



December 6, 2021

2022 Priorities and the CASP Advisory Panel

The CASP Advisory Panel (AP) met on Thursday, November 18 to review the program's progress and to discuss the 2022 workplan. Potential projects for 2022 may include standards for hempseed oil, cosmetics, dietary supplements, listeria, microbial contamination of edibles/beverages, development of a proficiency testing guidance document, sampling guidance, guidance for matrix matching, and/or various educational sessions. The Advisory Panel is in the process of sorting and prioritizing these ideas, which have been proposed at various CASP meetings. Prioritization will be complete by December 17. The top priorities will be assigned to existing and/or new working groups as necessary. Other priorities may be added to the 2022 workplan depending on the level of support CASP receives. Are you interested in supporting CASP by joining the Advisory Panel? If so, please contact Alicia Meiklejohn, AOAC Director of Business Development, at ameiklejohn@aoac.org or 301-924-7077 x 101.

Working Group Updates

• **Microbiology Working Group**

The CASP Microbiology Working Group, chaired by Julia Bramante of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, met on October 26 and again on December 1 to review the work of the five subgroups which were created to draft sections of the CASP Microbiology Validation Guidelines. All five subgroups have reported back to the main group and a plan is in place to complete the combined document. The subgroups will now each meet with Julia and AOAC Staff to discuss formatting and final edits during the next two weeks. After these meetings conclude, the working group will conduct an internal comment period of the guidance document leading into the new year. The larger working group will come together again in mid-January, 2022 to review and discuss all comments. Once the working group is satisfied with the state of the document, it will be released for public comment as per AOAC's process and eventually put to a vote with the CASP community.

• **CASP Product Centric Working Group**

The Cannabinoids in Beverages document completed by the former Cannabinoids Working Group recently concluded its 30-day public comment period. Comments submitted have been shared with the working group co-chair for response. If the chair determines that these comments suggest significant changes to the SMPR, the working group will convene to discuss. Otherwise, if the suggestions are minor issues, this document will be sent out to the CASP community for a vote to approve as soon as responses are received by AOAC staff.

The Residual Solvents sub-group is continuing work on the SMPR for Residual Solvents in Cannabinoid Containing Beverages and is currently assessing the target levels for each solvent. Once the working group agrees on these levels the SMPR will be prepared for a public comment period.

The SMPR for Heavy Metals in Cannabis Containing Beverages is now available for public comment! Visit the [call for comments](#) and let us know what you think today!

Finally, to conclude work on the "beverages" category of products, co-chair Julie Kowalski will lead a subgroup in the development of an SMPR for pesticide residues in cannabis containing beverages. The first meeting for this work will take place on December 9 at 2:00PM ET.

• **Proficiency Testing Working Group**

The AOAC Proficiency Testing department is reviewing and evaluating the feedback on the technical specifications from a potential Test Material Provider lab (CDFA) for the Pesticide and Cannabinoid Program's areas of expertise, all related to cannabis/hemp analysis. The CASP Advisory Panel is currently considering expanding the scope of this working group to task it with creating general guidance for cannabis proficiency testing. Their final decision will be announced in the next newsletter.

Open Calls for Methods

Do you have a method you'd like submitted for AOAC ERP Review? See the open CASP Calls for Methods below. AOAC is happy to discuss the method submission process with method authors prior to submission. If you would like to organize a call, simply reply to this email.

- [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 Training Opportunities

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| March 14-18, 2022: AOAC Midyear Meeting The AOAC INTERNATIONAL Midyear Meeting has evolved to empower the scientific community to take the lead on addressing global issues. The Midyear Meeting serves as a venue for the AOAC community to come together to advance needed analytical methods through dialog and consensus. The semi-annual CASP meeting will be a part of this and is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2022 and will be held in Gaithersburg, MD. Registration will open in early 2022. More information here. | May 3-5, 2022: CannMed Since 2016, CannMed was born to promote understanding of cannabis's complex science and its medical benefits for patients in need. More information here. |
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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.

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