AOAC Cannabis Analytical Science Program (CASP) Newsletter November 25, 2019

AOAC CASP Service Mark Approved!

We're happy to announce that CASP is now an officially registered service mark! You'll now see ® wherever the CASP logo is used.

Upcoming CASP 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 include AOAC CASP lead Scott Coates; 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, the presenters will take questions from attendees. Register now!

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

Please review each Call for Methods for more information. Are you interested in being a reviewer for the submitted methods? If so, visit our Call for Experts.

Working Groups:

The three existing working groups (Cannabinoids in Consumables, Chemical Contaminants in Cannabis, and Microbial Contaminants in Cannabis) are back to their regularly scheduled teleconferences.

- Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group
  The Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group has begun work on Standard Method Performance Requirements (SMPRs) for determination of moisture content in cannabis. They reviewed older AOAC methods for moisture content in other matrices and agreed that a new SMPR specific for cannabis plant material will be open to any type of method, including Karl Fischer titration. The group agreed to set the LOQ at a lower value than what is typically seen, so 3% would be appropriate. They will continue to populate a draft SMPR in the coming weeks.

- Microbial Contaminants Working Groups
  The Microbial Contaminants in Cannabis Working Group has commenced development of an SMPR for detection of *Salmonella* in Cannabis and Cannabis Products. The group has reviewed lists of potential inclusivity and exclusivity organisms and developed definitions applicable to this SMPR. In future meetings, the working group will add specific values to the method performance table.

- Chemical Contaminants Working Group
  The working group has begun drafting a new SMPR for detection of elemental contaminants including heavy metals. The group agreed to list the matrices as "cannabis and derivative products." The SMPR will seek to detect at least the "big four" heavy metals (arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury) and the group is now collaborating on a secondary list of elemental contaminants to include in the SMPR.

- The Training and Education Working Group is still in development. Are you interested in serving as Chair of this new group? If so, please contact Scott Coates, Sr. Director of the AOAC Research Institute and CASP Program Lead, at scoates@aoac.org.

If you or someone you know are interested in joining any of these working groups, please **sign up here**.

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

Questions? Please feel free to reply to this email.

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