

The Reference Standard

Issue 94

August 2026

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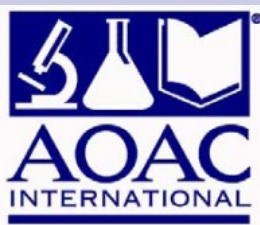
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Did you receive this newsletter from a colleague?

Interested in joining TDRM?

Visit the [AOAC Website](#) to learn more.



Executive Committee's Message

On May 15th, the virtual Members Meeting was a great success, bringing together members from across the TDRM community for an informative and engaging session. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Mesay M. Wolle, U.S. FDA Human Foods Program, who presented on vitamin B12 measurement in dietary supplements. The presentation sparked thoughtful discussion, and we thank our speaker for their time and valuable contribution to the meeting.



TDRM Members circa 1992

Beyond our recent meeting, we are also pleased to take a moment to celebrate the remarkable career of Lars Reimann, who recently retired after more than 45 years of distinguished service with Eurofins. A longtime AOAC INTERNATIONAL and TDRM member, Lars served in multiple officer roles within TDRM, including Chair, and his commitment to good laboratory practices and reference materials was widely respected. He is remembered as a gracious and encouraging leader who inspired those around him to reach for a higher standard. We wish him a well-deserved retirement, and more information regarding his work can be found on page 2.

Looking ahead, the TDRM committee elections are officially underway, and we need to hear from you! All eligible members are encouraged to cast their vote as soon as possible, as your participation is essential in ensuring that our committee leadership reflects the voices and interests of our entire membership. Please check your inbox for the ballot distributed on **August 4, 2026**, and if you have not received your voting information or are experiencing any issues, contact us at aoactdrm@proton.me. Don't wait — submit your ballot online by **August 19, 2026**, so your vote can be counted!

As elections draw to a close, we also have much to look forward to with the annual meeting just around the corner. Mark your calendars for **September 1, 2026**, which will be a full and exciting day for TDRM events — times and locations can be found on page 3.

Finally, we are proud to congratulate this year's TDRM Achievement Award recipient, Roy Upton! This award recognizes outstanding contributions and dedication to the TDRM community, and Roy's accomplishments are a true testament to the spirit of excellence that this honor represents. We are grateful for Roy's commitment and the positive impact he has made, and we invite you to join us in celebrating this well-deserved recognition during the AOAC Awards Ceremony!

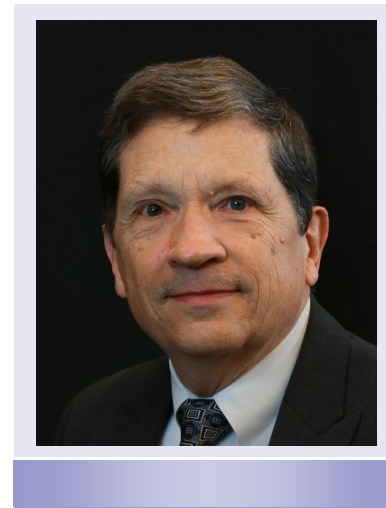
We look forward to seeing everyone in Indianapolis, Indiana at the AOAC Annual Meeting, and we are deeply grateful for the continued input and dedication of our members. To our volunteers, whose tireless contributions help drive TDRM's goals forward, we extend our sincerest thanks and recognition — your efforts make all the difference.

A Legacy of Service: Celebrating Lars Reimann

Lars Reimann retired recently after a distinguished career of over 45 years with Eurofins. He has been an active member of AOAC INTERNATIONAL for his entire career, shortly after it began accepting membership by industry chemists, and he was recently awarded a 45-year service award. AOAC also recognized Lars with the Fellows Award for outstanding scientific contributions. As a key technical voice involved in many industry organizations' peer-elected committees, like America Feed Industry Association (AFIA) and Pet Food Institute (PFI), Lars was awarded the "Leading Voice of Eurofins" award in recognition of his efforts.

Lars began his career in a laboratory that would undergo development and ownership changes to eventually become part of Eurofins. From the early days, his skills and leadership transformed those who worked with him as well as his staff to achieve continuing progress and success. His professional grace and his leadership capabilities also benefitted those who worked with him in professional organizations. When he accepted a role, he fulfilled his commitments with diligence and grace, always in a timely manner, leading by example as well as through discourse. He was an encouraging leader who left those around him reaching to fulfill a higher standard in their own efforts.

