

***39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of  
The Southern Section  
of AOAC International  
“The Scientific Association Dedicated to Analytical Excellence”***

***Atlanta, Georgia  
March 31 - April 1, 2026***

***Helping to Bring the Latest Breakthroughs  
to the Scientific Community***



# SUMMARY OF EVENTS

## Monday, March 30

<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>	Decatur 2
<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>Exhibit &amp; Poster Setup</b>	Century West

## Tuesday, March 31

	<b>Exhibits &amp; Posters 9:00AM - 5:00 PM</b>	Century West
<b>7:30 AM – 4:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration</b>	Century Foyer
<b>8:30 AM – 11:45 AM</b>	<b>General Session</b>	Centennial A & B
<b>12:00 PM – 1:00 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Workshop</b>	Centennial A & B
<b>1:15 PM – 4:15 PM</b>	<b>Workshops</b>	Centennial A & B
<b>4:15 PM – 5:00 PM</b>	<b>Poster Session</b>	Century West
<b>5:00 PM – 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Evening Reception</b>	Century/Centennial Foyer

## Wednesday, April 1

	<b>Exhibits &amp; Posters 9:00 AM - 3:05 PM</b>	Century West
<b>7:30 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	<b>Registration</b>	Century Foyer
<b>8:30 AM – 12:25 PM</b>	<b>Biology Session</b>	Centennial A & B
	<b>Chemistry Session</b>	Centennial C & D
<b>12:25 PM – 1:25 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Workshops</b>	Centennial A & B Centennial C & D
<b>1:25 PM – 3:30 PM</b>	<b>Biology Session</b>	Centennial A & B
	<b>Chemistry Session</b>	Centennial C & D



**Southern Section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL**  
*“The Scientific Association Dedicated to Analytical Excellence”*

March 31, 2026

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Southern Section of the AOAC. We hope you enjoy your stay here in Atlanta.

One of the best benefits of this conference is that we make great contacts with other people of analytical excellence, and we want you to do the same. There have been a lot of new analytical requirements recently for our laboratories and it is much easier knowing the correct people to contact to assist with these new challenges. You will find other scientists that are willing to help you with the new regulatory and analytical issues, as well. We are in exciting times in the field of analytical science with all the advancements in technology and methodology that are occurring right now.

To help make these new contacts, please plan to attend the evening reception on Tuesday. There will be heavy appetizers, drinks, and live entertainment. Some of the best networking happens when we take the time to talk in a relaxed atmosphere.

You will find a lot of biology and chemistry presentations that will give you solutions and ideas that you can take back to advance your laboratory. Also, make sure that you visit the poster area to get a plethora of information on current topics in both sciences from these presentations. In addition, we want to encourage the students to network and use the knowledge of the other attendees because you are the up-and-coming stars of the analytical community. There will be a lot of attendees that are very passionate about analytical excellence and the latest breakthroughs in methodologies. Feel free to ask us questions because we love to share the knowledge with others.

Don't forget to visit our vendors. Their generosity makes this meeting possible at such an affordable price. They have the latest technology to aid with today's analytical challenges that require greater sensitivity, specificity, and efficiency for our laboratories.

Please feel free to reach out to any of the officers if there is anything we can do to help make your experience more beneficial. We'd love to talk with you about volunteering too.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

Southern Section of AOAC International

## **2026 VENDORS**

*Exhibit Area is open Tuesday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and  
Wednesday 9:00 AM to 3:05 PM (Century West)*

