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2023 AOAC SEA 2nd Annual Conference

Updates regarding U.S. FDA's Closer to Zero action plan and AOAC Heavy Metals Working Group

by
Dr. Kevin Kubachka
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Food and Drug Administration, Forensic Chemistry Center, USA

Key speakers from the public sector

A row of logos for key speakers from the public sector. From left to right: TCVN (blue and white), Bureau of Accreditation Vietnam (circular logo with a mountain and sun), NIFCO (green and white), Ministry of Health Vietnam (circular logo with a cross and star), IPH (yellow and red circular logo with a caduceus), and FDA (blue square with white text).

Updates From the AOAC Heavy Metals Working Group

Spurred somewhat by the proposed legislation known as the Baby Food Safety Act of 2021 in the United States, there is a recent movement in world-wide regulations for metals in foods. **Dr. Kevin Kubachka** from the U.S. FDA will provide an update regarding the FDA's Closer to Zero action plan, and the formation and activities of the AOAC Heavy Metals Working Group to explore this area.

Coupled with the AOAC Metals Community and the Expert Review Panel, the AOAC Heavy Metals Working Group is drafting **Standard Method Performance**

Requirements (SMPR) to serve as the guidance to assist in the development and/or evaluation of potential methods to analyze trace elemental contaminants in various food-related matrices. The SMPR will reflect global changes in regulatory limits for heavy metals in defined matrices.

The audience will learn about the outcome of the working group, the next steps and general information about elemental analysis within AOAC.

2023 AOAC SEA
Conference

The banner for the 2023 AOAC SEA 2nd Annual Conference features a blue geometric background. In the top left is the AOAC International Southeast Asia Section logo. The main title is "2023 AOAC SEA 2nd Annual Conference" in blue. Below it, the topic "PFAS: Development in Global Regulations, Analytical Challenges and AOAC Activities" is written in orange. A portrait of Dr. Susan Genualdi is on the left. Her name and title, "Dr. Susan Genualdi, Research Chemist", are listed below the portrait. Her affiliation, "Food and Drug Administration, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, Office of Regulatory Science, USA", is at the bottom right. A row of logos for "Key speakers from the public sector" includes TCVN, Bureau of Accreditation Vietnam, NIFCO, a red cross logo, IPH, a blue and green logo, a black and white logo, and the FDA logo.

PFAS: Development in Global Regulations, Analytical Challenges and AOAC Activities

The development of analytical methods for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in food is essential for monitoring the global food supply and for assessments of dietary exposure. **Dr. Susan Genualdi** from the U.S. FDA will talk about the guidance document and regulation from the European Union in addressing this.

The **AOAC PFAS Working Group**, chaired by Dr. Genualdi, was established in 2023 to develop Standard Method Performance Requirements (SMPR) for analytical methods for PFAS in food and feed. The objectives of this working group were to identify required analytes and foods for PFAS analysis, establish required limits of quantification, and define analytical method parameters.

The audience will be hearing about the draft SMPR for analytical methods quantifying PFAS in Food and Feed. System suitability requirements, also part of the SMPR, will be discussed to overcome challenges with the analysis of PFAS.

Speaker bios and
abstracts



The banner features the AOAC International Southeast Asia Section logo on the left and the text "2023 AOAC SEA Conference Workshop 1" and "AOAC Official Methods and Method Validation" in the center. Below the title, it lists the workshop topics and the speakers' names and titles.

2023 AOAC SEA Conference Workshop 1
AOAC Official Methods and Method Validation

3-module workshop on 2 Aug 2023:

- AOAC Standard Method Development Process and SMPR®
- Measurement Uncertainty
- Test Method Validation

Erik Konings, PhD
• Past President, AOAC INTERNATIONAL
• R&D Expert, Nestlé Institute of Food Safety and Analytical Sciences, Switzerland

Darryl Sullivan
• Past President, AOAC INTERNATIONAL
• Chair, AOAC SPIFAN
• Chief Scientific Officer, Eurofins Scientific, USA

Workshop: AOAC Official Methods and Method Validation

To support the development of the analytical community in Vietnam and Southeast Asia, we offer 2 complimentary technical workshops at the 2023 AOAC SEA Annual Conference in Ho Chi Minh City.

One of the workshops is on '*AOAC Official Methods and Method Validation*,' with 3 topics delivered by **Mr. Darryl Sullivan**, Past President of AOAC INTERNATIONAL and Chief Scientific Officer of Eurofins Scientific, USA, and **Dr. Erik Konings**, Past President of AOAC INTERNATIONAL and R&D Expert at Nestlé Institute of Food Safety and Analytical Sciences, Switzerland:

- *AOAC INTERNATIONAL Process for the Development and Use of SMPR's in Standards Development.* Darryl will talk in detail on the new AOAC standards development process and how it is being used to develop Standard Method Performance Requirements (SMPR's). The audience will understand the critical component of the SMPR, which is the global implications of the test methods that are being developed for stakeholders from all of the geographies. They will also hear about new AOAC methods that have been approved by ISO, IDF, and Codex Alimentarius, which make them the most recognized international test methods for infant formula especially.
- *Measurement Uncertainty in Chemical Analysis.* Measurement uncertainty is of utmost importance in physical and analytical testing and subsequent decision-making. Codex Alimentarius Commission recommends laboratories involved in Import and Export control should provide measurement uncertainty. Erik will focus on types of measurement errors, procedures for estimating measurement uncertainty, how to report measurement uncertainty and how measurement uncertainty can affect decisions.
- *AOAC INTERNATIONAL Method Validation Process.* Darryl will outline each of the steps in the AOAC method validation process. With a better understanding of AOAC processes, test method developers can improve study designs that meet AOAC requirements, have more concise data collection, and gain quicker reviews and faster method approvals. Representatives from independent laboratories will also have an improved chance of being selected as Expert Reviewers for themselves or AOAC Independent Laboratories for their organizations.

Conference registration ends on **14 July 2023**. Register for the conference and complimentary workshops while space is still allowed.

Register for the
Conference

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We appreciate the generous support of the 2023 AOAC SEA Conference Sponsors who help bring the conference themed *Facilitating Compliance for Food Safety and Quality in International Trade* to the needed community in the region, and thus serve AOAC SEA's mission in convening government, industry

and academia to develop and validate standards, methods and technologies, and ensure the safety and integrity of foods and other products that impact public health.

THANK YOU!

2023 AOAC SEA Conference Organizers



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