Lars was a highly valued member of TDRM and his expertise and passion for reliable analytical work through good laboratory practices, including the use of reference materials, were widely recognized and respected. He contributed greatly to TDRM, holding officer positions including that of Chair. In addition to AOAC, Lars was active with the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) Lab Methods & Services Committee as well as the Proficiency Testing Committee. Most recently, Lars provided significant contributions to Pet Food Label Modernization through discussions around dietary fiber testing methodologies. His technical discourse aided the committees in establishing a recommended method for quantification of total dietary fiber in pet food. Lars also contributed to AACC, AOCS, and IAF throughout the duration of his career.



2026 TDRM/AOAC International Annual Meeting Related Events: Advancements in PFAS Measurements and Reference Material

Advancements in PFAS Measurements and Reference Material

Time: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 8:15am – 9:45am

Session Chairs: Benjamin Place (NIST); Elizabeth Mudge (NRC)

Abstract: There is an increased need for measurements of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment, food and other commercial products to meet expanding regulatory limits globally. Based on a call for methods, AOAC has adopted four First Action Official Methods of Analysis for PFAS in food and continue to seek additional methods for packaging, cosmetics and environmental samples. There are thousands of chemically distinct PFAS compounds in the environment, which presents many analytical challenges due to variation in compound size, low concentrations, laboratory contamination, structural confirmation and matrix components. Measurements rely on the availability of high-quality reference materials (RMs) for both quantitative and qualitative analysis of PFAS. RMs are an essential tool for testing labs to develop, optimize and validate testing methods, in addition to monitoring method performance on a continuous basis after implementation. This symposium brings together leading experts to discuss the latest advancements in PFAS reference material development, measurements and approaches for integrating reference materials for laboratory quality control.

Speakers:

Sheng-Suan (Victor) Cai, PerkinElmer; “Unmatched Method Robustness: StayClean™ QSight LC-MS/MS for Analysis of PFAS in Animal Tissues Based on EPA Method 1633”,

Benjamin Place, NIST; “Addressing PFAS Measurement Challenges through Reference Materials and Data”

Susan Genualdi, US FDA; “Reference Materials and Proficiency Testing for Validation and the Accurate Quantification of PFAS in Foods”

Andrew Savage, Nestlé; “PFAS in Food: Lessons Learned and Detection Trends from AOAC First Action Method 2025.10”



140th Annual Meeting • Aug. 29 – Sept. 2, 2026 • Indianapolis, IN

Sections and Community Fair

Rm. GB 5-6 Foyer

Time: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

TDRM Members Meeting

Rm. 302-303

Time: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

TDRM Reception

Rm. GB 2

Time: Tuesday, September 1, 2026, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

TDRM Achievement Award Recipient: Roy Upton, President American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP) Founder, Global Alliance for Integrative Health & Medicine (GAIHM)

Roy Upton, RH, DipAyu, is the president and editor of the American Herbal Pharmacopoeia (AHP), a non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to the development of quality control standards for botanical ingredients. Roy has been working and practicing professionally as an herbalist since 1981. He's trained in Ayurvedic, traditional Chinese, and Western herbal medicine, and has also studied extensively with Native American and Caribbean ethnobotanical traditions.

Roy serves on numerous national and international expert and advisory committees, the editorial board of many journals, and holds adjunct positions with the Sonoran University, the department of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran, and Institute of Ben Cao Gang Mu at the Beijing University of Chinese medicine.



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Inés Cereijo Student Award

TDRM sponsors a Student Award raising awareness of the need for method performance evaluation at an early point in a chemist's career. Because not all colleagues have research facilities or may only be involved in a short-term summer internship, nominees are evaluated based on a report describing either the use of a reference material for method performance evaluation or the development of a new reference material.

- Undergraduate and graduate students are eligible; award based on a report that evaluates the use of a reference material for a specific application; winner will receive in USD a \$1,000 prize; \$1,000 towards lodging; \$500 towards transportation; \$400 food, and a TDRM membership.

· Please visit the [AOAC Awards Program for TDRM](#).



TDRM Achievement Award

· Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the use of reference materials in a unique or unusual manner or to the development of reference materials for laboratory use; nominations are based on a short statement describing the unique or significant contribution of the scientist or group of scientists using 150 words or less.

· Statements and up to 2 letters of support should be sent to sdbhandari1@gmail.com by **May 1, 2027**.

