

**AOAC INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON ADMINISTRATION OF**  
**HARVEY W. WILEY AWARD**

**Background**

This policy establishes written guidelines for awarding the AOAC INTERNATIONAL Harvey W. Wiley Award for Development of Analytical Methods (November 1997).

**History**

Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, founder, President and Secretary of AOAC, was instrumental in establishing the National Pure Food, Drug, Cosmetic and Meat Inspection Laws in the United States. In 1956, a Harvey W. Wiley Award Committee was created to explore the potential for establishing an award and to suggest rules, regulations, and procedures for administration. Their recommendations were approved at the 1956 annual meeting and "The Harvey W. Wiley Award for Development of Analytical Methods" was established. The purpose of the award, as stated in the 1956 report, is "...to recognize and encourage the development of outstanding analytical methods for application to problems encompassed by the *Official Methods of Analysis* of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists." This was the extent of the criteria established.

In 1972, the Harvey W. Wiley Committee was asked to develop new guidelines for the award. The Committee submitted a revision of the criteria for judgment of the Wiley Award recipient to emphasize contributions to regulatory-oriented methods, beginning with 1974 submissions. The revision was approved by the Board of Directors (1973).

The award originally consisted of US\$500 with an appropriate scroll, and an allowance of not more than US\$150 for expenses incident to attending the meeting at which the award will be presented. The award recipient gave an address at the opening session of the meeting. In December 1991, the Wiley address was moved out of the Opening Session and the Wiley Award Symposium was created with the Wiley Address as the keynote. A Wiley booth was established in the exhibit hall at the meeting where the Wiley award recipient spends time in the booth to receive well-wishers and answer questions about his or her work.

## Policy

### I. Purpose

The purpose of the award is to recognize and encourage outstanding contributions to analytical method development (November 1997) in areas of interest to AOAC INTERNATIONAL.

### II. Criteria

- A. Nominees should be a scientist or group of scientists who have made an outstanding contribution to analytical method development (versus areas such as quality assurance, statistics, or laboratory administration) (November 1997) in an area of interest to AOAC INTERNATIONAL, such as in foods, food additives, vitamins, supplements, pesticides, drugs, cosmetics, plants, feeds, fertilizers, hazardous substances, air, water, or other commodities and analytical matrices.
- B. Developed a significant analytical method or technique and must have an extensive record of methods development.
- C. Supported accomplishment or series of accomplishments by manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals.
- D. Solved problems of importance or contributed techniques which can be regarded as major advances in basic or applied research.
- E. Widely recognized by his, her, or their peers.
- F. Need not be a member of AOAC INTERNATIONAL.

### III. Procedures

- A. The award is presented annually; however, if no suitable candidate is found in a particular year, no award will be made.
- B. Nominations are solicited and accepted throughout the year. Nominations must include a biographical sketch of the candidate, a list of publications and other writings, specific identification of the work on which the nomination is based, and an appraisal of the nominee's accomplishments, particularly with regard to the work to be recognized by the proposed award (1956). Curriculum vitae may be included with the nomination to help with the first two required items for the nomination. However, the second two items required for the nomination must be addressed independently of the curriculum vitae. AOAC headquarters has a nomination form.
- C. Nominees remain eligible for four award years. However, nominators will be contacted annually and invited to submit updates to the nominees file (November 1997). After four years, the nominator(s) may renew the nomination for another four years by means of a letter accompanied by updated biographical material (March 1993). The nominator will be notified when their nomination has expired to give him/her an opportunity to renew the nomination. Wiley Committee members who make nominations may remain on the committee, and the President may change the voting procedures to accommodate this (November 2000).

- D. On March 1 of each year, the nominations are sent to the Harvey W. Wiley Award Committee for a vote to determine the award recipient for the following year).
- E. The committee votes by mail or electronically. Each committee member ranks his or her top five choices. The votes are sent directly to the President. The President then distributes points -- five points for first place, four points for second place, etc. The points are totaled and the highest point recipient is the awardee. In the case of a tie vote, only the tied candidates go back to the committee and a second vote is taken. If the award recipient cannot be chosen in this manner, the President will cast the deciding vote (September 2010).
- F. The selection process should be completed by April 20. The award recipient is notified by the President. Also, the Annual Meeting Program Committee is told the name of the award recipient and area of expertise in order to plan the following year's Wiley Symposium. A representative from the Annual Meeting Program Committee contacts the award recipient to discuss his or her participation at the Wiley Symposium. No one other than the recipient, the Harvey W. Wiley Award Committee, the Annual Meeting Program Committee, and the AOAC Board of Directors is notified at this time and all are asked not to discuss the award recipient outside of their respective Committees. The award recipient is not announced until the next year, the year of their award, in order to not distract from the current year's award recipient (November 1997).
- G. During the first quarter of the award recipient's year, an announcement is made in the form of an article in *Inside Laboratory Management* and the information is included in the quarterly report. Also a press release is sent to appropriate publications and associations including any requested by the award recipient. In addition, the Wiley address at the Annual Meeting is published in a post-meeting issue of the *Journal of AOAC INTERNATIONAL* typically the January issue.

IV. Award

- A. The award recipient receives a cash award of \$5,000, an award, and reimbursement of expenses to the Annual Meeting in accordance with the AOAC INTERNATIONAL travel policy (November 1997). The cash award and travel expenses defined above are a total for the award recipient chosen whether an individual or group of individuals.
- B. The Harvey W. Wiley Award Symposium at the Annual Meeting focuses on the area of work of the award recipient and is a forum for the award recipient to present his/her works. Space is provided in the AOAC booth in the exhibit hall for the award recipient to meet with attendees.

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Approved: December 1991; revised September 1995; revised November 1997; revised November 2001; revised September 2010