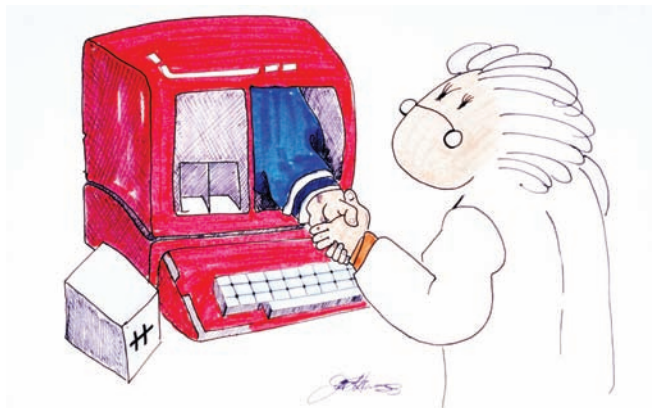


Rejuvenated Approved Methods Technical Committee

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The technical committee chairs are planning an exciting year ahead. The last few years have seen much soul searching, both inside and outside the committees. Although not everyone agreed that it needed to be so exhaustive, all agree that the new ideas are welcome, and the collective chairs, otherwise known as the Approved Methods Technical Committee, have rallied their troops (otherwise known as wonderful volunteers) and are exploring many new ideas.

At the annual meeting in San Antonio (October 2007), the group said many thanks to Randy Wehling, who had so ably steered all the committees through the last few years and the review process. It's no surprise that he has required not one but two people to replace him. Paul Wehling, General Mills, has accepted the role of vice chair and yours truly has assumed the chair role. Collectively Paul and I trust we will keep the committees focused on their important role as caretakers of the *Approved Methods of AACC International* and at the same time look for opportunities to provide a broader technical advisory role to the AACC Intl. membership.

Most committees have rejuvenated their vision and methods activities and have added new members. There is strong commitment from these committees to focus on the development of new methods. Some committees have rearranged their technical areas and are considering operating as combined groups. A few other committees have chosen to operate in inactive status, although they can be quickly reactivated if a new method or technical need arises.

Two committees are looking for expressions of interest from the general membership for new chairs. The first is the Microbiology Committee, where a new chair and members are needed. If you have an interest (or know of colleagues who you can encourage to have an interest) please contact me. The Experimental Milling Committee is also seeking a new chair. While it is important that you have a working interest in the technology, there is no chair experience level required for these positions, and I am encouraging younger AACC Intl. members to see this as a great opportunity to expand their career skills (and their résumés!) in a friendly, supportive, and mentored environment.

There is also a new task force (the embryonic phase of forming a new committee) exploring the area of bioactive compounds under the guidance of Elsayad Abdelaal.

If you have an interest (or know of someone who may) in any of these areas please let me know at annebridges001@earthlink.net.

This is a perfect time for AACC Intl. members (or prospective members) to consider joining this important area of the association. Members who are interested in a more interactive role will have many opportunities for new friendships and technical networking. All methods committees welcome new members and will provide you with many options to expand your knowledge and involvement to get the most from your AACC Intl. membership.

It is ideal if members are regular annual meeting attendees, but this is not essential (though who can resist a meeting in Hawaii?). You can be a very active committee member in the online international environment.

Collaborative trials for new methods and updating of existing methods are ongoing activities of each committee. If you know of a method that is used in your part of the grain science industry that would provide an excellent basis for a new AACC Intl. method, it's time to raise your hand and let us know so that the Approved Methods Committee can examine all the opportunities in the real cereal world.

New Methods

Several committees have new methods in the final stages of publication, and these will be available online shortly.

