

Pacific Northwest Section Annual Meeting Focuses on Data Defensibility and Generating Quality Results

The AOAC Pacific Northwest Section continues to be highly active, hosting on June 18–19, 2008, the Section’s 28th Annual Meeting in Tacoma, Washington, USA. Focused on “Data Defensibility and Generating Quality Results,” the meeting featured speakers who are experts in their field, in-depth seminars, and other training events. Diverse topics included dietary supplements, marine and freshwater toxins, and food safety and security.

“The annual meeting provides a forum for exchange of ideas and exhibiting state-of-the-art research and technology,” said Yash Kalra, Canadian Forest Service and chair of the Section. “We endeavor to organize a meeting that best serves

the needs and interests of the attendees. Lately, we have also coordinated with analytical communities as international partners and with local partners such as the Washington State Public Health Laboratory to increase the scope of what we can offer.”

Attendees came from universities; federal, state, and provincial research stations; private laboratories; and government agencies, representing a broad array of interests and disciplines. Held in conjunction with the Rapid Test Workshop (see page 14), the annual meeting drew workshop attendees from Europe and Africa.

Led by Kalra, the meeting featured a solid and diverse technical program



Carlos Abeyta, Jr. (past chair) and Yash Kalra (chair).

of relevance to the analytical communities, regulators, researchers, and industry. Keynote presentations included Evolution and Revolution in Analytical Science—from the Bible to Alchemy to Single

Molecule Detection (Gary D. Christian, University of Washington), Critical Aspects for Successful ELISA Development (Lyn R. Briggs, AgResearch), National Institutes of Health (NIH)/Office of Dietary Supplements Analytical Methods and Reference Materials Program for Dietary Supplements: Accomplishments and Future Directions (Joseph M. Betz, NIH), Micro-Total Analytical Systems and Other Field-Capable Platforms: Challenges and Considerations (Victoria VanderNoot, Sandia National Laboratory), Tales from the Trenches—The Spinach Outbreak 2006 (Linda Guthertz, California Department of Health), and Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning Toxin Detection in Human Urine and Serum: 2007 Outbreak (Stacey Etheridge, FDA, and Mark

About the Pacific Northwest Section

The Pacific Northwest Section was the first Section established by AOAC INTERNATIONAL. Indeed, the Section’s annual meeting has been a tradition in the Pacific Northwest since the Section was founded in 1981. For years, the Section has been committed to serving as a primary resource for timely exchange of knowledge, networking, and high-quality laboratory information for scientists from the Northwest. The Section includes four states (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) and two provinces in Canada (Alberta and British Columbia). In recent years, members of the Section have reached out beyond their own region and welcomed many guests from other North American locations and from afar, becoming more international both in keynote speeches and attendees.

The 2007–2008 Pacific Northwest Executive Committee includes Yash P. Kalra (chair), James Hungerford (chair-elect), Carlos Abeyta, Jr. (past chair), Mike Grant (treasurer), Fred Krick (treasurer), and Nancy Hill (secretary).

Special thanks to the members of the Planning Committee for the 28th Annual Meeting: Carlos Abeyta, Jr., Roy Araki, Don Bark, Sharon Brunelle, Sue Coffey, Vinod Gaur, Mike Grant, Nancy Hill, Jerry Hirsch, Jinxin Hu, James Hungerford, Yash P. Kalra, Fred Krick, Jennifer Lui, Heidi Marks, Mike Owen, Virginia Palomo, Edgar Paski, Marshall Pattee, Josephine Pompey, and Steve Reimer. ■

Poli, USAMRIID). In addition, papers were presented in the following seminars: Soil and Environmental Chemistry; Microbiology; Marine and Freshwater Toxins and Seafood Contaminants; Quality Assurance for the Chemistry Laboratory; and Chemical Analysis of Industrial Contaminants, Pesticide Residues, and Alkaloids.

New to this year's meeting was the Poster Session, highlighting the latest scientific research in different fields: Botanicals and Dietary Supplements; Detection and Measurement of Natural Toxins; Emerging Issues in Food Safety and Security; Feeds, Fertilizers, and Related Agricultural Topics; Food Nutrition and Food Allergens; Microbiological Reference Methods; Pharmaceutical Analysis; Authenticity and Safety; General Analytical Methods; Quality Assurance and Accreditation; Seafood Toxins; Environmental

Microbiology/Chemistry; Clinical Microbiology/Chemistry; Molecular Biology; and Physical Sciences. The Poster Session was held in conjunction with the Vendor Expo (an exhibition of scientific equipment, supplies, and services).

Other highlights of the meeting featured banquet speaker David Fyfe, who discussed Shellfish and the Treaty Tribes of Washington State: Fisheries History-in-the-Making. Training workshops included Validation and Import of Methods (James Neal-Kababick of Flora Research and Mark C. Roman of Tampa Bay Analytical Research), Single-Laboratory Validation of Microbiological Methods (Sharon Brunelle, AOAC Technical Consultant), Laboratory Safety (Ken Blanchard, VWR International), and Measurement of Uncertainty (Edgar Paski, Analytical Innovations).



Gary Christian, University of Washington, presents opening keynote lecture, "Evolution and Revolution in Analytical Science—from the Bible to Alchemy to Single Molecule Detection."

The next annual meeting of the Pacific Northwest Section will be held at the University of Puget Sound on June 17–18, 2009. Stay tuned for further information on the annual meeting and related events, which

will be available on the Section's Web site at www.aoacpacnw.com. ■

—Yash Kalra
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Lyn Briggs of AgResearch New Zealand, lead instructor for the Rapid Test Workshop and keynote speaker, presents "Critical Aspects for Successful ELISA Development."

Award of Excellence

The Award of Excellence, presented at the Pacific Northwest Section Annual Meeting, recognizes significant contributions to the Section. AOAC congratulates the following recipients:

Nancy Hill
Secretary of AOAC Pacific Northwest Section
Bothell, Washington, USA

Peggy Knight
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Port Orchard, Washington, USA

Edgar Paski
Analytical Innovations
North Vancouver, BC, Canada

Carlos Abeyta, Jr.
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Bothell, Washington, USA