



AOAC CASP Meeting, September 11, 2020

If you haven't already, now is the time to register to attend the AOAC Virtual Annual Meeting which includes the CASP meeting on September 11, 2020. The CASP meeting will feature a review of the CASP program, updates from each of the working group chairs, and some great discussion on cannabis analytical science. To learn more about AOAC's Virtual Annual Meeting, including how to register, visit our [website](#).

Calls for Methods

We're still calling for various Cannabis method submissions, including *Detection of Salmonella species in Cannabis and Cannabis Products*, *Determination of Heavy Metals in a Variety of Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived Products*, *Determination of Heavy Metals in a Variety of Cannabis and Cannabis-Derived Products*, and more. If you have a Cannabis method and you are interested in submitting it for potential AOAC *Official Methods of Analysis* status, please visit the [CASP Call for Methods](#) section of our website. There is a September 4 deadline for *Cannabinoids in Edible Chocolate* as several methods have now been submitted and an ERP will review these at our October Analytical Methods Week. If you'd like to submit to any of the other calls for methods in time for the December 2020 Analytical Methods Week, please do so by **Friday, November 6**.

Working Group News and Updates

Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group

This group has worked throughout the summer to develop guidance for drying hemp. The document, still in development, is titled *Laboratory Guidance for Drying Field-Fresh Hemp Plant Samples in Preparation for Determination of Total THC on a Dry Weight Basis*. This group is taking a short break while AOAC executes the Virtual Annual Meeting, but Working Group Chair Dr. Holly Johnson (AHPA) expects the draft will be completed and ready for public comment after 1-2 more meetings. Once approved, AOAC intends to publish the guidance as an appendix to the AOAC *Official Methods of Analysis*.

Chemical Contaminants Working Group –

Working Group Chair Dr. Julie Kowalski continues to drive this working group forward in the development of SMPRs for Mycotoxins in Cannabis. One SMPR, titled *Mycotoxin Screening Technique in Cannabis plant material and cannabis derivatives*, has been drafted. This SMPR has undergone a 30-day public comment period as well as a live review during the online public comment

forum held on August 14. Comments are currently under review by Dr. Kowalski as well as AOAC staff and the document will be put out to the CASP community for a final vote in the coming weeks.

Microbial Contaminants Working Group–

On Friday, May 22, the Microbial Contaminants Working Group completed another SMPR, this one for detection of shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) in cannabis. This SMPR has undergone a 30-day public comment period as well as a live review during the online public comment forum held on August 14. Comments are currently under review by working group chair Julia Bramante (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment) as well as AOAC staff and the document will be put out to the CASP community for a final vote in the coming weeks.

For more information on any of the standards development working groups please contact Christopher Dent, Manager for Standards and Official Methods, at cdent@aoac.org. Please note, if you’ve signed up for any of the above three groups and not seen any further information, you should start to see meeting invites soon after the CASP meeting on September 11.

Proficiency Testing Working Group

This new working group will focus on identifying areas in cannabis where proficiency testing (PT) programs are needed. The group held their first teleconference on Friday, May 29 and more recently conducted the first Proficiency Testing Cannabinoids Sub-Group Meeting on August 28, 2020. Stay tuned for more updates on this exciting new working group. For more information please contact Shane Flynn, Director, Laboratory Proficiency Testing at sflynn@aoac.org.

Training and Education Working Group

The CASP Training & Education Working Group was launched on May 14. Working Group Chair Dr. Toby Astill (PerkinElmer) are continuing their efforts to develop training recommendations. Dr. Astill will provide a full update on the working group at the CASP meeting on September 11.

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Advisory Panel

AOAC CASP Advisory Panel		
Pioneer		
ABC Testing AFDO Applied Food Sciences Bio-Rad GW Pharmaceuticals	Ionization Labs Materia Medica MilliporeSigma PerkinElmer r-Biopharm	SōRSE Technology SupraRnD TEQ Analytical Titan Analytical
Partner		
CV Sciences	Deibel Bioscience	Eurofins Scientific
Affiliate		
Alkemmist Labs BIOTECON Diagnostics Canopy Growth Corporation CEM Corporation	Charm Sciences Crystal Diagnostics Hygiena	IFT Medicinal Genomics SC Labs

Working Group priorities are established by the AOAC CASP Advisory Panel (AP). The AP meets several times per year to monitor progress and determine new directions for analytes, matrices, and more. Contact Alicia Meiklejohn (ameiklejohn@aoac.org) to learn how to become a member of the advisory panel and help guide the working groups!

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

September 28, 2020: Cannabis Science & Technology Webinar: Developing Standards and Methods for The Detection of *Aspergillus* in Cannabis and Hemp Materials

Pat Bird, AOAC Technical Consultant and past co-chair, AOAC CASP Microbial Contaminants Working Group

Aspergillus is one of the most common genus of mold and is ubiquitously found in outdoor environments. Known for its ability to produce mycotoxins and cause human illness, *Aspergillus* has been identified as an adulterant in cannabis and hemp products. This presentation will outline the development of acceptance criteria for validating *Aspergillus* detection methods and describe the process that the AOAC Research Institute (AOAC RI) uses to certify methods as validated under the *Performance Tested Method*SM (PTM) program. Participants will gain insight into:

- *Aspergillus* as a human pathogen
- Development of AOAC *Standard Method Performance Requirements* (SMPRs)
- Validation of *Aspergillus* methods through the AOAC RI PTM Program

[Register here.](#)

Decision Rules and Risks: The Unspoken Reality of Cannabis Testing Labs

Susan Audino, Consultant and AOAC CASP Science Advisor

Presentation for APHL, October 1, 2020

For more information on this presentation, including how to register, please [click here](#).

Dr. Audino will also be doing a two-part presentation for Cannabis Science and Technology magazine starting on September 28, 2020.

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

If you would prefer not to receive emails about AOAC CASP, please reply to this email with the subject "Unsubscribe."

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