### **ADVION INTERCHIM SCIENTIFIC AGILENT TECHNOLOGIES**

**Anton Paar**

**AXCEND**

**BIOMERIEUX**

**BIO-RAD**

**BRANDTECH**

**Bruker**

**CEM**

**ELEMENTAL SCIENTIFIC**

**EUROFINS**

**ITSP SOLUTIONS**

**LAB ZEN**

**MILLIPORE SIGMA**

**PERKIN ELMER**

**PHENOMENEX**

**RESTEK**

**SARTORIUS**

**SCIEX**

**SHIMADZU SCIENTIFIC**

**THERMO FISHER SCIENTIFIC**

**UCT, INC**

**VELP**

**VERDER SCIENTIFIC**

**WATERS CORPORATION**

**LUNCHEON WORKSHOPS**



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**WORKSHOPS**



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**ATTENDEE BAGS**



**NAME BADGE LANYARDS**



**Tuesday, March 31**

**General Session**  
**Morning Session— Centennial A & B**

- 8:30-8:35**      **Welcome—President**  
Erin J. Wenke, BioMerieux, Inc.
- 8:35-8:40**      **Call to Order—President-Elect**  
Irshad M. Sulaiman, FDA Southeast Food and Feed Lab
- 8:40-9:00**      **AOAC International Update**  
Katerina Mastovska, PhD  
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Science Officer  
AOAC International
- 9:00-10:10**      **Keynote Presentations**  
**The Evolution of Food Testing in the Last 50 Years**  
Darryl Sullivan, PhD  
Chief Science Officer, Eurofins  
Past President, AOAC International  
*and*  
**Positioning of Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants as  
Integrated Biorefineries for Production of Sustainable  
Chemicals**  
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)
- 10:15-11:00**      **Break**  
**Door Prizes (Century West)**  
**VISIT EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**
- Technical Training Workshops**
- 11:00-11:45**      **Advanced Spoiler Investigation**  
John Mills  
bioMerieux

**Tuesday, March 31**

**Luncheon Session  
Technical Training Workshop**

Centennial A & B

*Limited to the first 60 attendees who sign up at the  
Registration desk, Tuesday morning. Lunch is provided.*

**12:00-1:00 Innovative Approaches to Detecting Foodborne  
Pathogens**

Milaan Thirukumaran  
Shimadzu Scientific

**Technical Training Workshops**

Centennial A & B

**1:15-2:00 Inductively Couple Plasma Interferences Aren't the Problem,  
Unmanaged Interferences Are**

Dan Jones  
Inorganic Instrumental Product Specialist, PerkinElmer

**2:00-2:45 Modern LC- MS Strategies for Food Colorants and  
Packaging Safety**

Zeljka Popovic, Food Development Specialist  
Waters Corporation

**2:45-3:30 Break— Door Prizes (Century West)  
VIST EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS (Authors Present)**

**3:30-4:15 Keeping our food, beverages, and water clean through analysis  
with GC, GCMS, and Infrared Microscopy**

Tom Mancuso and Warren Edmunds, PerkinElmer

**4:15-5:00 Lab Automation for HPLC, GC, MS, and ICP/ICPMS**

C. Derrick Quarles Jr., Ph. D.  
Sr. Scientist & Product Manager Elemental Scientific

**5:00-8:00 Southern Section Reception**

Century and Centennial Foyer

# Wednesday, April 1

## Biology Presentations Morning Session— Centennial A & B Breaks and Exhibits in Century West

**Moderator: Anthony Repay**

- 8:30-8:55**    **Implementation of New Technologies in Disease Surveillance, Prevention, and Control**  
Irshad M Sulaiman, PhD  
Research Microbiologist, Research Coordination Staff, Office of Scientific Coordination and Computational Sciences, FDA
- 8:55-9:20**    **Isolation and Detection of Foodborne Pathogens from Agricultural Soil**  
Ynes Ortega, PhD  
Associate Professor, Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia
- 9:20-9:45**    **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
- 9:45-10:45**    **Break—(Century West)**  
**Door Prizes VISIT EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**
- 10:45-11:10**    **Next Gen Food Safety and Quality Decision Systems using imaging technology with AI**  
Amit Morey, PhD  
Associate Professor, Department of Poultry Science, Auburn University
- 11:10-11:35**    ***Salmonella* Quantification in Beef and Poultry: Innovation, Reliability, and Concerns**  
Prashant Singh, PhD  
Associate Professor, Florida State University

**Wednesday, April 1**

**Biology Presentations**

**Morning Session— Centennial A & B**

Breaks and Exhibits in Century West

**Moderator: Anthony Repay**

- 11:35-12:00      Dynamics of Disease Outbreaks, Causes, and Controls**  
Kevin Karem, PhD  
Lab Director, Atlanta Human and Animal Food Laboratory, FDA
- 12:00-12:25      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

**Luncheon Session**

**Technical Training Workshop**

Centennial A & B

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Registration desk, Tuesday morning. Lunch is provided.

