



October 1, 2021

Thank you for a successful CASP Meeting on August 28!

We were thrilled to be able to come together as a community in Boston for some great talks! The agenda included updates from all working group chairs, updates on ERP activities, an overview of the CASP program and some new AOAC initiatives, and a special guest presentation from the National Safety Council. Couldn't make it? Review the meeting [report here](#).

Supporting CASP – New Government Tier Advisory Panel Level

AOAC is pleased to welcome our first government tier Advisory Panel member: the Maryland Department of Agriculture, State Chemist Section. In August, AOAC introduced this new tier of Advisory Panel membership at a reduced cost to encourage state labs from around the country and other government bodies from around the world to join the CASP Advisory Panel to help steer the direction of the program and set future priorities. Involving government in these discussions is critical, which is why we took the steps to offer this new level. If you are from a government body and would like to help set CASP's priorities, please contact Alicia Meiklejohn, ameiklejohn@aoac.org, to discuss your options. Not from government? The broader the range of perspectives on the Advisory Panel, the better! If your organization would like to join and be a part of the decision-making process, you may also contact Alicia at the email address above. The Advisory Panel meets quarterly to review program progress and determine the program's next priorities. [Learn More](#).

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 just prior to the AOAC Annual Meeting to review the work of the subgroups to date. Subgroup leads all requested additional time to round out their sections. The subgroups are now preparing their reports to present to the larger working group at its next meeting, which will likely be held in mid-October. 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 Cannabinoids in Beverages document completed by the former Cannabinoids Working Group recently concluded its 30-day public comment period. Comments submitted will now be shared with working group chair Holly Johnson for review. The SMPR for Heavy Metals in Cannabinoid Infused Beverages has been completed and will soon proceed to its own 30-day public comment period. The group is continuing work on the SMPR for Residual Solvents in Cannabinoid Infused Beverages and expects to have the draft completed later this fall, which will then also move to a public comment period. The group will then work to consider what other analytes may need to be addressed with regards to beverages before moving on to a new product.
- 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 will address chair Brent Wilson's proposal to expand the scope of this working group at its next meeting.

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. **The deadline for 2021 method reviews is October 15, 2021.** 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](#)
- [Identification and Quantitation of Selected Pesticide Residues in Dry Cannabis Materials](#)
- [Mycotoxin Screening Technique in Cannabis Plant Materials and Cannabis Derivatives](#)
- [Identification and Quantitation of Residual Solvents in Cannabis](#)
- [Detection of Salmonella species in Cannabis and Cannabis Products](#)
- [Detection of Aspergillus in Cannabis and Cannabis Products](#)

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

Speaking Engagements and Training Opportunities

October 19: MJ Biz Conference, Las Vegas, NV More information here.	November 15: Eastern Analytical Symposium, Invited Speaker Presentation: "How Cannabis Regulations are often Counter-Productive to Ensuring Consumer Safety" More information here.
October 30-Nov 1: American Chem Society, SW Regional Section. <i>Uncertainty Estimates, test results, decision rules - oh my!</i> More information here.	November 16-17: Eastern Analytical Symposium, Princeton, NJ "Cannabis Lab Essentials: Understanding the Cannabis Landscape and the Critical Process of Test Method Development and Validation" More information here.
November 8-10: CannaPharma, San Diego "When is Good Science Good Enough in the Cannabis Industry" 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.

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."

www.aoac.org

Copyright AOAC INTERNATIONAL. All rights reserved.