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LOCAL support to reach a GLOBAL NETWORK



32
COUNTRIES
WORLDWIDE



100+
LABS
ACROSS THE GLOBE



600+
RESEARCH
STUDIES
PER YEAR

**Analytical, Chemistry,
Microbiology**

**Certification & Auditing
Labeling & Compliance**

**Training & Consulting
Research Services**

Balloting for 2026 TDRM Executive Committee Election

For 2026, ballots were distributed to all members via email on Tuesday, August 4th. Ballots can be accessed at [here](#) and voting will remain open until **Wednesday, August 19 at 23:59 (11:59pm) EST.**

This year's ballot also includes updates to the TDRM Executive Committee bylaws aimed to align more closely with current AOAC and TDRM workstreams. Key changes include improved clarity and consistency of terms, better coordination of timelines, provisions for extenuating circumstances, and clearer definitions of procedures and officer responsibilities.

If you elect to opt out of participating in electronic balloting, please send a request for a paper ballot to sdbhandari1@gmail.com as soon as possible. PDF ballots will be sent via email. The PDF ballot can be returned to AOAC via email or hard copy, but must be received by **Wednesday, August 19** to be counted. Please contact TDRM at sdbhandari1@gmail.com with any questions.

Contributed by
Sarah Aijaz, Ph.D., Nominating Committee Chair &
Sean Giza, Secretary

"Voting will remain open until Wednesday, August 19 at 23:59 (11:59pm) EST."

Candidate Profile for Elected Member (3 Year Term): Prashant Ingle



Prashant Ingle is a seasoned senior professional with over 25+ years of experience in management and hands-on experience in Quality and Regulatory and technical functions, strategies. Well versed with GMP, ISO and FDA audits for OTC, Cosmetics, Supplement and Pharma industries. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry/Biomedical Sciences, a MS in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, a MS in Microbiology, and a BS in Microbiology. He is a certified Quality Auditor by the American Society for Quality.

Candidate Profile for Elected Member (3 Year Term): Jason Kong; Consumer Protection Laboratory

Jason Kong serves as the Director for the Consumer Protection Laboratory. Jason has worked in CPL since 2013 as a Chemical Laboratory Supervisor. He was appointed to the Director position in 2021. Jason oversees all chemical and microbiological testing of agricultural products conducted in CPL for many regulatory divisions in the agency, including Plant Health, Food Safety, Dairy, Meat Inspection, Animal Health and others. The laboratory also serves the public. He works extensively with federal partners (e.g., US EPA, USDA, FDA) to fulfill laboratory responsibilities related to maintaining the national food supply. Jason obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley in 2005 and an M.S. in Chemistry from Cornell University in 2008. He recently obtained a certificate in Public and Nonprofit Leadership from The Ohio State University in 2021. Prior to his time at ODA, he worked diligently as a chemist at the Office of Indiana State Chemist where he addressed local and national issues related to pesticide use and misuse.

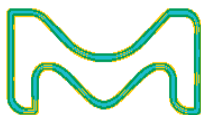


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2 reasons to trust us:

- Double ISO accreditation
- Reliable product lines



More info:

SigmaAldrich.com/standards

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**MILLIPORE
SIGMA**



Analytical Products

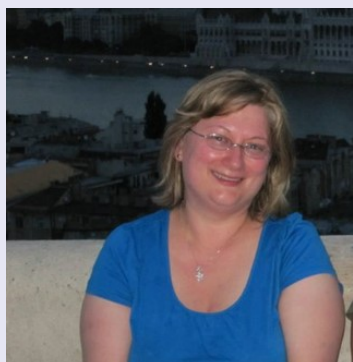
The life science business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operates as MilliporeSigma in the U.S. and Canada.

Candidate Profile for Elected Member (3 Year Term): Josh Messerly; Eurofins Nutrition Analysis Center

Josh Messerly is Senior Scientist in the Method Development group at Eurofins Nutrition Analysis Center (ENAC) in Des Moines, IA. He graduated with a BS in Chemistry from the University of Northern Iowa, and a PhD in Analytical Chemistry from Iowa State University. Josh performed materials research using Laser Ablation ICP-MS while he was at Iowa State. The scope of research spanned geochemistry, forensics, and nuclear nonproliferation testing. He has been involved in method development and troubleshooting for elemental analysis since he joined ENAC in 2008. He is also involved with proximate, wet chemistry, ion chromatography, and mass spectrometry methodology. Josh has attended AOAC stakeholder panels such as SPIFAN, SPSFAM, and CASP. He has previously volunteered to serve on the AOAC Metals/Elements ERP, and working groups in areas such as arsenic speciation, heavy metals in cannabis and in food, and trace elements.



