

# Latin American-Caribbean Section Revitalized

In an effort to reinvigorate the Latin American-Caribbean Section, members have elected a new executive board (see sidebar) and are starting to plan for the Section's next meeting in April 2010.

"We are excited that the Section is active and working again," said Maria Cristina Fernandez, University of Buenos Aires, secretary of the Latin American-Caribbean Section. "Our goals include increasing scientific research and knowledge in quantitative and qualitative analyses, contributing to the health of the region's population, and facilitating trade in Latin America and other parts of the world."

The Section is interested in official analytical methods for raw materials and finished products of significance to the region and for the benefit of public health, the environment, and international trade. Efforts also include examining the current situation of the region to exchange ideas and begin organizing training courses and other events relevant to the Section.

Members agree that communication is key to an active Section. Thus, to continue to move the work of the Section forward, members will provide the platform for improving communications among analytical scientists in Latin America and the rest of the world. It is also

agreed that the foods and feed industry, human and animal health industries, and global environmental sustainability are areas of interest in which the Latin American-Caribbean Section

can explore opportunities where analytical methods are needed. ■

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## Latin American-Caribbean Section Announces New Board Officers

Congratulations to the following new board officers of the Latin American-Caribbean Section's Executive Committee, who were elected in September 2008 at the Section's business meeting in Dallas, Texas, USA:

President: **Juan Carlos Medina**, Nutek S.A. de C.V., Mexico

President-Elect: **Nuri Gras**, Labser, Ltda., Chile

Secretary: **Maria Cristina Fernandez**, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Treasurer: **Rodrigo Granja**, Microbioticos, Brazil

## Europe Section Workshop

*Continued from page 20.*

a member of your local Section? Contact Liz Cribbin, program manager, Sections Program, at [lcribbin@aoac.org](mailto:lcribbin@aoac.org) and join now. For more information, be sure to check out "Sections" on the AOAC Web site at [www.aoac.org](http://www.aoac.org) or see the Sections calendar on page XXX. ■

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Special thanks to the Portuguese Pharmaceutical Society facilities at the University of Lisbon.

# NIH Office of Dietary Supplements Invites Public Comment

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Office of Dietary Supplements (ODS) is seeking comments from the public on its programs and goals as it prepares to revise its current 5-year strategic plan for 2010-2014. ODS welcomes the public's participation to identify both new opportunities and emerging needs for incorporation in its programmatic efforts.

The mission of ODS is to strengthen knowledge and understanding of dietary supplements by evaluating scientific information, stimulating and supporting research, disseminating research results, and educating the public to foster an enhanced quality of life and health for the U.S. population.

"Working in collaboration with others is an important part of our operation," says Paul M. Coates, ODS Director. "We look forward to receiving your comments on the issues, initiatives, and priorities of ODS."

ODS is accepting comments through **March 31, 2009**. For more information about how to participate in the ODS planning process, visit the Web site <http://ods.od.nih.gov/strategicplan>. ■

AOAC recently extended its dietary supplements initiative in support of a new contract with NIH-ODS to validate methods urgently needed for dietary supplement ingredients. Drawing on the same network of experts and processes used in the original contract, AOAC is currently working with the Ingredient Ranking Subgroup to prioritize ingredients of high interest. Stay tuned for future coverage in the ILM.