

Contributing **2006** Membership Contributing Membership

The AOAC Research Institute (AOAC RI) created an Advisory Board in December 1996 that includes one representative from each Contributing Member Organization. Renamed, the Advisory Council, the AOAC RI is continuously seeking new Contributing Members to serve on the Council.

Contributing Members are entitled to appoint a representative to the AOAC Research Institute Advisory Council as well as discounted services offered by the AOAC Research Institute and the *Performance Tested Methods*SM (PTM) program.

Advisory Council

The mission of the AOAC Research Institute Advisory Council is to advise on and support the future development of the *Performance Tested Methods*SM program and other activities of the AOAC Research Institute.

Responsibilities

- Advise AOAC RI staff on policies and procedures to improve the process of reviewing and evaluating test kit methods.
- Recommend new programs that support and advance the goals of the *Performance Tested Methods*SM program.
- Communicate with the AOAC RI Board of Directors (BoD) on the development of new programs, changes in procedures, and/or promotion of the *Performance Tested Methods*SM program.
- Recommend nominees for the AOAC RI BoD
- Assist the AOAC RI in identifying and satisfying stakeholder's needs.
- Advise AOAC RI staff on technical issues.

Annual Membership Fee

- \$5,000 USD

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2006

- March 29, 2006 AOAC Headquarters
- August 13-15, 2006 IAFP Calgary, Alberta
- September 17-21, 2006 – AOAC Annual Meeting
- November-December TBD

Benefits of Membership include

- A seat on the Advisory Council
- \$1,000 USD discount for RI Consulting fees
- \$6,000 USD discount for PTM Application fees
- Discounted Harmonized Consulting and PTM fees
- One individual AOAC INTERNATIONAL membership
- Ten free test kit entries in General Test Kit Database

Advisory Council Influences RI Policy

- *Performance Tested Method*SM program has expanded to certifying candidate test kit methods using non-US reference methods.
- Developed the recently approved Harmonization proposal for the *Performance Tested Methods*SM and the *Official Methods*SM programs; PTM program is recognized as directly equivalent to the pre-collaborative studies for microbiology methods.
- Developed the International Data Harmonization Program between other method validation organizations.