Candidate Profile for Elected Member (3 Year Term): Kate Rimmer; NIST



Kate Rimmer is the group leader of the Organic Chemical Metrology Group in the Chemical Sciences Division at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Her specific interests are in the production and characterization of certified reference materials for food and food safety, chemicals of industrial concern, and clinical measurements; interlaboratory testing; the development of higher-order analytical methods; and separation science research. Dr. Rimmer has served on the TDRM as membership chair, an executive board member, and chair. She received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Florida State University and completed a National Research Council postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).



You may contact any member of the committee directly if you have questions. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you have any comments to share, please contact us.

Information Services Corner

The IS Committee is preparing for the next virtual Members Meeting following the annual AOAC meeting. We would like to use a pre-registration invitation for this meeting, allowing members to confirm their interest in advance, which will help with planning. Please watch your email for the pre-registration invitation.

The database review committee has met to discuss requirements for operation and whether this may be better achieved through collaboration. We are continuing to discuss options for developing and managing the database, including other formats and platforms, and whether continuing the operation as a database is feasible. Any member is welcome to submit comments.

If you have interest in volunteering to support any of these activities, please contact any member of the IS team for questions or issues at aoactdrm@proton.me. You may also reach Donna Zink at dzink@aimresearchenterprises.com. In addition, there is a contact form on the aoactdrm.wordpress.com site. Without active participation and volunteered time and skills, we would not be able to fulfill our goals.

Contributed by Donna Zink,
Information Services Chair

Upcoming AOAC Meetings!

141st Annual Meeting & Exposition

Aug. 27 – Sept. 1, 2027
Sheraton Centre Toronto
Hotel
Toronto, Ontario Canada



The AOAC
INTERNATIONAL
Annual Meeting:
A Unique Analytical
Science
Opportunity

FREE ONLINE TRAINING COURSE



Estimation of uncertainties and the use of reference materials

#EUAcademy

eu|academy

The European Commission's Joint Research Centre launches a free interactive course on reference materials.

The Joint Research Centre is one of the leading global producers of reference materials in the fields of food and feed analysis, environmental analysis, engineering and health applications.

Quality of measurements is key in our daily life. Reference materials ensure useful, reliable and comparable results from different methods and laboratories.

Our new online training sessions will teach you how to use reference materials and how to estimate measurement uncertainties.

In this course, you will learn the basics why measurement uncertainties are important and how you can estimate them.

You will learn the role and importance of reference materials and how you can best select and use them.

Our interactive course will be complemented by practical exercises where you can apply and test your newly acquired knowledge.

You will be able to follow 8 modules:

Estimation of measurement uncertainty

This module explains what measurements uncertainty is and why is needed. You will learn how to estimate measurements uncertainty and will be get more details on the quantification procedure and whether it is a combination of uncertainty sources. At the end we show two options: the so-called bottom-up approach and the so-called top-down approach (use of validation data).

Use of CRMs to prove laboratory and method performance

This module provides the tools to understand how to make use of the added value of certified reference materials (CRMs) to prove laboratory and/or method performance.

Making the best use of RMs – This module presents how to get the best use out of reference materials and you will learn what sources of

information are available.

Use of CRMs in method validation – In this module, will be explained how to validate a new method and how to estimate the measurement uncertainty of its results.

Commutability of reference materials – After being acquainted with the validation of a new method and how to estimate the uncertainty of its measurements, in this module focus will be on the commutability of reference materials.

Selection of reference materials – In this module will be presented all the steps to consider when selecting a reference material.

Traceability of measurement results – In this module, will be explained the metrological traceability and its role for the comparability of measurement results. Furthermore will be described how certified reference materials or CRMs can be used to help you to make your results traceable.

The wrap-up – This last module provides an example of how this course can guide you through the processes in your laboratory practice.

This course is intended for practitioners working in laboratories that need to apply reference materials for statistical quality control, method validation and calibration and who need to assess measurement uncertainties on customer's demand or as requirement of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. It can also be useful for ISO/IEC 17025 auditors who need to assess the estimation of measurement uncertainties and the correct application of certified reference materials.

Join EC-JRS's online course and boost your knowledge in reference materials and measurements!

Join freely the course wherever you are, whenever you want, and whatever device you want to use!

Register [here](#).

Enjoy the journey in the exciting world of measurement science!

Join the free interactive course on reference materials and measurement uncertainty!

Member Corner

Congratulations on your TDRM membership! Whether you are a new member or a returning member, we are happy to welcome you. As a member, you may be wondering how you can become more involved in the group. There are a number of ways to become involved with varying time commitments, please feel free to email any member of the board to discuss the opportunities (contact information on pages 12–13). A few examples include:

Attend our member meeting at the AOAC INTERNATIONAL Annual Meeting at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, in August 2026. We will discuss our work from 2026 and our directions for 2027. This is a great opportunity to meet the TDRM leadership and make suggestions.

