



May 11, 2021

Working Group Updates:

- **NEW Working Group: CASP Product Centric Working Group**

CASP was designed as an integrated program with the capacity to evolve. In order to address the needs of the community as efficiently as possible AOAC has merged the *Cannabinoids in Consumables Working Group* with the *Chemical Contaminants Working Group*. This will allow the two groups to work together to focus on a variety of topics within finished products, including both chemical contamination and cannabinoids content. The Advisory Panel has been asked to weigh in on the next steps for this group, which may be a continued look at issues around cannabis infused beverages, or another matrix altogether. Once this is confirmed, participants from both previous groups will be invited to the first meeting of the Product Centric Working Group.

- **Microbiology Working Group**

The SMPR titled *Viable Total Yeast and Mold Count Enumeration* completed a public comment period on April 30. Comments have been compiled and provided to the working group chair to address. Once all comments are addressed, this SMPR will be sent out to the CASP community with an e-ballot for a final vote of approval. Once approved, AOAC will issue a broad call for methods for methods that may meet the new SMPR. As with the Product Centric Working Group, this group will soon receive new priorities from the advisory panel and will resume regular meetings to address them.

- **Proficiency Testing Working Group**

Technical requirements for the following potential PT programs for cannabinoids and pesticide residues have now been determined and the recommendations will be provided to the Advisory Task Force for implementation. The microbial contaminants subgroup met on April 30 and members provided excellent feedback on the technical recommendations. AOAC is currently determining the schedule for the remaining subgroups. Other subgroups are focusing on moisture, terpenes, metals, mycotoxins, and residual solvents. Would you like to join a PT subgroup? Contact Shane Flynn, Director of PT at CASP_PT_WG@aoac.org.

- **Training and Education Working Group**

After developing and executing a series of webinars earlier this year, this working group is now looking towards new training and education opportunities. The group met on April 27 and discussed several possibilities including expanding on method validation, method demonstrations, regional training, and/or an international overview of the cannabis and hemp industry.

Expert Review Panel Updates:

- **Recent ERP Meetings**

On April 27, the CASP Expert Review Panel for Cannabinoids reviewed three methods for quantitation of cannabinoids in chocolate – two resubmissions and one new submission. AOAC is pleased to announce that two of these methods have been approved for AOAC First Action *Official Methods* Status and will be moving through the AOAC publication process soon. Congratulations to method submitters Rob O'Brien from Supra R&D and Alana Greaves from Canopy Growth Corporation on your First Action OMA Status! On April 28, the CASP ERP for Chemical Contaminants reviewed one resubmitted method for heavy metals in cannabis and provided guidance to the authors for resubmission.

Current CASP 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](#)
- [Detection of Salmonella species in Cannabis and Cannabis Products](#)
- [Identification and Quantitation of Selected Pesticide Residues in Dry Cannabis Materials](#)
- [Identification and Quantitation of Residual Solvents in Cannabis](#)
- [Detection of Aspergillus in Cannabis and Cannabis Products](#)

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.

Relevant Speaking Engagements/Events:

Do you have an event you would like featured in the AOAC CASP Newsletter? Please let program lead Christopher Dent know, cdent@aoac.org.

Title: AOAC Training Course on Method Validation
Speaker(s): Various
Conference:
Format: Virtual
Date: June 16 @ 8:00pm EST & July 7 @ 4:00am EST (not a typo! Second session is to accommodate other time zones).
[Register here.](#)

Title: Cannabis Infused Foods: An Entrepreneur's Primer
Speaker(s): Various
Format: Virtual
Date: June 15-17, 2-4pm CST and August 10-12, 2-4pm (held twice)
[Register here.](#)

Title: Virtual Hemp Conference
Speaker(s): [Various](#)
Conference: Hemp Products & Animal Health Conference
Format: Virtual
Date: May 18-19, 2021
[Register here.](#)

Do you want your organization to join the CASP Advisory Panel and help determine priorities for the AOAC Cannabis Analytical Science Program? If so, contact Alicia Meiklejohn (ameiklejohn@aoac.org) for details. For general CASP inquiries please contact Christopher Dent, CASP Program Lead, cdent@aoac.org.

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

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