GFORSS | GLOBAL FOOD REGULATORY SCIENCE SOCIETY

Board of Director Meeting

19 May 2026

07:00 AM Quebec City

Zoom Meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85667143136?pwd=THKG6aOrwMeo8vxoRhAXkb1OVu0HsY.1

Meeting ID: 856 6714 3136

Passcode: 634935

PARTICIPANTS

Name	Present	Regrets
Mr. Kaushik Banerjee	☐	☐
Ms. Pamela Byrne	☐	☒
Mr. Junshi Chen	☒	☐
Ms. Zeineb El Bouchikhi	☒	☐
Mr. Hadi El-Alem	☐	☒
Mr. Samuel Godefroy	☒	☐
Ms. Ruba Goussous	☒	☐
Ms. Wiem Guissouma	☒	☐
Ms. Nuri Gras	☐	☒
Ms. Joyce Haddad	☐	☐
Mr. Shrinivas Joshi	☒	☐

Mr. Hakim Mufumbiro	☒	☐
Mr. Greg Paoli	☒	☐
Mr. Pingfan Rao	☐	☒
Mr. Christopher Worrell	☒	☐

PROPOSED AGENDA

Item	*Participants*
A. **Review of the Agenda**	*All*
B. **Opening Remarks**	*Prof. S. Godefroy*
C. **Approval of the Board meeting on 21 April 2026 Record of Discussion**	*All*
D. **Action Items from Previous Board Meeting(s)**	*S. Godefroy – All*
E. **Discussion of a Members Benefits Package**	*S. Godefroy, All*
F. **Introduction of a New Partnership with Agilent Technologies**	*S. Godefroy and A. Kassouf*
G. **Upcoming Initiatives – Proposed Areas of Work:** a. **Training in Risk Assessment – CAHFSA** b. **Training / Support to Food Standards Development – EAC – East African Community**	*S. Godefroy*
H. **Reports on Food Innovation-Related Interventions**	*S. Godefroy and M. Sultan*
I. **Upcoming Events – In Support of Gluten and Food Allergen Management**	*S. Godefroy and A. Kassouf – Science team*
J. **Financial Updates and Partnership / Arrangements with ULaval's Platform of Food Risk Analysis and Regulatory Excellence (PARERA)**	*G. Paoli and S. Godefroy*
K. **Adjournment**	*All*

MEETING DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS

A- Review and Adoption of the Agenda

The Chair reviewed the proposed agenda and informed Board members that Item J would be deferred to a future Board meeting. It was further noted that an Extraordinary Board Meeting may be convened to review the 2025 financial statements once finalized.

The Chair acknowledged ongoing efforts to balance organizational development initiatives with operational requirements and thanked members for their continued support.

The agenda, as amended, was approved following a motion by Dr. Wiem Guissouma and seconded by Dr. Zeineb El Bouchikhi. No objections were raised.

B- Approval of the Record of Decisions of the 21 April 2026 Board Meeting

The Board reviewed the Record of Decisions from the meeting held on 21 April 2026.

The Chair highlighted that the principal decision arising from that meeting was the approval in principle of relocating the GFoRSS headquarters from Quebec to Ontario.

No amendments were proposed.

The Record of Decisions was approved following a motion by Mr. Greg Paoli and seconded by Dr. Zeineb El Bouchikhi.

C- Follow-up on Action Items from Previous Meetings

The Chair provided an update on action items arising from previous Board meetings.

➢ **Working Groups**

The Board reviewed the status of the three approved Working Groups:

A. Communication Strategy Working Group (WG)

- Chaired by Dr. Elie Bou Yazbeck (GFoRSS Communications Team).
- Dr. Shrinivas Joshi agreed to serve as WG Co-Chair.
- WG members include Dr. Pamela Byrne, Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Dr. Christopher Worrell, and Dr. Zeinab El Bouchikhi.

B. Operations and Policy Working Group

- Co-chaired by Prof. Samuel Godefroy and Mr. Greg Paoli.
- WG members include Dr. Ruba Goussous, Dr. Hakim Mufumbiro and Dr. Nuri Gras

C. Education and Capacity Building Working Group

- Chaired by Dr. Pamela Byrne.
- WG members include Prof. Samuel Godefroy, Dr. Hakim Mufumbiro, Dr. Shrinivas Joshi, Dr. Wiem Guissouma, Dr. Kaushik Banerjee, Dr. Nuri Gras, Mr. Greg Paoli, and Dr. Mustafa Sultan

The Chair encouraged Working Group Chairs to begin operationalizing their respective groups and developing work plans without delay.

➢ **Quebec Regulatory Compliance**

The Chair reminded Board members of the requirement to provide updated contact information and government-issued identification documents to ensure compliance with provincial reporting requirements in Quebec while the organization remains legally registered there.

Board members were informed that Quebec regulatory authorities now require additional information regarding directors of non-profit organizations, including proof of identity and complete addresses.

Members were requested to provide the required documentation promptly to facilitate completion of regulatory filings.

D- Discussion of the GFoRSS Members Benefits Package

The Board revisited the Members Benefits Package introduced at the previous Board meeting.

The Chair emphasized the need to provide tangible value to members while maintaining the organization's commitment to open access and inclusivity. It was reiterated that no membership fees are currently planned.

