



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**Southern Section
AOAC INTERNATIONAL
39th Annual Conference
March 31-April 1, 2026**

**Atlanta Marriott Northeast/Emory Area
2000 Century Boulevard NE
Atlanta, Georgia**

To register go to:
www.ssaoac.org



Tuesday-March 31st

Topic Presentations

AOAC International Update

Katerina Mastovska, PhD

Deputy Executive Director and Chief Science Officer
AOAC International

Keynote Presentations:

“The Evolution of Food Testing in the Last 50 Years”

Darryl Sullivan, PhD

Chief Science Officer, Eurofins

Past President, AOAC International

“Hydrogen Economy: From Pipe Dreams to Pipelines”

Mark Zappi, PhD, PE

Executive Director of the Energy Institute of Louisiana

Director of the Louisiana Energy Extension Service

BORSF Endowed Chair in Bioprocessing in the Department of Chemical
Engineering

University of Louisiana at Lafayette (UL)

Vendor Luncheon Technical Training Workshops

Tuesday-March 31st

TBA

SHIMADZU SCIENTIFIC

*Luncheon Technical Training include lunch for a limited number of attendees.
Sign up at the registration desk Tuesday and Wednesday morning.*



Wednesday-April 1st

TBA
Sciex

TBA
Waters Corporation

*Luncheon Technical Training include lunch for a limited number of attendees.
Sign up at the registration desk Tuesday and Wednesday morning.*

Vendor Technical Training Workshops-Tuesday-March 31st

TBA
Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation

TBA
BioMerieux

Vendor Technical Training Workshops-Tuesday-March 31st

TBA
Agilent

TBA
PerkinElmer

TBA



Tuesday-March 31st **Southern Section Reception**

In appreciation of your continued support of analytical sciences and the Southern Section of AOAC International, and especially for your attendance at our 2026 Annual Conference please attend the Evening Reception. Please relax and enjoy complimentary drinks and heavy appetizers while catching up with colleagues and old friends and networking with fellow scientists, administrators, and vendors.

To register for this exciting meeting go to www.ssaaoac.org

MEMBERS (AOAC)

\$75 Pre-registered
\$95 Onsite

NON-MEMBERS

\$95 Pre-registered
\$110 Onsite

FULL TIME STUDENTS ARE FREE!!!!

Thanks to the support of our Vendor Partners, this low registration fee includes, technical training workshops, all breaks, and the Southern Section Reception.

Register using any major credit card or by check



Wednesday-April 1st **Biological Presentations**

Implementation of New Technologies in Disease Surveillance, Prevention, and Control

Irshad M Sulaiman, PhD

Research Microbiologist, Office of Scientific Coordination and Computational Sciences, FDA

EHEC Testing Redefined: Unveiling a Major Breakthrough

Prashant Singh, PhD

Associate Professor, Florida State University

Molecular and Biosensors for Rapid Food Safety Diagnostics

Pratik Banerjee, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Next Gen Food Safety and Quality Decision Systems using imaging technology with AI

Amit Morey, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Poultry Science, Auburn University

Isolation and Detection of Foodborne Pathogens from Agricultural Soil

Ynes Ortega, PhD

Associate Professor, Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia

Dynamics of Disease Outbreaks, Causes, and Controls

Kevin Karem, PhD

Lab Director, Atlanta Human and Animal Food Laboratory, FDA



Wednesday-April 1st **Biological Presentations**

Pause and Effect: Unraveling the Bacterial Lag Phase

Abhinav Mishra, PhD

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies,
Department of Food Science and Technology, University of Georgia

Integrated Serosurveillance as a Future Surveillance System for Public Health Response

Kumar V. Udhayakumar, PhD

Program Director, Integrated Serosurveillance Program, The Task Force
Global Health

Novel insights on the Epidemiology and Control of *Campylobacter* in Poultry Meat

Issmat Kassem, PhD

Assistant Professor, Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia

Cannabis Microbiology Preparation: Moving Toward Standardization

Anthony Repay, MS

Laboratory Director, Method Testing Labs

Understanding the Role of "Mundane" Effects on *Chlamydia* Pathogenesis

Yusuf Omosun, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Biochemistry and
Immunology, Morehouse Medical School

Identification and Characterization of a Novel Heavy-metal Tolerant Microbacterium species capable of Xenobiotics Degradation

Mautusi Mitra, PhD

Professor, University of West Georgia



Wednesday-April 1st
Chemistry Presentations

**Simulated Gastrointestinal Assessment of Plastic Particle Absorption
Using a Human Intestinal Cell Platform**

Yu-Jou Chou, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow
Health, Nutrition & Food Sciences
Florida State University

**Sensitive and Optimized Methods for Carbohydrates Analyses for
Industrial Applications**

Parastoo Azadi, PhD
Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia

**Political and Public Perspectives of the World's Largest Algae Bloom:
The Great Atlantic *Sargassum* Belt**

Brian Lapointe, PhD
Research Professor,
Florida Atlantic University/Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute

**Production of Nonanoic Acid as Herbicide from Wastewater via In-situ
Ozone Cracking of Microbial Oils**

Esau Obuong, Dhan Lord B. Fortela, William Holmes, Rafael Hernandez,
Andrei Chistoserdov, Ashley Mikolajczyk, Wayne Sharp, Mark E. Zappi
University of Louisiana at Lafayette



Wednesday-April 1st **Chemistry Presentations**

Airway Metabolites Predict the Development of Bronchiectasis in Very Young Children with Cystic Fibrosis

Joshua D. Chandler, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University
Scientific Director, Emory Pediatric Metabolomics and Biomarkers Core
(EPMBC)

