

AOAC Sections Program:

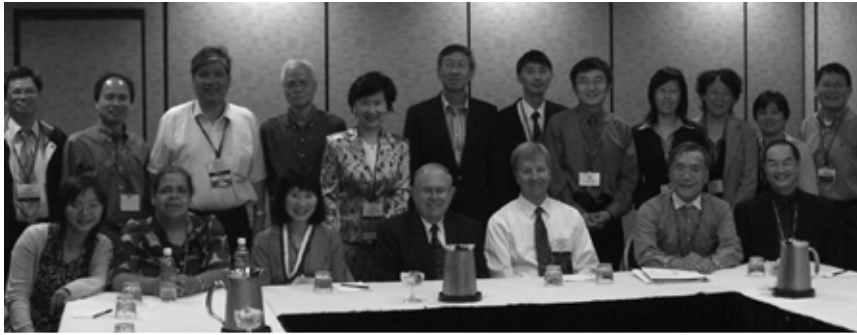
A 'Bridge' from AOAC to Worldwide Analytical Communities

AOAC Sections generated much buzz at the 122nd Annual Meeting and Exposition in Dallas, Texas, USA. Members may have heard about the newly formed Thailand Section, whose first meeting and technical workshop in June boasted more than 300 attendees (see page XXX). Or perhaps members heard about the Latin American-Caribbean Section that held its business meeting in Dallas, where more than 20 members worked to reinvigorate the Section. And they did just that—members were busy electing a new executive board and starting to plan for the Section's next meeting in April 2010.

The Japan and Taiwan Sections also held business meetings in Dallas. Chaired by Lucy Sun Hwang of the National Taiwan University and president of the Taiwan Section, the meeting hosted many newcomers to the Section. Hardy Chou of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration was recognized for his contribution in establishing the Section in 2001.



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Above: Taiwan Section holds Business Meeting at the 122nd AOAC Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, USA.

Right: Hardy Chou (right) of the FDA was instrumental in establishing the AOAC Taiwan Section in 2001. On behalf of the Section, Lucy Sun Hwang, Section president, recognizes his contribution.



"Since the establishment of the first AOAC Section in 1981 [Pacific Northwest Section], Sections have been a solid fixture in AOAC and are a hardworking community," says Liz Cribbin, program manager, Sections Program. "Not only do they provide valuable opportunities for professional development and networking at the local level, but they also provide AOAC an opportunity to access analytical communities around the world. And, in return, these communities have access to AOAC." In fact, at the Committee on Sections meeting in Dallas, a representative from China remarked that she views her Section as a "bridge" to AOAC for scientists in her country who are unable to travel to the Annual Meeting.

Indeed, the AOAC Annual Meeting provided a forum for Sections as representatives from the China, Japan,

Latin American-Caribbean, Mid-Canada, Taiwan, Thailand, as well as the American Midwest, Mid-Atlantic, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest Sections came together to celebrate their successes and examine analytical challenges specific to their Section. During the roundtable discussion, led by Socrates Trujillo (U.S. Food and Drug Administration and chair of the AOAC Committee on Sections), participants shared their experiences in conducting meetings and developing an active and committed membership base.

Well-established Sections have honed their meeting planning to what one committee member called a "formula." Indeed, Section meetings that include a technical program featuring traditional and hot topics, a dynamic exposition of vendors and sponsors showcasing the latest in research and

technology, and social events that spur networking opportunities typically draw the most attendees. Taking this cue, the Mid-Canada Section hosted a popular brewery tour this year, and the Midwest Section held its annual golf tournament (in spite of some chilly Montana weather).

An exciting venue doesn't hurt either.

The Europe Section will meet in Paris next fall, while the Pacific Southwest Section has chosen Sonoma Valley for its venue in April 2009.

Great programs are ahead in the coming year. If you are not already involved in your local Section, or if you are interested in attending one of the upcoming Section meetings, be sure to check out "Sections" on the AOAC Web site at www.aoc.org for more information, or see the Sections calendar on page XXX. And keep an eye out in future issues of ILM for more updates on AOAC Sections. ■

—Liz Cribbin
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About AOAC Sections

AOAC encompasses 14 Sections worldwide, representing three continents and over 35 countries outside of the United States. Each Section holds meetings throughout the year, which feature technical presentations by leading local and national experts. Sections provide opportunities for sharing information, networking with other professionals, expanding leadership skills, and gaining practical management experience.

Not a member of your local Section? Contact Liz Cribbin, program manager, Sections Program, at lcribbin@aoac.org and join now.

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