Donna Zink is looking for volunteers to help with the reference material database (<http://tdrmdb.aoac.org/>).

Propose a session for a national meeting or a local section meeting.

Run for office. Please contact Sarah Aijaz, Nominating Committee Chair, at sarah.aijaz@milliporesigma.com, if you would like to be considered for a future election, or to suggest a nominee.

To learn more about TDRM and their [mission](#), please send an email to volunteer your ideas and skills or just to ask how you can be more involved.



Join TDRM on LinkedIn!
[Request Membership Here](#)

Reference Material Resources

Do you ever find yourself looking for basic information about reference materials? Look no further!

Ever wonder [how to compare a measurement result with a certified value](#) to determine if your method is appropriate? [What about how to use a reference material for calibration \(including examples\)?](#) Ever tried to figure out [how to use a reference material to establish traceability](#)? Wait, there's [more!](#) There is a discussion of using reference materials to quantify GMOs in [food and feed](#), and in [DNA copy number ratio](#). European Reference Materials (ERM) even provides a guide on [use of their certificates and materials](#), and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) has an excellent [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section where you can find a plethora of additional information. NIST also released [The ABCs of Using Standard Reference Materials in the Analysis of Foods and Dietary Supplements: A Practical Guide](#) in June 2014.

Additional RM Resources! The *Cooperation in publicly funded reference material production*, is a free, open access article available to download at <https://link.springer.com>. TDRM guidelines: Applications and Resources for Use of Reference Materials: [TDRM Guidelines](#).

Reference Materials in Analytical Chemistry

A recent topical collection on Reference Materials in Analytical Chemistry was published in May 2025 in the journal *Analytical and Bioanalytical Chemistry* (ABC), guest-edited by Kate Rimmer at National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Gaithersburg, USA, and Håkan Emteborg at European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Geel, Belgium JRC. This comprehensive collection offers valuable insights for anyone interested in reference materials, with the editorial written by Emteborg providing an excellent summary of the contributing articles. The collection features numerous open access articles with graphical abstracts, making a wealth of information readily accessible to readers.

The [complete collection](#) and the [specific issue](#) provide comprehensive overviews of current developments in reference materials research and applications.

2025-2026 Executive Committee



Chair

2024-2026
Sneh Bhandari
Independent Contractor
sdbhandari1@gmail.com



Chair-Elect

2025-2026
Susan Audino
S. Audino @ Associates, LLC
Susan.audino@gmail.com



Treasurer

2025-2027
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Secretary

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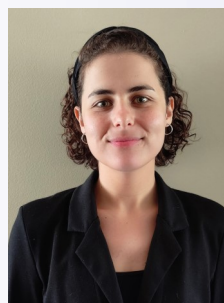


Elected Member

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Elected Member

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Elected Member

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Elected Member

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Elected Member

2025-2028
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Fuji Film Wako
Pure Chemical
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Appointed Member

Charles Barber
FDA HFP
(2024-2027)
charles.barber@fda.hhs.gov



Ancillary Appointed Positions**Information Services Chair**

Donna Zink, AIM Research Enterprises

ISO-REMCO Liaison

Pearse McCarron, NRC Canada

Advisor

Wayne Wolf, USDA (retired)

Newsletter Editor

Charles Barber, FDA HFP

Membership Chair

Vacant

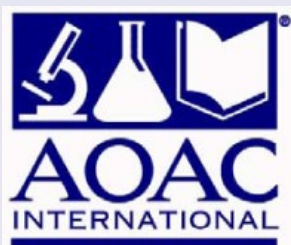
AOAC Support Positions

Deborah McKenzie

Email

sdbhandari@gmail.com

***if you are interested in becoming more
involved in the TDRM through the
Executive Committee.***



AOAC INTERNATIONAL expanded its mission statement "To promote quality measurements and method validation in the analytical sciences." Focus has increased on accuracy of analytical measurements generated by AOAC methods and the role of reference materials in verification of accuracy.

The Technical Division on Reference Materials (TDRM) further develops and maintains AOAC INTERNATIONAL's status as a recognized worldwide authority on methods validation and quality analytical measurements through facilitating the use of reference materials in collaborative validation, implementation, and routine use of AOAC methods.

AOAC INTERNATIONAL

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*Improving the Quality of Laboratory Measurements
through the use of Reference Materials*