- 12:25-1:25      Next-Generation IC-MS with Inuvion: Smarter EPA AOF  
and Perchlorate Analysis plus Tips You'll Actually Use**  
Allayva Stier  
Thermo Fisher Scientific

## Wednesday, April 1

### Microbiology Presentations Afternoon Session— Centennial A & B Breaks and Exhibits in the Century West

**Moderator: Prashant Singh, PhD**

- 1:25 -1:50**     **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
- 1:50-2:15**     **Novel insights on the Epidemiology and Control of *Campylobacter* in Poultry Meat**  
Issmat Kassem, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia
- 2:15-2:40**     **Cannabis Microbiology Preparation: Moving Toward Standardization**  
Anthony Repay, MS  
Laboratory Director, Method Testing Labs
- 2:40-3:05**     **Break—Door Prize Drawing (Century West)**  
**VISIT EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**
- 3:05-3:30**     **Understanding the Role of "Mundane" Effects on *Chlamydia* Pathogenesis**  
Yusuf Omosun, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Department of Microbiology, Biochemistry and Immunology, Morehouse Medical School
- 3:30-3:55**     **Identification and Characterization of a Novel Heavy-metal Tolerant *Microbacterium* species capable of Xenobiotics Degradation**  
Mautusi Mitra, PhD  
Professor, University of West Georgia

**Southern Section of AOAC Annual Conference Concludes  
“Exciting Door Prizes” and the  
“Grand Prize Drawing” in Century West**

# Wednesday, April 1

## Chemistry Presentations

### Morning Session— Centennial C & D

Breaks and Exhibits in Century West

**Moderator: John F. Clos**

- 8:30-8:55**      **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
- 8:55-9:20**      **Sensitive and Optimized Methods for Carbohydrates Analyses for Industrial Applications**  
Parastoo Azadi, PhD  
Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia
- 9:20-9:45**      **Hydrogen Economy: From Pipe Dreams to Pipelines**  
William Holmes  
Energy Institute of Louisiana and Energy Extension Service, University of Louisiana
- 9:45-10:45**      **Break—(Century West)**  
**Door Prizes VISIT EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**
- 10:45-11:10**      **Airway Metabolites Predict 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)

## Wednesday, April 1

### Chemistry Presentations Morning Session— Centennial C & D Breaks and Exhibits in Century West

**Moderator: John F. Clos**

- 11:10-11:35**     **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
- 11:35-12:00**     **Sustainable and Efficient Production of Bioactive Compound-Loaded Nanoparticles from Raw Plants**  
Hualu Zhou  
Assistant Professor, Dept. Food Science and Technology  
University of Georgia
- 12:00-12:25**     **Expanding Detection Capabilities in Groundwater Monitoring**  
Tyler McIntosh, Xiaoxia Xia, Shannon Alford, Ph.D.  
Analytical Chemist Specialist, Clemson University Department of Pesticide Regulation, Clemson University

### Luncheon Session Technical Training Workshop Centennial A & B

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- 12:25-1:25**     **What Can Accurate Mass Do for You?**  
Kendra Adams  
Sciex

# Wednesday, April 1

## Chemistry Presentations Afternoon Session— Centennial C & D Breaks and Exhibits in the Century West

**Moderator: Peter Morton**

- 1:25 -1:50 PFAS Removal from Water and Wastewater: Advanced Oxidation Assessed by Revident Q-TOF**  
Katherine O Ashurst<sup>1,2</sup>, Elizabeth A Boyd<sup>1,2</sup>, Daniel D Gang<sup>1,3</sup>, William E Holmes<sup>1,2</sup>, Mark E Zappi<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Energy Institute of Louisiana, <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, <sup>3</sup>Department of Civil Engineering, University of Louisiana, Lafayette
- 1:50-2:15 Resolving Oxylipin Isomer Complexity through Multipass Cyclic Ion Mobility Mass Spectrometry**  
Eric Gier<sup>1,2</sup>, Facundo Fernández<sup>2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Capt, US Air Force  
<sup>2</sup>Georgia Institute of Technology
- 2:15-2:40 How High-Resolution Mass Spectrometry Can Help Resolve Ongoing Controversies in MNP Measurement in Human Biospecimens?**  
Kuanliang Shao, PhD  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Emory University
- 2:40-3:05 Break—Door Prize Drawing (Century West)  
VISIT EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**
- 3:05-3:30 Development of an Integrated LC–MS Workflow for Perfluorome-Level Screening**  
Aryan D. Patel, Catherine E. Mullins, Yiran Liu, Collin France, Douglas I. Walker  
Research Specialist, Emory University
- 3:30-3:55 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

