

# Methods development update

## Wiley melting point

At the Nov. 24, 1986, meeting of the Industrial Edible Fats and Oils Analysis Committee, one of the AOCS official methods reviewed was the Wiley Melting Point Method for Normal Fats Cc 2-38 (81). The consensus was that the Wiley melting point method should be dropped as the official method for determining melting points of fats.

The committee recommended that the Dropping Point for Hydrogenated and Non-hydrogenated Fats and Oils Cc 18-80 (83) be adopted as the official method for determining melting points. The committee proposed that the Wiley melting point method be revised for the *1987 Additions and Revisions to Methods* to reflect (a) the fact that the dropping point method is the preferred method and

should be used in place of the Wiley melting point method, and (b) that the Wiley method will be declared a surplus method in 1990 and deleted from the *AOCS Official Book of Methods and Recommended Practices*.

Notice of the proposed change in the melting point method is being presented now to solicit comments from users of the method. Anyone with comments about the change should contact the AOCS technical director no later than June 1, 1987.

## Fourth methods edition

Publication of the fourth edition of the *AOCS Official Book of Methods and Recommended Practices* has been projected for 1989. The format and style of the fourth edition are open for consideration.

The recommendation of one AOCS committee was that the

fourth edition have a ring binder similar to the present binder and that the page size be increased to 8 1/2" by 11", with the rounded corners eliminated. Pages would have a Mylar strip reinforcing the ring binding area. As the current two-volume set does not store well, it was suggested that the set of methods be issued in four volumes, with each volume containing convenient topic areas.

Currently, there is no suggestion for changing the written style of the methods. Suggestions for style uniformity will be made by the *JAACS* staff editor, and examples prepared for submission to the Uniform Methods Committee at the May 1987 annual meeting in New Orleans.

Dave Berner  
AOCS Technical Director

## Publications

### Book reviews

**Plasma Lipoproteins, Part A: Preparation, Structure and Molecular Biology (Methods in Enzymology, Vol. 128)**, edited by Jere P. Segrest and John J. Albers (Academic Press Inc., 6277 Sea Harbor Dr., Orlando, FL 32887, 1986, 992 pp., \$89.50).

This book is the latest addition to the well-known series, **Methods in Enzymology**. In the past 20 years, tremendous advances have taken place in our understanding of the structure, metabolism, physiological function and, recently, the molecular biology of plasma lipoproteins. As is usually the case, these advances have occurred as a result of the development of new methodologies. Until now, there was no comprehensive book on methods used in the field of lipoproteins.

This book is one of two volumes

dealing with methods in plasma lipoprotein preparation, structure and molecular biology. The second, Vol. 129, has not yet been published; it will deal with methods in the characterization, cell biology and metabolism of plasma lipoproteins.

This volume consists of five sections. The first section, an overview of the field, has four chapters. They are Introduction to Plasma Lipoproteins, Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipoprotein Biosynthesis, Comparative Analysis of Mammalian Plasma Lipoproteins and Impact of Technology on the Plasma Lipoprotein Field. The second section, also with four chapters, deals with the different ultracentrifugal approaches to the preparation of plasma lipoproteins. The third section has 15 chapters on methods dealing with isolation and physical-chemical characterization of plasma lipoproteins. This section begins with delipidation of

plasma lipoproteins, followed by isolation and characterization of individual apoproteins, and ends with a chapter on thermodynamics of apolipoproteins and phospholipid associations.

There are 15 chapters in the fourth section, which is concerned with the structure of intact and reconstituted plasma lipoproteins. The methods described in this section include electrophoresis, electron microscopy, NMR, circular dichroism, immunochemistry, reconstitution, chemical cross-linking and lipoprotein-liposome interactions. The last section also contains 15 chapters and describes techniques of molecular biology as applied to plasma lipoproteins.

As is the case with the previous volumes in the series, the overall quality of this book is high. It is well organized and well edited. This is a much needed methodology book in the field of lipoproteins, and as such, can be highly