

**METHODS COMMITTEE REPORTS****Committee on Environmental Quality****WILLIAM L. HALL, CHAIR**

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**Committee Actions**

There are 3 General Referees (GRs) within Committee J, 2 are open (environmental microbiology and environmental chemistry); the third (bioassay methods) is currently held by Marion Kelly of EPA Office of Water. There exists a great potential to work with EPA; much discussion took place about how this might occur. This discussion included EPA's current use of ASTM D2777 and its acceptance of Appendix D of the *Official Method of Analysis* (OMA; collaborative study guidelines) in conjunction with the ASTM protocol. Telliard saw this as a good possibility. If AOAC's new method categories allow more flexibility in the numbers of laboratories and categories for acceptance as some form of AOAC-approved method, then this will also likely be acceptable to EPA.

Additional discussion centered on increasing committee responsiveness and organization of the committee. Several new GRs and Study Directors were discussed and offered by Telliard, Pompey, and Urbansky. Although no GR, Study Directors, or studies are under way in the newly formed topic area "Environmental Microbiology," the area is viewed as an important area for method development. A potential GR (Eugene Rice) for this topic was suggested; he will be contacted by Telliard. The chair contacted ASTM regarding activity in the area of drinking water and *E. coli*, investigating potential for joint efforts to develop a method. Their activity is complete; a membrane filtration method using a Hach proprietary broth was accepted in 2000 by ASTM and is EPA method No. 10029.

Several possible GRs for the Environmental Chemistry topic were discussed. Telliard and Urbansky will make calls to determine interest and availability of several possible candidates. The area of trace metals was discussed, and it was decided to combine study areas #3 and #5 into a topic called trace metals in fertilizers, soils, and plants since #5 would include analysis of the hydride generation elements. Additionally a possible realignment of the GR and Study Director positions for the "Bioassay Methods" topic was discussed. Again Telliard and Urbansky will make calls to determine interest and availability of several possible candidates.

Possible new topics were discussed: perchlorate in soils, ground water, drinking water, and plant uptake; radiation methods; screening methods; and other biological methods.

Pompey suggested several areas of interest and proposed developing a list of the potential new methods. This list could be generated from current ATPs (alternate test procedures) currently employed by EPA as well as the industry and regulatory hot topics.

A possible meeting with AOAC representatives and EPA was proposed in 2003 but no meeting has as of yet occurred. The purpose of the meeting would be discussion of funding and method development opportunities. This will be a 2004–2005 priority.

*Environmental Microbiology, Vacant*

Telliard has contacted several candidates in regards to becoming GR for this topic area. No success as of yet, but Jennifer Clancy is still a possibility.

*Environmental Chemistry, Vacant*

Telliard and Urbansky will contact GR candidates.

(1) *Determination of Nitrates in Soil*: Study Director Robert Miller, Colorado State University, Soil and Crop Sciences Department, Fort Collins, CO 80535, Tel: 970-686-5702, Fax: 970-426-5820, E-mail: rmiller@lamar.colostate.edu. Continue study.

(2) *Cation Exchange Capacity of Soils*: Study Director Saman Amarakone, Canadian (Atlantic) Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada, Hugh John Flemming Forestry Ctr, PO Box 4000, Fredericton, NB E3B-5P7, Canada, Tel: 506-452-3562, Fax: 506-452-3525. Study discontinued, remove from future actions list.

(3) *High Resolution GC-MS Method 1668a for Coplanar and Toxic PCB*: Study Director vacant. Continue study.

(4) *Trace Metals in Soils and Plant Nutrients*: Topic Advisor Peter Kane, Office of the Indiana State Chemist, Purdue University, 1154 Biochemistry Building, West Lafayette, IN 47907-1154, Tel: 765-494-1560, Fax: 765-494-4331, E-mail: kanep@purdue.edu. Continue study.

(5) *Radiation (new topic)*: General Referee, vacant.

*Bioassay Methods, Marion Kelly*

(1) *Whole Effluent Toxicology Bioassay*: Study Director position is vacant. Continue study.