

Technical committee activities

Fourteen technical committees reported on proposed collaborative studies during the 1989 AOCS annual meeting in Cincinnati in May. A collaborative study on the triglyceride composition of fats and oils by HPLC is in the planning stage. This is an important study and dedicated participants are needed. Anyone wishing to participate in this study should contact Vijai K.S. Shukla, Aarhus Oliefabrik A/S, PO Box 50, DK-8100 Aarhus C, Denmark, FAX +45 6 19 62 52; Telex 64341/2/8 palmf dk.

Other collaborative studies that are in the planning stages and for which participants will be needed are listed below. Anyone wishing to participate in these studies is encouraged to contact the AOCS technical director at AOCS headquarters:

- Use of isoctane (replacing chloroform) in PV method
- NMR for SFI (using variations of AOCS tempering)
- Capillary GLC method for mono- and diglycerides
- Kjeldahl protein nitrogen determination
- Copper sulfate/TKN catalyst (new formulation)
- Oxygen Stability Index as an AOM alternative
- Updating the cold test method (utilizing mechanical cooling)
- Evaluation of new columns for primary fatty amines
- Evaluation of a glucosinolate method
- Determination of color in LAS
- Phospholipids by nephelometry.

Special studies and/or surveys that are planned include the following:

- Updated chlorophyll in oils method (study)
- Harmonization of AOCS methods—consolidation of oil extraction methods (survey); preparation of methyl esters (survey); protein methods (report pending).

The status of other technical committee activities is as follows:

- Validation of GLC method for marine oils—completed

- Validation of GLC method for *cis* and *trans* PUFA—completed

- Adoption (as an official method) of the Corn Refiners Association method for determining oil in corn germ—UMC approval pending

- NMR collaborative comparing AOCS and IUPAC tempering methods—completed

- Adoption (as a recommended practice) of a method for determining tocopherols in lecithin, oils and deodorizer distillates—UMC approval pending

- Current titration method (as opposed to monitoring by pH meter) reaffirmed as best method for determining acid value

- Preliminary evaluation of oxygen stability index (OSI) method as an alternative to AOM—completed

- Validation of method to correlate flavor panel and oxidative stability of vegetable oils—completed.

Two committees met for the first time at the Cincinnati meeting. One was an ad hoc committee on the use of spice extractives as natural antioxidants. The purpose of this committee is to determine the interest in developing standard analytical methods for natural spice antioxidants and standard terminology for these antioxidants. The acting chairman of the ad hoc committee is Bob Evans of Kalsac Inc. The Physical Methods Committee, an official AOCS technical committee, also met for the first time. Its purpose is to evaluate and adopt standardized physical methods for evaluating fats, oils and related products. Art Waliking of Best Foods, Union, New Jersey, is chairman.

Smalley reference samples

The AOCS Technical Activities Coordinating Committee has directed the AOCS technical director to implement an expanded offering of Smalley check samples as sec-

ondary reference standards. There have been a number of requests for such reference samples during the past several years. Informational literature will be available later in 1989 and samples should be available for purchase in early 1990. Anyone interested in more information regarding these reference samples should contact the AOCS technical director.

Statistical programs

AOCS Uniform Methods Committee Chairman David Firestone has been participating in the development of an IBM/PC-compatible program to evaluate collaborative studies. The program will be made available to AOCS headquarters when its development is completed later in 1989.

Richard Benson, chairman of the AOCS Examination Board, has been actively involved in updating computer programs for the statistical evaluation of the Smalley, Approved Chemist and Certified Laboratory results. This integrated program will standardize statistical calculations for all three AOCS certification programs along the guidelines recommended by IUPAC. The IUPAC standardized method for outlier detection will be used for the three programs. By 1990–1991, all statistical evaluations and reports relating to the Smalley, Approved Chemist and Certified Laboratory programs will be handled at AOCS headquarters. Beginning in July 1989, there will be a transition period during which these programs will be transferred to AOCS headquarters. During the transition period, statistical evaluations will be monitored both at AOCS headquarters and at the usual volunteer location.

This article was prepared by AOCS Technical Director Dave Berner, who is based at AOCS headquarters, PO Box 3489, Champaign, IL 61826-3489, USA.