



March 11, 2021

LAST CHANCE! AOAC CASP WILL MEET AT THE AOAC MID-YEAR MEETING ON MARCH 17, 2021. [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Registration closes Friday, March 12. [Click here](#) to review the CASP Meeting Agenda.

New Calls for Methods

- [Detection of Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli in Cannabis and Cannabis Products](#)
- [Mycotoxin Screening Technique in Cannabis Plant Materials and Cannabis Derivatives](#)

Submitted methods will be considered for AOAC *Official Methods of Analysis*SM (OMA) status and/or the AOAC *Performance Tested Methods*SM program. Please follow the appropriate link above for details.

Cannabinoids in Consumables

The Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group, chaired by Dr. Holly Johnson of APHA, completed a draft guidance document, *Laboratory guidance for drying field-fresh hemp plant samples in preparation for determination of total THC on a dry-weight basis*. This document was posted for a 30-day public comment. Comments have been collated and sent to the working group Chair for reconciliation, and the responses to those comments will be included in the final e-ballot for this document. Since then, the group has drafted a new SMPR, *Quantitation of Cannabinoids in Beverages*. This SMPR will be used to evaluate methods for determining levels of cannabinoids in a variety of beverage matrices. This is the first working group to be working to CASP's new "matrix-centric" approach as opposed to the previous "analyte-centric" SMPRs. This document will be made available for public comment soon.

Chemical Contaminants

The Chemical Contaminants Working Group, chaired by Dr. Julie Kowalski of JA Kowalski Science Support, has made significant progress in the development of a quantitative SMPR for mycotoxins in cannabis. At their last meeting, the group confirmed the title of the document, *Quantitative Analysis of Mycotoxins in Cannabis Biomass and Cannabis Derived Products*. They also discussed where measurement uncertainty fits into the SMPR and completed the performance tables. This document will be posted for public comment in the coming days.

Microbial Contaminants

The Microbial Contaminants Working Group, chaired by Julia Bramante of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, has now completed a draft SMPR titled *Standard Method Performance Requirements for Total Yeast and Mold*. The group last met on March 2 to review final details of the SMPR, including test portion size, number of replicates, and alignment with the [AOAC Emergency Response Validation \(ERV\)](#) option for yeast and mold. This document will be posted for public comment in the coming days.

Proficiency Testing Working Group

The sub-groups of the Proficiency Testing Working Group, chaired by Dr. Walter Brent Wilson of NIST, have been meeting to determine the technical requirements for a proficiency testing program. Discussions have included not only testing for CBD and THC, but also for moisture, and contaminants including pesticides. A schedule of upcoming 2021 subgroup meetings is currently being completed and will include new areas such as microbials and residual solvents. The cannabinoid sub-group met on Thursday, February 25 during which stakeholder requirements were gathered and an abundance of information obtained.

Training and Education Working Group

Dr. Toby Astill leads this group, which has successfully led its first set of webinars on the following topics: setting up a cannabis lab, microbial testing, heavy metals testing, mycotoxins testing and pesticides. AOAC thanks the speakers and the attendees for their participation in these events. Following the CASP meeting on March 17, this group will reconvene to evaluate recommendations made by CASP participants and the CASP Advisory Panel for the next series of events and work to facilitate further training and educational sessions.

Do you want your organization to join the CASP Advisory Panel and help determine priorities for the working groups? If so, contact Alicia Meiklejohn (ameiklejohn@aoac.org) for details.

Expert Review Panels

The AOAC CASP Expert Review Panels for Cannabinoids, chaired by Melissa Phillips of NIST and the ERP for Chemical Contaminants, chaired by Andrew Pham of Alkemist Labs, will both be meeting during the April Analytical Methods week to review methods for cannabinoids in chocolate and heavy metals in cannabis, respectively. The outcomes of these ERPs will be announced in a future newsletter.

CASP Related Speaking Engagements

Do you want your speaking engagement included in the next CASP Newsletter? [Email us](#).

Title: The Need for a Rational Approach to Regulations
Speaker: Dr. Susan Audino, Audino & Associates
Conference: Analytical Cannabis Expo West 2021
Format: Virtual
Dates: April 20-21, 2021
[Register here](#)

Title: How Accurate Are My Lab's Microbiology Results? Ensuring the Fitness for Purpose of Your Cannabis Microbiology Methods
Speaker: Pat Bird, PMB BioTek Consulting
Conference: Analytical Cannabis Expo West
Format: Virtual
Dates: April 20-21, 2021
[Register here](#)

Title: So You Think You Want to Start a Cannabis Lab: Triumphs, struggles and lessons learned
Speaker: Josh Smith, Premium CBD Labs
Conference: Analytical Cannabis Expo West
Format: Virtual
Dates: April 20-21, 2021
[Register here](#)

Title: Progress in Creating Standards and Standard Methods for the Cannabis Community
Conference: Cannabis Labs Virtual Conference
Format: Virtual
Date: May 4, 2021 (Noon to 5pm EST)
More information at CannabisIndustryJournal.com with registration details coming soon.

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

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