Key proposals discussed included:

Development of Thematic and Regional Networks

The Board discussed positioning GFoRSS as a "network of networks" by facilitating:

- Thematic networks (e.g., Risk Assessment, Risk-Based Inspection, Food Innovation, Contaminants, Toxicology).
- Regional professional networks.
- Member-led communities of practice supported by GFoRSS administrative infrastructure.

The objective would be to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional networking among food regulatory scientists worldwide.

Members-Only Resources Portal

The Board considered establishing a members-only online portal containing:

- Technical tools,
- Survey instruments,
- Regulatory science resources,
- Methodological guidance documents,
- Risk assessment and inspection tools.

It was emphasized that this initiative would focus primarily on improving organization and accessibility of resources rather than restricting access to publicly available knowledge.

Fellowship Programme

The Board discussed the creation of a GFoRSS Fellowship Programme to recognize outstanding contributions to food regulatory science.

Discussion points included:

- Establishment of eligibility criteria,
- Peer recognition mechanisms,
- Governance structures and review processes,
- Maintaining the prestige and credibility of the Fellowship designation,
- Potential limits on the number of Fellows relative to total membership.

The Board agreed that the Fellowship Programme could become a significant professional recognition mechanism within the global food regulatory science community.

Scholarships and Educational Support

The Board discussed the possibility of establishing scholarship and tuition-support mechanisms for members pursuing professional development and continuing education opportunities.

It was agreed that implementation would depend on the availability of financial resources and external funding.

Board Decision

Following discussion, the Board unanimously endorsed:

1. Continued development of the Members Benefits Package;
2. Immediate prioritization of the GFoRSS Fellowship Programme;
3. Exploration and future development of a GFoRSS Scholarship Programme.

The motion was proposed by Dr. Wiem Guissouma and seconded by Dr. Zeineb El Bouchikhi, adopted unanimously.

E- Partnership Opportunity with Agilent Technologies

The Chair introduced a proposed partnership agreement between GFoRSS and Agilent Technologies.

The Board was informed that:

A. Agilent Technologies had agreed to provide GFoRSS with access to a high-value LC-ICP-MS/MS analytical instrument under a lending arrangement.
B. The equipment would be hosted at Université Laval under GFoRSS oversight.
C. The instrument would support:
    - Food contaminants research,
    - Exposure assessment studies,
    - Method development and validation,
    - Capacity-building and training activities,
    - Graduate student research projects.

The Board unanimously endorsed proceeding with the partnership agreement.

The motion was proposed by Dr. Christopher Worrell and seconded by Dr. Ruba Goussous.

F- Update on Proposed Capacity-Building Initiatives

The Board received updates on two major funding proposals recently submitted by GFoRSS:

Caribbean Food Risk Assessment Capacity Building Programme

A proposal was submitted to support a multi-tiered food risk assessment training programme for the Caribbean region in collaboration with regional partners.

The programme would include:

- Online foundational training,
- Regional workshops,
- Advanced applied training,
- Practical project implementation activities.

Board members welcomed the initiative and highlighted the importance of strengthening scientific and laboratory capacity in the Caribbean region.

East African Community Standards Support Initiative

A second proposal was submitted through the International Trade Centre (ITC) to support modernization of food standards within the East African Community (EAC).

The initiative would focus on strengthening technical capacities and supporting standards development activities within the region.

G- Food Innovation Regulatory Science Initiatives

The Board received an update on GFoRSS activities supporting innovation-ready food regulatory systems.

The Chair highlighted ongoing work initiated through collaboration with:

- China National Center for Food Safety Risk Assessment (CFSA),
- IUFoST,
- Codex Coordinating Committee for Asia (CCASIA).

The initiative seeks to:

- Improve regulatory readiness for food innovation,
- Develop guidance for assessment of novel ingredients,
- Promote harmonized approaches to health claims evaluation,
- Facilitate regulatory cooperation across Asia.

Board members were informed of the successful Food Innovation Think Tank held in Hong Kong and the launch of the broader “Asia Innovation-Ready Food Regulatory Systems Initiative.”

The Board also received an update on the African Food Regulatory Authorities Forum (AFRAF) Food Innovation Working Group, which will launch its activities through a regional event in Cairo, Egypt in June 2026.

Prof. Junshi Chen highlighted the strategic importance of supporting innovation while ensuring robust scientific evaluation of safety and health claims.

H- Celiac Disease, Food Allergens and Codex Activities

The Board received an update on recent developments related to food allergen management and celiac disease.

The Chair informed members that:

- Codex Committee on Food Labelling (CCFL) had advanced important work on precautionary allergen labelling.
- Adoption of new Codex texts may trigger future regulatory updates in multiple jurisdictions.
- GFoRSS will continue supporting dissemination of scientific and regulatory information related to allergen management and gluten-free foods.

The Board was informed of:

- Upcoming regional activities in collaboration with the Lebanese Celiac Association,
- Planned webinars with Food Allergy Canada and Celiac Canada,
- Future training activities focused on regulatory and laboratory aspects of allergen management.

I- Other Updates

The Chair informed the Board that GFoRSS had formally submitted its application for Observer Status with Codex Alimentarius.

The application package was prepared by the GFoRSS operations team and submitted to the Codex Secretariat for consideration.

The Chair expressed confidence that GFoRSS meets the eligibility requirements and noted that observer status would strengthen the organization's ability to contribute directly to Codex activities.

J- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned following a motion by Dr. Ruba Goussous and seconded by Dr. Shrinivas Joshi.

The meeting concluded at approximately 8:30 AM (Quebec time).