.

Contact
Mr Elias Rito
Scientific Project Manager
erito@ilsieurope.be
Tel. (+32) 2 775 91 21

ILSI Europe
Avenue E. Mounier 83, Box 6
BE – 1200 Brussels
BELGIUM

Scan the QR code for more information on ILSI Europe