



Research Advisory Committee

The Foundation for Meat and Poultry Research and Education (Foundation) Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is comprised of members from industry, academia and government officials. This group meets periodically throughout the calendar year to develop meat and poultry research priorities which serve as the basis for the Foundation's research agenda and also communicates the areas of greatest research needs to the government, public and interested stakeholders.

Committee Staff Liaison

KatieRose McCullough, Ph.D., MPH

Committee Structure:

The Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is made up of four subgroups across minimally processed (fresh) meat and poultry safety, further processed meat and poultry safety, nutrition sciences and product quality. The minimally processed safety subgroup is further divided by species due to specific research priorities and needs. Subgroup members can be a part of the broader RAC (see figure). The RAC also serves in an advisory capacity to recommend and direct post-harvest beef safety and processed beef nutrition research under the Foundation's Beef Board authorization request.

Each subgroup of the RAC will convene separately via conference call to identify research priorities and recommend topics for inclusion in the request for proposals (RFP). The RAC will take all recommendations into consideration as it finalizes the RFP for distribution to the research community. Pre-proposals submitted in response to the RFP will be reviewed by the appropriate subgroup(s). Select proposals will be recommended for a more comprehensive submission. The RAC will review the submissions and make recommendations for funding to the Foundation Board of Directors.

During the proposal reviews, any subgroup or RAC members with a potential conflict of interest will be asked to step off the conference call to ensure a clear separation of the proposal review.

Committee Composition:

Packer Processors: Meat and poultry industry experts in each subgroup area are invited to participate.

Industry Suppliers: Up to seven industry suppliers may serve on the broader RAC. Participation is limited to one representative per company with an initial term of one year.

Academic/Allied Stakeholder/Government Representatives: Academics, allied stakeholders and government representative participation on the RAC and subgroups is by invitation only. Terms are for two years.

Committee Communication:

Correspondence with the RAC is conducted via e-mail. Meetings are typically held via conference call. In person participation is encouraged at the meeting where final funding recommendations are made as it fosters greater stakeholder engagement but a conference line is available.

Committee Meetings and Commitments:

Meetings are held via conference call. Committee engagement is on a yearly cycle. The typical format follows.

April/May – Subgroups meet to identify research priorities (Typical call length - 1 hour)

May/June – RAC meets to review research priorities and finalize request for proposals.

July – Request for proposals distributed to research community, typically due in August.

September –Subgroups meet to review and recommend more comprehensive proposals from selected researchers (Typical call length - 2 hours).

December – RAC meets to review and make funding recommendations for the Foundation’s Board of Directors (Typical call length - 3 hours)

If necessary, the option exists for a similar process on an expedited schedule in order to fill high priority research needs/gaps.

Committee Structure Figure