Oat Products Committee
AACC Intl. Method 76-22
Determination of the Pasting Properties of Oat
with the Rapid Visco Analyzer

Pulses Committee
AACC Intl. Method 56-35
Method for Determining Water Hydration
Capacity and Percentage of Unhydrated
Seeds of Pulses

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Physical Testing Committee
AACC Intl. Method 76-33
Determination of Damaged Starch—Amperometric
Method Using the SDmatic

Biotechnology Committee
AACC Intl. Method 11-30
MON 810 Corn in Corn Flour by Real-Time
Polymerase Chain Reaction

Broader Picture

On the broader scale, the Approved Methods Committee, under the guidance of Phil Williams (2007 Edith Christensen Award winner), has been working on harmonization of a selected group of methods with the International Association for Cereal Science and Technology (ICC). For more information on this, see p. 99 of this issue. Several of these methods will require collaborative activities to allow the suggested harmonized changes to be made, and these are under discussion in the relevant committees.

Other committee activities have included considering options to enhance the online version of the *Approved Methods of AACC International*.

Note that all methods (including the new ones posting soon) are available online. For a limited time, you may receive free online access to the *Approved Methods of AACC International* for 2008 when you purchase the print version of the *Approved Methods of AACC International* two volume set. In addition, the print version is on sale for \$359.10 with your member discount. Hurry, this offer ends April 18, 2008. Call 1.800.328.7560 or e-mail aacc@scisoc.org to receive details of this special promotion.

Sampling

We all know that methods don't provide relevant results unless the sample to be analyzed is truly representative of the lot. The biotechnology committee, through its membership in the ISO TC34 TAG, has been working to ensure that the procedures for grain sampling are not reinvented to meet European trade requirements. A multiple association-sponsored meeting is planned in May to discuss sampling issues, particularly as they are included in Codex documents.

Technical Consulting

The committees are being asked to provide a broader technical advisory role within the association when appropriate. Some committee members have participated in training workshops and short courses. Others are aligning with selected research divisions to increase communication links between the two groups and provide alternative opportunities for the membership. Take a moment to learn more about the opportunities open to you as part of your AACC Intl. membership and make 2008 the year for you to explore the methods committees.

And, finally, if you have any new ideas or suggestions for the Approved Methods Technical Committee, please share them.

AACC International Approved Methods Technical Committees

Asian Products

Bin Xiao Fu

Near Infrared Analysis

Charles R. Hurburgh, Jr.
Stephen R. Delwiche

Barley and Barley Products

Talwinder Kahlon

Oat Products

Alan Koechner

Bioactive Compounds (Task Force)

Elsayad Abdelaal

Pasta and Noodle Products Analysis

Linda M. Schlichting

Biotechnology Methods

Dave Grothaus

Physical Testing Methods

Seok-Ho Park

Bread Baking Methods

Margo S. Caley

Pulses and Legumes

Ning Wang

Chemical Leavening Agents

Barbara B. Heidolph

Rice Milling and Quality

Melissa Fitzgerald

Dietary Fiber (includes all carbohydrates)

Barry V. McCleary

Soft Wheat Flour and Products

Arthur D. Bettge

Enzyme Analysis

David W. Hatcher

Statistical Advisory

Debra Palmquist

Experimental Milling

Vacant

Vitamins, Minerals, and Lipids Analyses

Padmanaban G. Krishnan

Methods for Grain and Flour Testing

Anthony B. Blakeney

Yeast Evaluation

J. Michael Hudson

Microbiological

Vacant

Anne Bridges received her academic training in Australia and Canada. She is chair of the AACC International Approved Methods Technical Committee. She has participated in many international conferences and discussions regarding the importance of validated testing of agricultural biotechnology traits. Some of her recent activities include participation in ISO discussions on standards elaborated by CEN; in the Working Group on Biotechnology and the CCMAS discussions at Codex; and in ILSI training programs and symposia in Brazil, Argentina, Columbia, Singapore, India, and China. She has worked in health care and consumer food products for a number of companies including 3M and General Mills Inc. She is based in Australia and shares her time between consulting for biotechnology issues and humanitarian relief work. Anne can be reached at annebridges001@earthlink.net.