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**Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 – April 1**

**Poster Presentations**

**Poster Area is open Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
and Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:05 PM (Century West)**

**Detection and Recovery of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts in milk**

Chaitanya Konappagari, and Ynes Ortega

Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA

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

Tongzhou Xu<sup>1</sup>, Mehmet Dogan<sup>1,2</sup>, David Mann<sup>1</sup>, Maria Brandl<sup>3</sup>, and Xiangyu Deng<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA

<sup>2</sup>National Food Reference Laboratory, Yenimahalle, Türkiye

<sup>3</sup>USDA, 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, GA

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

Danielle Wright<sup>1</sup>, Awa Sore<sup>1</sup>, Medhavi Fnu<sup>1</sup>, Caitlynn Diggs<sup>1</sup>, Francis Eko<sup>1</sup>, Jason DeBruyne<sup>2</sup>, and Yusuf Omosun<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology, Biology and Immunology, <sup>2</sup>Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience, Atlanta, GA

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

Awa Sore<sup>1</sup>, Medhavi Fnu<sup>1</sup>, Taylor Tanner<sup>1</sup>, Adelle Durand<sup>1</sup>, Danielle Wright<sup>1</sup>, Caitlynn Diggs<sup>1</sup>, Stephanie Lundy<sup>1</sup>, Francis Eko<sup>1</sup>, Christopher Ehlen<sup>2</sup>, and Yusuf Omosun<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology, Biology and Immunology, <sup>2</sup> Department of Neuroscience, Atlanta, GA

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

Stephanie Lundy<sup>1</sup>, Medhavi Fnu<sup>1</sup>, Shakyra Richardson, Joseph Igietseme<sup>2</sup>, Francis Eko<sup>1</sup>, and Yusuf Omosun<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Morehouse School of Medicine, Department of Microbiology, Biology and Immunology, <sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, GA

**Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 – April 1**

**Poster Presentations**

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and Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:05 PM (Century West)**

**Survival of *E. coli* TVS 353 in Soil at Various Moisture Levels in Controlled Environments**

Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Aishani Tewari, and Abhinav Mishra  
Department of Food Science & Technology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**Shelf-life Extension of Centrally Prepared Retail Ready Cuts Using "Absolute Zero-Oxygen" Process**

Aishani Tewari, Anat Tewari, Gaurav Tewari, and Abhinav Mishra  
Department of Food Science & Technology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**Modeling the Effect of Temperature History on the Lag Phase Duration of *Listeria monocytogenes***

Harsimran Kaur Kapoor, Aishani Tewari, Govindaraj Dev Kumar, and Abhinav Mishra  
Department of Food Science & Technology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA

**Persistence of *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* in Commercial Mayonnaise Products at Different Inoculation Levels**

Sunghee Yoon and Ynes Ortega  
Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia, Griffin, GA

**The Presence of PFAS Compounds in Cannabis Products**

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

**Use of HBF<sub>4</sub> as a Replacement for HF in Microwave Digestion of Silicates and Ttlatno-Alumino-Silicate Materials**

Peter Kettisch, Markus Michaelis and Shanyce Nicholson  
Anton-Parr

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

Ava G Welch<sup>1,2</sup>, Andrei Y Chistoserdov<sup>1,2</sup>, Mark E Zappi<sup>1,3</sup>, William E Holmes<sup>1,3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Energy Institute of Louisiana, <sup>2</sup>Department of Biological Sciences, <sup>3</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Louisiana

**Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 – April 1**

**Poster Presentations**

**Poster Area is open Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
and Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:05 PM (Century West)**

