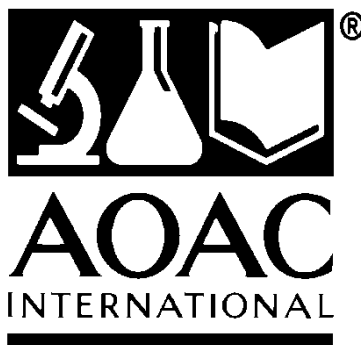




PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

**Southern Section
AOAC INTERNATIONAL
40th Annual Conference
March 30-31, 2027**

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

To register go to:
www.ssaoac.org



Tuesday-March 30th

Topic Presentation

AOAC International Update

Katerina Mastovska, PhD
Deputy Executive Director and Chief Science Officer
AOAC International

Keynote Presentations:

“Use of Genomics Tools to Evaluate the Distribution of Bacterial Foodborne Pathogens”

Steven Foley, PhD
Director, Division of Microbiology
FDA National Center for Toxicological Research (NCTR)

“BeeSure: Rapid Authentication of Honey via Acoustically Induced Nucleation Kinetics and Edge-AI Computer Vision”

Dhan Lord B. Fortela, PhD, Assistant Professor
Department of Chemical Engineering
College of Engineering
University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Vendor Luncheon Technical Training Workshops

Tuesday-March 30th

TBA

Shimadzu Scientific

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



Vendor Luncheon Technical Training Workshops

Wednesday-March 31st

TBA

Sciex

TBA

Thermo Fisher Scientific

*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

bioMerieux

Vendor Technical Training Workshops-Tuesday-March 30th

TBA

PerkinElmer

TBA

Waters Corporation



Tuesday-March 30th
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.ssaoac.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 include, technical training workshops, all breaks, and the Southern Section Reception.

Register using any major credit card or by check



Wednesday - March 31st **Biology Presentations**

Recent *Cronobacter* Outbreak Linked to Powdered Infant Formula

Irshad M Sulaiman, PhD

Research Microbiologist, Research Coordination Staff,
Office of Scientific Coordination and Computational Sciences, Office of
Laboratory Operations and Applied Science, Human Foods Program, FDA

Viability of Non-culturable Organisms

Ynes Ortega, PhD

Associate Professor, Center for Food Safety, University of Georgia

Molecular Genomics for Rapid Detection of Multi-pathogens in Food and Water

Pratik Banerjee, PhD

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

Digital PCR Assay for Quantification of Salmonella in Ground Turkey

Prashant Singh, PhD

Associate Professor, Florida State University

A Systems Approach to Understanding the Pre-harvest Fresh Produce Safety Risk

Abhinav Mishra, PhD

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



Wednesday - March 31st **Biology Presentations**

Pre-harvest Systems Approach to Understanding the Fresh Produce Safety Risk

Carla L. Schwan, PhD

Associate Professor and Extension Food Safety Specialist,
Director, UGA National Center for Home Food Preservation,
Department of Nutritional Sciences, College of Family and Consumer
Sciences

Hot or Cold? The Science Behind Fill-Hold Processing of Acidified Foods

Damla Dag, PhD

Extension Assistant Professor
Food Science Department
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Beverages: The New Frontier in Cannabis Compliance Testing

Anthony Repay, MS

Laboratory Director, Method Testing Labs

Shortwave Infrared Hyperspectral Imaging to Detect Contaminants in the U.S. Food Supply

David Malakauskas, PhD

Lead Biologist, Atlanta Human and Animal Food Laboratory, Office of
Regulatory Testing and Surveillance, Office of Laboratory Operations and
Applied Science, Human Foods Program, FDA



Wednesday - March 31st
Chemistry Presentations

**Turmeric-Derived Biopolymers Enable pH-Driven Curcumin
Nanoparticle Formation and Enhanced Photostability**

Minghe Wang, and Hualu Zhou.
Department of Food Science and Technology
University of Georgia

**Forever Chemicals - PFAS: Challenges, Regulations, and Treatment
Technologies**

Qingguo Huang
Crop and Soil Sciences
University of Georgia

**Beyond PFAS: Advanced Oxidation and High-Resolution Mass
Spectrometry for the Destruction of Emerging Contaminants in
Municipal Wastewater**

William E. Holmes; Elizebeth A Boyd; Katherine O Ashurst; Mark E. Zappi;
Energy Institute of Louisiana, Department of Chemical Engineering ,
University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

**Cell Bleach Production to Multiple Lung Diseases Airway
Metabolomics Links Inflammatory**

Joshua D. Chandler, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Emory University School of Medicine
Scientific Director, Emory University-Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
Pediatric Metabolomics and Biomarkers Core



Wednesday - March 31st
Chemistry Presentations

**Additional Chemistry Presentations
to be Announced**

Tuesday-Wednesday March 30-31st
Poster Presentations

TBA



2027 Conference Sponsors

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Please Note: for 2028

The 41st Annual Conference of the Southern Section

AOAC International

will be held in

Atlanta, GA

April 3-4, 2028

Proposed 2028 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

Biology:

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

