

METHODS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee on Natural Toxins and Food Allergens

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Committee Actions

The committee welcomes 3 new members: Michael Abbott (Health Canada, Ottawa), Paul McNabb (Cawthron Institute, New Zealand), and Jeffrey van de Riet (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Dartmouth). The committee extends congratulations to Robert LaBudde, Least Cost Formulations, Ltd, for receiving the Methods Committee Advisor of the Year award at the AOAC Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA.

One method was approved as Final Action. The method, **999.07**, is for aflatoxin B₁ and total aflatoxins in peanut butter, pistachio paste, fig paste, and paprika powder. Two other methods were held at First Action status. The first of these, **990.32** (Aflatoxin B₁ in Corn and Roasted Peanuts), was not approved for Final Action, as the committee is awaiting information on possible formulation changes to the kit. The second method held at First Action (**998.03** Aflatoxins in Peanuts, Alternative BF Method) was not advanced to Final Action because there was no corresponding publication in the *J. AOAC Int.* One new method was approved for First Action status: **2008.02** *Determination of Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A in Ginseng and Ginger by Multitoxin Immunoaffinity Column Cleanup and Liquid Chromatographic Quantitation* (Study Director Mary Trucksess, U.S. Food and Drug Administration).

The chairs of the Presidential Task Force for Food Allergens and the General Referee for Food Allergens have reviewed and approved the validation data for a gliadin method (R-Biopharm). The collaborative study was submitted as 2008-Jan-004, *Gliadin as a Measure of Gluten in Foods*. The committee has reviewed this study and is awaiting a revised manuscript. The committee has also received and reviewed a collaborative study protocol in the area of Marine and Freshwater Toxins. The protocol, 2008-Mar-016, is *Determination of PSP in Shellfish by Receptor Binding Assay*. The Study Director is Fran van Dolah. Changes have been recommended to the proposed study, and the committee is awaiting a revised protocol.