

Technical Division on Reference Materials, AOAC INTERNATIONAL

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TDRM 2000-2003

The TDRM Executive Committee, meeting in January 2000, recommended that AOAC establish an award for outstanding accomplishments and work in the area of reference materials. This award to a member of AOAC and TDRM will consist of a citation and be awarded yearly at the annual AOAC meeting. It was announced in March 2000 that RMs from three major European producers would now be directly available in the US. Discussion was initiated to examine the future of a more formal association of BERM with TDRM/AOAC. The Annual TDRM meeting was held in Philadelphia in September 2000. The AOAC Board of Directors approved the Reference materials Methods Matching process. An AOAC workshop on Developing a Measurement System for Dietary Supplements was proposed for the 2001 Annual meeting. TDRM will be involved in this workshop to focus on what RM's and standards are currently available for dietary supplements. BERM-8 was held in Bethesda in September 2000 with a theme of "Reference Materials for the 21st Century" with approximately 170 conferees. A highlight was a session entitled "Botanical and Dietary Supplements", which was a direct outcome of an NIH Workshop: "Bioavailability of Nutrients and other Bioactive Components of Dietary Supplements: Defining the Research Agenda" held January 2000 in Bethesda. One outcome from the NIH workshop was a strong statement of the need for RMs for botanicals and dietary supplements – a \$60 Billion a year industry. Over 185 oral and poster presentations were presented at BERM-8. Sponsorship, financial administrative and organizational support was received for a number of international organizations including AOAC/TDRM. At a meeting at AOAC headquarters with the main organizers of the BERM meetings it was clear that AOAC was not willing to take on a longer term financial and administrative responsibility for the BERM symposia. It was noted that significantly more registration money was received from non-AOAC members than AOAC members for BERM-8 and also noted that no one took advantage of signing up for AOAC membership along with the registration. A net surplus of funds of \$16,000 from BERM-8 was taken into the AOAC general account since AOAC staff organized and sponsored BERM. A motion from TDRM that some of these funds be returned to the TDRM account was not successful. Further formal involvement of AOAC as an umbrella organization for BERM will not happen.

At the TDRM Executive Committee meeting held in January 2001, Dr. Wayne Wolf received the first TDRM Reference Material Achievement award for "...his pioneering work in the development of reference material and the vision he exhibited in establishing the TDRM within AOAC..." The TDRM Annual Meeting was held on September 10, 2001 in Kansas City. A formal request was made to AOAC that TDRM would like to establish a Reference Materials award to be presented at every AOAC

meeting in conjunction with other awards at the Presidents reception. Changes on the Executive Committee included Katherine Sharpless, NIST as Secretary, replacing Sandra Bailey who moved to a position as member at large. Joining as members at large were Bill Obermeyer, Consumerlab.com and Pieter Scheelings, Queensland Health Science Services. The treasurer's report showed that TDRM and BERM now have a combined balance of nearly \$30,000 with TDRM a net yearly income of \$1400. Current Division membership is listed at 520 members. Activities continue on the Reference Material-Method Matching and Lexicon projects. BERM-9 will be held in May of 2003 in Berlin. The TDRM Reference Materials Award was presented to its second recipient, Dr. James Tanner, FDA at the annual meeting. A suggestion was made that there be a TDRM representative on the AOAC Programming committee. A symposium on Dietary Supplements: Analytical Methods and Reference Standards was sponsored by TDRM at the Annual meeting. This session was chaired by Dr. William Obermeyer, Consumerlab.com and Dr. James Tanner, US FDA. Discussion following the talks focused on identifying potential sources of funds to support vital work identified by the newly formed AOAC Task Force on Botanicals and Dietary Supplements

Activities during 2002 included a continued work on agreement of definitions for the Lexicon project and initial discussions on involvement of TDRM in the creation of Dietary Supplement Reference Materials via new contract being negotiated between AOAC and the Office of Dietary Supplements, NIH. . BERM-8 proceedings issues have been published, and distributed to attendees. The remainder of BERM funds being held in TDRM accounts was transferred to the BERM-9 organizing committee, completing TDRM obligations to BERM. BERM-9 was announced to be held in June 2003, with Dr. Jean Pauwels, IRMM Belgium as chair of the program committee. A follow-up TDRM Symposium on Reference Materials for the Analysis of Botanical Dietary Supplements was held at the Annual Meeting in Los Angeles in September. At the annual meeting in LA there was considerable discussion about the proposed e-CAM system for making methods available electronically. To more quickly get RM/Method matches into the system maybe there could be two or more levels of matches. A match that has gone through the RM/MM process could be a "demonstrated" match, while those not having gone through the formal process would be "suggested" matches. The 2002 TDRM Reference Material Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Elwood Caldwell at the annual meeting in Los Angeles.

The Executive Committee at its mid year meeting in January 2003 approved use three levels of RM/MM for the e-CAM system: "Proven" matches that have gone through the Formal process with demonstrated data; "Suggested" matches that have been reviewed by an expert committee, but lacking statistical data; and "not reviewed", with appropriate disclaimers in each case. Bill Ikins took over chairmanship of the RM/MM process since Wayne Wolf was unable to continue due to new and increased work responsibilities. Donna Zink was appointed acting Vice Chair, replacing Athan Marion who resigned. BERM-9 was held in June 2003 in Berlin, focusing primarily on the role of CRMs in life sciences and environmental sciences. BERM-9 demonstrated that there is a large need for new reference materials exists, especially for food analysis. The TDRM Symposium at the 2003 Annual Meeting in Atlanta covered "Botanical Reference Materials: Expectations and Reality". The 2003 Reference Material Achievement Award was presented to Jennifer Colbert, recently retired from the Standard Reference Materials

Program at NIST, for her consistent force for progress in development of food related and other RMs.

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