



July 26, 2021

In-person CASP Meetings are back! Please join us in Boston, either in person or virtually, at the [AOAC Annual Meeting](#).

Ballot Results

SMPRs for Total Yeast & Mold as well as Quantitative Mycotoxins have been approved and will soon be published! THANK YOU to the working group chairs and members for developing these documents and thank you to the community for taking the time to submit your ballots. Stand by for further information on these new standards and the calls for methods that will follow.

Working Group Updates

• **Microbiology Working Group**

The CASP Advisory Panel has directed this group, chaired by Julia Bramante of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, begin work on validation guidance for cannabis microbiology. The group last met on June 8 to discuss the format of this document and the subgroups that would be formed to draft the various sections of the document. Subgroups include:

- o Matrices, led by Steve Crupi from the State of Alaska
- o Decontamination of matrix, led by Tess Eidem of Colombia Care
- o Suitability testing of media, led by Salvatore Parisi of Lourdes Matha Institute HMCT
- o Looking at quantitative vs. qualitative methods, led by Zerlinde Johnson, AOAC Technical Consultant
- o Requirements for reference methods, led by Shenaz Dave from the State of Maryland
- o Requirements for different technologies for *in-silico* analysis, led by Maria Nelson, AOAC Technical Consultant

The subgroups have continued to communicate and collaborate independently since being formally launched at the end of June. AOAC staff will work with the working group chair to schedule the next meeting of the full working group sometime in the coming weeks, at which time subgroups will present their work and begin pulling it all together into one document.

• **CASP Product Centric Working Group**

The CASP Advisory Panel has directed this group to continue to explore issues surrounding cannabinoid infused beverages before moving on to new matrices including cosmetics and hempseed oil. The CASP Product Centric Working Group has met several times over the past month and has now agreed on a path forward with cannabinoid infused beverages. Co-chairs Holly Johnson and Julie Kowalski will work simultaneously to create two new SMPRs for beverages – one for metals and one for residual solvents. The metals workstream will be led by Julie, while Holly will lead the development of the solvents SMPR. Unlike the existing CASP SMPRs for these analytes, these SMPRs will be specific to beverages. The group will work on these SMPRs weekly and will update the CASP Community at the Annual Meeting.

• **Training and Education Working Group**

On July 14, the Training and Education Working Group hosted a talk by USDA representatives Bill Richmond and Kerry Smith about the ‘Final Rule’ establishing the U.S. Domestic Hemp Production Program. The rule provides regulations for the production of hemp in the United States and became effective on March 22, 2021. AOAC INTERNATIONAL is specifically called out in the document, which states that “laboratories should meet the AOAC International standard method performance requirements for selecting an appropriate method to determine the measurement uncertainty.” AOAC would like to offer a big thank you to the speakers Bill and Kerry and the working group chair Toby Astill for a well-attended and informative session! Next, this group looks forward to the [Vape Science Panel](#) on July 28 – more info about that event is below.

• **Proficiency Testing Working Group**

The Proficiency Testing Working Group continues its development of cannabis proficiency testing programs. The group is now working with a test material provider on securing a hemp matrix. AOAC is also working with a website developer and SAS statistical provider to build a secure proficiency testing website for the new programs. The microbial subgroup has now had its first meeting and other subgroups will be scheduled soon. A taskforce of 9 members has been assembled from various domestic and international regions with various areas of expertise, all related to cannabis/hemp analysis.

Expert Review Panel Updates

The CASP Expert Review Panels for Microbiology and Chemical Contaminants will both meet during the next Analytical Methods Week, August 2-6. Numerous other AOAC ERPs will also meet during that week. Please [visit the website](#) to see what is going on at our upcoming Analytical Methods Week and register to attend. Methods have been submitted for pesticides in cannabis, heavy metals, and total yeast & mold (total yeast & mold methods were submitted as part of the Emergency Response Validation (ERV) – a broad call for methods in this area will still be issued once that SMPR is approved). All will be welcome to attend these ERP sessions. More information will be provided in the next newsletter. Do you have a method you’d like submitted for AOAC ERP Review? See the open CASP Calls for Methods below:

- [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.

Speaking Engagements and/or Training Opportunities

AOAC CASP Vape Science Panel

July 29, 2021 at 1:00PM ET

Speakers: Manik Gudimani, Can-Lab, Michigan; Jeffrey Raber, The Werc Shop, California; Arnaud Dumas de Raully, The Blinc Group & Chair ISO & CEN Vaping Standards Committees, New York; Robert Strongin, Portland State University, Oregon

With the rising popularity of cannabis and CBD vape products globally and increasing attention to health concerns (such as the 2019 EVALI vape crisis in the US), there is a greater need to understand how the liquid, and the associated vapor emitted from devices, can be characterized to ensure the highest quality product reaches the consumer as safely as possible. As both organic and inorganic contaminants pose health concerns, today’s laboratories require optimized techniques to analyze both target compounds and unknowns in vape smoke to understand the potential impact to human health. [Register here.](#)

Upcoming Virtual Short Course: Cannabis Infused Foods – An Entrepreneur’s Primer

August 10-12, 2021

Hosted by the [Institute of Food Technologists](#) (IFT), a CASP Affiliate Member

For the recently licensed cannabis producer interested in developing infused foods, the world of beverages and edibles can seem confusing and poorly supported. Regulations, from track and trace to laboratory analyses, consume large amounts of the entrepreneur’s time. Food quality, food science, and critical controls are often only touched upon. With limited capital, production is frequently a scaled up culinary operation that promises unique products, yet soon strains under production, laboratory, and quality pressures. Join IFT for this new and exciting short course that will address solutions from the small producer’s point of view versus presentations describing specific products or services. [Register Here.](#)

Coupon Code to Register at the IFT member rate: **CIF2021**

Analyzing Cannabis and CBD (Part of the A2LA Tech Forum)

August 4, 2021 at 9:30AM ET

Speakers: Susan Audino, Audino & Associates and Arlene Fox, AOAC

Analyzing cannabis and CBD samples can be challenging. From setting up a laboratory to developing methods, even experienced chemists can struggle to ensure standard operating procedures consistent with state and country

CannMed

September 29 – October 1, 2021

Moderator: Susan Audino, Audino & Associates

Speakers: [Various](#)

regulations. AOAC has created the Cannabis Analytical Science Program (CASP) to address these challenges. [Register here.](#)

Since 2016, CannMed was born to promote understanding of cannabis's complex science and its medical benefits for patients in need. Dr. Raphael Mechoulam and other cannabis industry leaders have chosen CannMed to announce their latest findings and breakthrough technologies to the world. With the cannabis industry anticipated to exceed \$500B by 2028, CannMed is one conference you cannot afford to miss. [Register here.](#)

Keep the conversation going! Join AOAC's Cannabis and Hemp Community on [LinkedIn](#) to network, engage, and discuss current issues.

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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