



PROGRAM NEWS

SPADA biological threat agents working groups draft documents ready for comments

On August 13, AOAC's Stakeholder Panel on Agent Detection Assays (SPADA) will meet to review draft documents from its working groups on bacterial strain verification, in-silico analysis, and soil testing. All with an interest in biological threat agents are encouraged to [comment on the draft documents](#) before the deadline of July 12 and [attend the meeting](#) at AOAC headquarters in Rockville, Maryland, 9am to 5pm.

AOAC INTERNATIONAL at IFT: A cannabis & CBD primer

Analyzing cannabis and CBD samples can be challenging. From setting up a laboratory to developing methods, even experienced chemists can struggle to ensure standard operating procedures consistent with state and country regulations.

In early June, AOAC's Executive Director Dave Schmidt joined Toby Astill of PerkinElmer at the Institute of Food Technologists IFT19 meeting in New Orleans to introduce AOAC's Cannabis Analytical Science Program (CASP) and give an overview of the scientific topics, resources and processes behind ensuring safety and compliance of cannabis edibles. More than 120 attendees with many questions attended the session, and several sought advice and information to connect to our CASP initiative.

CASP experts testify at FDA public hearing

Consumers have a right to safe cannabis and cannabis-derived products that are free of pathogens. That was the message that Patrick Bird, Chair of AOAC's CASP Microbiology in Cannabis and Hemp Working Group, delivered to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cannabis task force at a public hearing on May 31, 2019.

The hearing, *Scientific Data and Information about Products Containing Cannabis or Cannabis-Derived Compounds*, was held on May 31 to inform the FDA about cannabis and cannabis-derived products, especially with regards to CBD in dietary supplements and other foods.

Susan Audino, Chair of the CASP Chemical Contaminants in Cannabis and Hemp Working Group, testified that the media frenzy around CBD-based products is rapidly expanding the use of unregulated substances that people are ingesting without clear indication of known benefits or risks, and that consumers are at greatest risk from negligent laboratory testing activity.

Bird and Audino were joined at the hearing by AOAC's Scott Coates, CASP Program Lead. Coates described the CASP program and observed that label claim accuracy for CBD products is a major issue, that reference methods are needed for label claim accuracy of CBD products, and that CASP is a tool to address this critical deficiency.

2019 ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 6-12 IN DENVER

Save up to 25% on the Annual Meeting with Early Bird pricing

Early Bird rate for the Annual Meeting ends July 25--[Register now!](#)

With more than 850 attendees from more than 39 countries worldwide representing industry, government and academia, the [AOAC Annual Meeting](#) is a unique opportunity to build professional networks and learn the latest science.

This year's meeting includes 29 scientific sessions, more than 250 poster presentations, AOAC Stakeholder panel and working group meetings, "AOAC Spotlight" short talks, multiple networking receptions, and sixty exhibitors, including influential businesses and government agencies.

NEW: Training courses at the Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for three training courses immediately before and after the Annual Meeting in Denver. Enrollment is limited--[Register now](#) to reserve your space!

- AOAC/A2IA ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Bridging the Gap from 2005 (MS 110) [Learn more >](#)
- Guidance on Obtaining Defensible Test Portions: Subsampling for Analytical Laboratories [Learn more >](#)
- AOAC Laboratory Validation Course [Learn more >](#)

Get ready for the Annual Meeting

- [Present a Poster](#) within one of the twelve topic areas--Abstract deadline is July 16.
- First time poster presenter? [Compete your poster in the Fourth Annual Contest for First-Time AOAC Poster Presenters](#). Act now--at least one author must pre-register for the Annual Meeting by July 8.
- [Book your room](#) at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel early--space is limited.
- Learn about [dining](#), [shopping](#), and [site-seeing](#) in Denver.

SECTION SPOTLIGHT

Highlights of the Midwest Section 38th Annual Meeting and Exposition

The AOAC Midwest Section held their 38th Annual Meeting and Exposition May 20-22. Ninety-one members gathered in Des Moines, Iowa, to attend this year's conference that included more than 20 presentations ranging in topics from Feed Analysis, Reference Material Preparation, Measurement Uncertainty, and ISO 17025 accreditation.

In addition, 30 vendors (13 booths) were present to showcase their latest technologies from sample prep and analysis. There was also a full day of presentations dedicated to the regulation and analysis of hemp and cannabis which generated significant interest.

At the meeting, Tony Lupo of Neogen represented the AOAC Board, presenting an update on the strategic plan of the organization, the Analytical Solutions Forum, and the most recent initiatives of CASP, Food Authenticity, and Furans.

INSIDE AOAC

AOAC member ballot opens in two weeks

Every year, our members help build the future of AOAC INTERNATIONAL by casting their votes for strong and effective AOAC leadership. The 2019 ballot will be open from July 8 to August 29. In addition to weighing in on the new leadership, members will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed new membership structure designed to create even more value for membership, encourage member engagement, and ensure the organization's fiscal health into the future. Please be on the lookout on July 8 for an email with your personal ballot instructions, and for emails with details on new membership tiers and pricing.

AOAC seeking co-editor for AOAC Journal's Food Composition Section

The AOAC Editorial Board is seeking a co-section editor for the Food Composition and Additives/Infant Formula and Adult Nutritional section of the *Journal of AOAC INTERNATIONAL*. This individual will assist the current section editor in managing and evaluating the peer review of manuscripts in the section, which encompass basic and applied research in the analytical sciences related to foods, submitted worldwide from federal and state regulatory agencies, industry, and academia.

Appointed for an initial one-year term, renewable on annual basis by the Editorial Board, the co-editor will assess submitted manuscripts by selecting appropriate technical reviewers and then evaluating the reviews and subsequent author revisions. The candidate will have final decision on acceptance or rejection of all manuscripts which they have been assigned.

Candidates will also be encouraged to recruit writers and review articles, and write, on occasion, editorial material pertinent to current issues of the section.

For more information, or to volunteer for the position as co-editor of the *Journal's* Food Composition section, contact Jennifer Diatz, director of publications, at jdiatz@aoac.org, or call 301-924-7077, extension 107.

Letter from the Director: Honoring Bob Rathbone's 31 years of service

I am honored to announce the retirement of [Bob Rathbone](#). In his work as Senior Director of Publications and many other roles, Bob is completing one of the most distinguished staff tenures in our history and has contributed his editorial acumen and agricultural science knowledge to advance AOAC's mission.

Bob joined AOAC in 1987 as Managing Editor of the Journal of AOAC, and has seen the organization evolve from a modest operation focused primarily on the *Official Methods of Analysis*SM into today's dynamic, internationally recognized standards-setting body. Bob helped guide projects like the National Institutes of Health/AOAC Dietary Supplements effort that produced 15-20 fully validated methods and spurred AOAC's expansion to include SMPRs, Expert Review Panels, Working Groups, and multi-lab studies.

Bob's responsibilities at AOAC are passing to Jennifer Diatz, who will be Director of Publications effective July 1, and to Dawn Frazier, Senior Director. Bob's last day is June 28th. I encourage those who have worked with him to reach out to Bob at riathbone@aoac.org before he starts his post-AOAC adventures.

Dave Schmidt
Executive Director
AOAC INTERNATIONAL

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