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

**Hayden-Digestion and ICP**

Hayden M Hulin<sup>1</sup>, Prashanth R Buchireddy<sup>1</sup>, David J Shoemaker<sup>1,2</sup>, William E Holmes<sup>1,2</sup>, Mark E. Zappi<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Energy Institute of Louisiana, <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Louisiana

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

Andrew M Chiasson<sup>1,2</sup>, Xiaobo Lei<sup>1,2</sup>, Mark E Zappi<sup>1,2</sup>, William E Holmes<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Energy Institute of Louisiana, <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Louisiana

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

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

**Comparison of PFAS Analysis with HPLC/MS vs. HPLC/Q-TOF: Methods, Resolution, and Sensitivity**

Anna Perello, Elizabeth A Boyd, Mark E. Zappi, William E. Holmes  
Energy Institute of Louisiana, Department of Chemical Engineering,  
University of Louisiana

**Beyond Analytics: Scale-Up Perspectives on Preparative Lipid Fractionation**

Hailey Privat<sup>1,2</sup>, William E Holmes<sup>1,2</sup>, Rafael Hernandez<sup>1,2</sup>, Mark E Zappi<sup>1,2</sup>, Ashley P Mikolajczyk<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Energy Institute of Louisiana, <sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, University of Louisiana

**Exposure to Commonly Used Disinfectants in Assisted Living Facilities: Implications for Older Adults**

Tret Burdette<sup>1</sup>, Minghao Kong<sup>2</sup>, Raghu Sanath Kumar<sup>2</sup>, Claire Dempsey<sup>3</sup>, Parinya Panuwet<sup>2</sup>, Amina Salamova<sup>2\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Center for Applied Isotope Studies, University of Georgia,

<sup>2</sup>Gangarosa Department of Environmental Health, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

<sup>3</sup>Department of Public Health, Agnes Scott College

**Tuesday and Wednesday, March 31 – April 1**

**Poster Presentations**

**Poster Area is open Tuesday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
and Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 3:05 PM (Century West)**

**Development and Validation of a High-Sensitivity LC–MS/MS Method for  
Pharmaceutical Compounds in Complex Matrices**

Julie Toler, Ashley Meredith, Magan Green, Erika Womack  
Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory

**Rethinking Solvents: Safer Alternatives for SPE of Chlorinated Phenoxy  
Acids in Water**

Anna Beth Gaudin, Magan Green, Erika Womack  
Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory

**Linking Water Chemistry to Hellbender Mortality: An Analytical Investigation  
of Habitat Waters**

Sara Sapienza, Ashley Meredith, Erika Womack  
Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory

**Applying Marine Geochemistry Analytical Techniques to Heavy Metal  
Analysis of Natural Colors and Spices**

Dr. Peter Morton, Ph.D.  
Associate Research Scientist, Texas A&M University-Oceanography

**Development of a Robust LC MS/MS Analytical Method for Quantifying  
Aflatoxins in Plant-Based Feed Types**

Xiaoxia (Penny) Xia, Samuel Forrest, Shannon Alford, Brett Norton, Tyler  
Mcintosh, Michael Atkins, & Steve Cole  
Clemson University

## **Anant Jain Founder's Award**

The Anant Jain Founder's Award was established in 1999 to honor a distinguished member of the Southern (formerly Southeast) Section of the AOAC International who continues to make contributions to our Section through their leadership. The recipient must have held a leadership role as a Section officer and had an active role in the Section.

Past recipients:

<b>1999 Anant Jain</b>	<b>2009 Sherry Garris</b>
<b>2000 Wick Johnson</b>	<b>2010 Reuben Beverly</b>
<b>2001 Sher Ali</b>	<b>2011 Anne Reid</b>
<b>2002 Virlyn Burse</b>	<b>2012 Dana Barr</b>
<b>2003 Doug Hite</b>	<b>2013 Joe Rainey</b>
<b>2004 Jim Scott</b>	<b>2014 Jay Hardee</b>
<b>2005 Larry Lagman</b>	<b>2015 Amy Brown</b>
<b>2006 Mike Farrow</b>	<b>2016 Bill Holmes</b>
<b>2007 Lurlene Dixon</b>	<b>2018 Val Suktankar</b>
<b>2008 Jim McGuire</b>	<b>2022 Joe Basile</b>

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## **Doug Hite Honorarium**

The Doug Hite Honorarium was established in 2006 by Co-Presidents Sherry Garris and Jim McGuire to recognize the dedication and leadership that Doug has demonstrated to the Southern Section and AOAC International.

