



AOAC Cannabis Analytical Science Program (CASP) Newsletter: December 20, 2019

**The Next CASP Meeting is on March 11, 2020**

Registration is now open for the 2020 AOAC Mid-Year Meeting, to be held at the Gaithersburg Marriott Washingtonian Center. The CASP meeting will include a review and vote on the SMPRs currently in development, information on training and education, important talks about the cannabis community, and more! Learn more about the AOAC Mid-Year Meeting and [register today](#).

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**Susan Audino Appointed AOAC CASP Science Advisor**

AOAC is happy to announce that Dr. Susan Audino has been appointed CASP Science Advisor. The Science Advisor will provide technical expertise and oversight to all CASP working groups and assist in planning the strategic direction of CASP. AOAC is excited to continue this important work with Dr. Audino!

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**ENDING SOON - CASP Calls for Methods**

We are still accepting methods in the following areas:

- [Detection of \*Aspergillus\* in Cannabis](#)
- [Quantitation of Cannabinoids in Hemp](#)
- [Identification and Quantitation of Residual Solvents in Cannabis](#)

Methods must be submitted as per the instructions in the Calls for Methods no later than **January 17, 2020**. Are you interested in being a reviewer for the submitted methods? If so, visit our [Call for Experts](#).

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**AOAC Featured in Cannabis Science & Technology Magazine Webinar**

AOAC has teamed up with *Cannabis Science & Technology* magazine to offer this live webcast reviewing the CASP program objectives, 2019 accomplishments, and plans for 2020 from the CASP Program Lead and the three working group chairs. Presenters included Julia Bramante, Lead Scientist at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment; Holly Johnson, Chief Science Officer at the American Herbal Products Association; and Susan Audino, chair for the Chemical Contaminants in Cannabis working group. Following the presentations, CASP Lead Scott Coates and moderator Meghan L'Heureux of *Cannabis Science & Technology* took questions from the attendees. Didn't make it to the webinar? [View the recording](#).

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**Working Groups:**

The three existing working groups (Cannabinoids in Consumables, Chemical Contaminants in Cannabis, and Microbial Contaminants in Cannabis) have been meeting regularly to develop new SMPRs.

- **Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group**  
The Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group, Chaired by Dr. Holly Johnson, AHPA, has continued its work on Standard Method Performance Requirements (SMPRs) for determination of moisture content in cannabis. The working group has determined that more data is required to complete this SMPR, so the Chair is currently gathering hemp samples and intends to have 3-4 labs conduct oven and vacuum drying and Karl Fisher titration on the same material to help understand if the terpene content really influences results with different moisture determination methods. They will continue to populate a draft SMPR after the holiday season.
- **Microbial Contaminants Working Groups**  
The Microbial Contaminants in Cannabis Working Group, Chaired by Dr. Julia Bramante of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, has nearly completed development of an SMPR for detection of *Salmonella* in Cannabis and Cannabis Products. The group has agreed to lists of potential inclusivity and exclusivity organisms and developed definitions applicable to this

SMPR and carefully considered what broths and agars to use. The group will meet again in early January to get further detail on inclusivity and exclusivity and review the concept of “most probably number” (MPN). The group will then consider its next deliverable(s).

- **Chemical Contaminants Working Group**

This working group, Chaired by Dr. Susan Audino, has nearly completed drafting an SMPR for detection of heavy metals in cannabis materials. The group recently agreed to modify the SMPR’s applicability to use the term “heavy metals” instead of “elemental impurities.” The SMPR will apply to methods that can detect at least the “big four” heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury). The group will meet again in January to complete this SMPR and to discuss their next deliverable(s).

If you or someone you know are interested in joining any of these working groups, please [sign up here](#).

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**Call for Nominees to Chair the Training and Education Working Group**

AOAC CASP has formed a working group to focus on training and education on cannabis analytical science. This group will work to identify areas where training is needed and recommend educational programs and training modules. Nominees should be able to facilitate meetings and achieve consensus among groups of scientists; as well as have a working knowledge of microbiology laboratory procedures and methods; and AOAC programs and procedures. Knowledge of AOAC standards and methods is desired. It is expected that the working group will meet by conference call an average of twice a month, and in-person at AOAC Annual and Mid-Year Meetings as needed. We are also considering co-chairs if time commitment is an issue. You may nominate yourself. If you are interested, or know someone who should be considered, please email your CV and a brief statement of expertise to Scott Coates, Senior Director, AOAC Research Institute at [scoates@aoac.org](mailto:scoates@aoac.org).

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**Other News**

- AOAC at the A2LA Technical Forum: AOAC is scheduled to present on Analyzing Cannabis and CBD at the [A2LA Technical Forum](#) on April 29, 2020.

-Please forward this newsletter to your colleagues. Help us raise awareness of CASP –

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2275 Research Blvd, Ste 300  
Rockville, Maryland 20850-3250 USA  
P: +1 301.924.7077 • F: +1 301.924.7089  
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