

METHODS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Food Nutrition

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Committee Actions

The Food Nutrition Committee did not review any methods this year. Reduced method submissions in Food Nutrition are likely due to the recent changes in both structural and financial models within AOAC INTERNATIONAL. In addition, some potential analytes related to Food Nutrition are being captured within Committee F (e.g., folate in cereals and

vitamin A in milk) and Committee K (e.g., beta-carotene). The current Methods Committee structure has evolved based on an apparent nonsystematic mix of both analyte- and matrix-based responsibilities. Indeed, some Methods Committees contain General Referee responsibilities defined by both parameters within the same Committee (e.g., our own Committee E). Perhaps a restructuring of the Methods Committees is in order if Committees other than our own are also experiencing a dearth of methods to review. Also, perhaps Committee E can identify methods that are currently being validated by other organizations and adopt them jointly to avoid duplication of effort.

Dietary Fiber, Barry V. McCleary

The Official Methods Board approved, with changes, 3 Committee E methods for Final Action this year:

(1) **999.03** *Measurement of Total Fructan in Foods.*

(2) **2001.03** *Dietary Fiber in Foods Containing Resistant Maltodextrin: High Molecular Weight Resistant Maltodextrin by Method 985.29 (Insoluble Dietary Fiber and Soluble Dietary Fiber) and Low Molecular Weight by Liquid Chromatography.*

(3) **2002.02** *Resistant Starch in Starch and Plant Materials.*

Fats and Oils, David Firestone

There has been no activity since the last report.

Minerals, Vacant

No activity.

Infant Formula, Ed Phifer

There has been no activity since the last report.

Sugars, Mary An Godshall

There has been no activity since the last report.

Fat-Soluble Vitamins, Christopher J. Blake

No studies are in process.

Water-Soluble Vitamins, Erik J.M. Konings

Biacore is funding methods for vitamins B₂ and B₁₂, biotin, pantothenic acid, and folic acid. Vitamins B₂ and B₁₂ as well as biotin have been carried through Performance-Tested MethodSM validation. (The Biacore method for folic acid was granted Performance-TestedSM status in 2002.) At the time this report was written, the pantothenic acid method protocol was being finalized. The methods for these 5 vitamins will then be carried through Official Methods collaborative studies (Study Director April Taylor, AgriQuality, New Zealand).

Extend AOAC Official Method for the liquid chromatographic analysis of vitamin B6 in infant formula to the determination of vitamin B6 in baby food, biscuit, cereals, yeast, tube-feeding solution, chocolate powder, and powdered milk.

Nonvitamin Micronutrients, Harvey E. Indyk

Two methods for immunoglobulin G (IgG) are expected to enter the system this coming year. An affinity HPLC method based on specific binding of bovine IgG with immobilized Protein G has been validated within the laboratory of the prospective Study Director, Don Otter, and is currently at the protocol development stage. Biosensor technology can provide an alternative approach to IgG analysis, and an antibody-based optical method is also slated for collaborative study under Study Director Leyton Gapper.