Ballot Results
SMPPs 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, to 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 Edem of Colombia Care
- o Suitability testing of media, led by Salvatore Parisi of Louisiana State University
- o Testing at quantitative vs. qualitative methods, led by Zerlinda Johnson, AOAC Technical Consultant
- o Requirements for reference methods, led by Shanae 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. ADAC 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 cannabidiol 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 to a path forward with cannabidiol infused beverages. Co-chairs Holly Johnson and Julie Kowalski will work simultaneously to create two new SMPPs for beverages – one for metals and one for residual solvents. The metals workflow will be led by Julie, while Holly will lead the development of the solvents SMPP. Unlike the existing CASP SMPPs for these analytes, these SMPPs will be specific to beverages. The group will work on these SMPPs 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 18 – more info about that event is below.

Efficiency Testing Working Group
The Efficiency 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 and various areas of expertise, all related to cannabis/hemp analysis.

Expert Review Panel Updates
The CASP Expert Review Panel for Microbiology and Chemical Contaminants will both meet during the next Analytical Methods Week, August 2-6. Numerous other CASP 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 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 ADAC ERP Review? See the open CASP Calls for Methods below:

- Detection of Shiga Toxin Producing Escherichia coli in Cannabis and Cannabis Products
- Nicotinotin 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 ADAC Official Methods of Analysis (OMA) status and/or the ADAC Performance Tested Methods (PTM) program. Please follow the appropriate link above for details.

Speaking Engagements and/or Training Opportunities

AOAC CASP Vape Science Panel
July 29, 2021 at 10:00 AM ET
Speakers: Mark Gueldini, Can-Labs, Michigan; Jeffrey Rabin, The Vapers Shop, California; Anuah Dumes de Raudy, The Bliss Group & Chair ISO & CEN Vaping Standards Committee, 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 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 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.

Cannabinoids 2021 & Science of CBD – Are You Ready? (CIF2021)
September 29 – October 1, 2021
Register here.

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.
Keep the conversation going! Join AOAC’s Cannabis and Hemp Community on LinkedIn to network, engage, and discuss current issues.

Do you want your organisation 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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