The recipient will be determined by the Section Awards Committee and must have held a leadership role in the Section, had an active role in the Section for a minimum of 10 years, and be a member of the AOAC International Board of Directors, Official Methods Board, or active in Association work.

Past recipients:

<b>2006 Doug Hite</b>
<b>2007 Anant Jain</b>
<b>2008 Jo Marie Cook</b>
<b>2009 Gayle Lancette</b>
<b>2010 Wayne Ziemer</b>
<b>2011 Doug Hite</b>
<b>2012 JoMarie Cook</b>
<b>2013 Doug Hite</b>
<b>2015 Doug Hite</b>
<b>2016 Amy Brown</b>

## **Fellows of AOAC INTERNATIONAL from the Southern Section**

The Fellow of AOAC INTERNATIONAL Award recognizes the dedication and commitment of those volunteers who serve the Association. Fellows are chosen from those members who have given 10 years of meritorious service to AOAC.

**1990 Ken Boyer**  
**1992 Gayle Lancette**  
**1997 George Latimer**  
**1997 Anant Jain**  
**2000 Argentina Vindiola**

**2001 Doug Hite**  
**2004 Mark Mozola**  
**2006 Wayne Ziemer**  
**2011 Jo Marie Cook**  
**2020 Ron Johnson**

### **AOAC Southern Section Officers 2025-2026**

**President**

**Erin J. Wenke**  
Senior Account Manger  
bioMerieux, Inc  
595 Anglum Rd. Hazelwood, Mo  
Phone: (770)-715-3722  
erin.wenke@biomerieux.com

**President-Elect**

**Irshad M. Sulaiman**  
Research Microbiologist  
FDA Southeast Food and Feed Lab  
Southeast Regional Laboratory FDA  
60, Eight Street NE  
Atlanta, GA  
Phone:(404)-575-1523  
irshad.sulaiman@fda.hhs.gov

**Secretary**

**John Clos**  
J Clos Consulting  
48 Edgewood Vista  
Newnan, GA 30265  
Phone: (404) 304-0184  
jclosconsulting@gmail.com

**Treasurer**

**Doug Hite**  
President  
ICD Associates  
Franklin, TN 37069  
Phone: (615) 491-8600  
dhite420@comcast.net

**Immediate Past President**

**Ron Johnson**  
Scientific Business Advisor  
RLJ BioTech Consulting  
Phone: (636) 655-8755  
ron.john@charter.net

## Section Past Presidents

1986	Anant Jain	2006	J.McGuire & S.Garris
1987	Frank Allen	2007	Reuben Beverly
1988	Martha Hudak-Roos	2008	Anne Reid
1989	Sher Ali	2009	Dana Barr
1990	Gail Parker	2010	Joe Rainey
1991	Jim Hess	2011	Jay Hardee
1992	Virlyn Burse	2012	Amy Brown
1993	Doug Hite	2013	Bill Holmes
1994	Bill Brooks	2014	Tim Beasley
1995	Jim Scott	2015	Val Suktankar
1996	Larry Lagman	2016	Mark Crosswhite
1997	Bert Lynn	2017	Denise Mitchell
1998	Mike Farrow	2018	Joe Basile
1999	Pat Beckett	2019	Oliver Ou
2000	Reba Ingram	2020	No conference
2001	Lurlene Dixon	2021	Dana Shell
2002	Michael Curry	2022	Kenneth Powell
2003	Jo Marie Cook	2023	Ynes Ortega
2004	Evelyn Bonnin	2024	Ron Johnson
2005	Wayne Ziemer	2025	Erin Wenke

## AOAC Southern Section Executive Board Members 2025-2026

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# **Please Note: for 2027**

**The 40<sup>th</sup> 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, Heavy  
Metals LC-MS/MS and GC-MS/MS

## **Biology:**

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