Beyond Analytics: Scale-Up Perspectives on Preparative Lipid Fractionation

Hailey Privat^{1,2}; William E Holmes^{1,2}; Rafael Hernandez^{1,2}; Mark E Zappi^{1,2};
Ashley P Mikolajczyk^{1,2}

Energy Institute of Louisiana¹, Department of Chemical Engineering²,
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

PFAS Removal from Water and Wastewater: Advanced Oxidation Assessed by Revident Q-TOF

Katherine O Ashurst^{1,2}; Elizabeth A Boyd^{1,2}; Daniel D Gang^{1,3}; William E Holmes^{1,2}; Mark E Zappi^{1,2}

Energy Institute of Louisiana¹, Department of Chemical Engineering²,
Department of Civil Engineering³, University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

Sustainable and Efficient Production of Bioactive Compound-Loaded Nanoparticles from Raw Plants

Hualu Zhou

Assistant Professor, Dept. Food Science and Technology
University of Georgia



Wednesday-April 1st
Chemistry Presentations

Resolving Oxylipin Isomer Complexity through Multipass Cyclic Ion Mobility Mass Spectrometry

Eric Gier^{1,2}, Facundo Fernández²

¹Capt, US Air Force

^{1,2}Georgia Institute of Technology

Additional Oral Presentations

TBA



**Tuesday-Wednesday March 31- April 1st
Poster Presentations**

Detection and Recovery of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in milk
Chaitanya Konappagari, and Ynes Ortega
Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia

**Biocontrol of *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 by *Pseudomonas fluorescens*
A506 on Romaine Lettuce**

Tongzhou Xu¹, Mehmet Dogan^{1,2}, David Mann¹, Maria Brandl³, and
Xiangyu Deng¹

¹Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia

²National Food Reference Laboratory, Yenimahalle, Türkiye

³USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Albany, CA

**Discovery and Characterization of a Novel Microbacterium Species
that Degrades Plastic and Other Environmental Pollutants**

Arpita Nath Sarker, Delight Okere, Logan Chastain, Chukwuemeka Okpala,
and Mautusi Mitra

University of West Georgia, School of Field Investigations and
Experimental Sciences, Biology Program, Carrollton, Georgia

**Determining the role of the estrous cycle in immune response against
Chlamydia and disease pathogenesis**

Danielle Wright¹, Awa Sore¹, Medhavi Fnu¹, Caitlynn Diggs¹, Francis Eko¹,
Jason DeBruyne², and Yusuf Omosun¹

¹Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology, Biology and
Immunology, ²Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience

**Understanding the role of sleep in Chlamydial pathogenesis, immune
response, and cellular modifications**

Awa Sore¹, Medhavi Fnu¹, Taylor Tanner¹, Adelle Durand¹, Danielle
Wright¹, Caitlynn Diggs¹, Stephanie Lundy¹, Francis Eko¹, Christopher
Ehlen², and Yusuf Omosun¹

¹Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology, Biology and
Immunology, ²Department of Neuroscience



**Tuesday-Wednesday March 31-April 1st
Poster Presentations**

Role of time of day of infection on the expression of fibrosis and EMT genes in the course of *Chlamydia* infection

Stephanie Lundy¹, Medhavi Fnu¹, Shakyra Richardson, Joseph Igietseme², Francis Eko¹, and Yusuf Omosun¹

¹Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology, Biology and Immunology, ² Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta

Turning Waste into Growth: Pyrolysis of Chicken Litter for Natural Fertilizer Production

Hayden-Digestion and ICP

Hayden M Hulin¹; Prashanth R Buchireddy¹; David J Shoemaker^{1,2};
William E Holmes^{1,2}; Mark E. Zappi^{1,2}.

Energy Institute of Louisiana¹, Department of Chemical Engineering²,
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

From Proteins to Performance: Exploring Binding Mechanisms in Bio-Based Adhesives

Ava G Welch^{1,2}; Andrei Y Chistoserdov^{1,2}; Mark E Zappi^{1,3}; William E Holmes^{1,3}

Energy Institute of Louisiana¹, Department of Biological Sciences²;
Department of Chemical Engineering³, University Louisiana, Lafayette, LA



**Tuesday-Wednesday March 31-April 1st
Poster Presentations**

**From Menace to Resource: Bioenergy and Nutraceutical Potential of
Giant Salvinia**

Andrew M Chiasson^{1,2}; Xiaobo Lei^{1,2}; Mark E Zappi^{1,2}; William E Holmes^{1,2}
Energy Institute of Louisiana¹, Department of Chemical Engineering²,
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

The Presence of PFAS Compounds in Cannabis Products

Adam B. Floyd, Ben Armstrong, Cassie Eremann
Lab Zen, LLC

**Challenges and Solutions for Trace Element Determination in High-
Fat Food Matrices**

Bob Lockerman, Layla Abu-Al-Halaweh, Lanie Griffin Hough: CEM
Corporation

Additional Poster Presentations
TBA



2026 Meeting Sponsors

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Please Note: for 2027

**The 40th Annual Conference of the Southern
Section
AOAC International
will be held in
Atlanta, GA
March 30-31, 2027**

Proposed 2027 Conference Topics:

General:

Nanotechnology
Virtual Reality and Laboratory Training
Merging of Artificial Intelligence and the Analytical Sciences

Chemistry:

Biotechnology, Energy Innovations and Nutraceuticals
New Technologies & Methodology
Cannabis, Toxins, Food, Environmental Contaminants (PFAS), Heavy Metals
LC-MS/MS and GC-MS/MS

Microbiology:

Biotechnology and Nutraceuticals
Emerging Technologies and the Analysis of Food Borne Pathogens
MALDI-TOF Mass Spectrometry
PCR, Mass Spectrometry, Rapid testing

