

Anne Bridges Gets Analytical About the New Approved Methods, 11th Edition

Anne Bridges is chair of the Approved Methods Technical Leadership Committee, which is comprised of the 22 chairs of the AACC International Technical Committees and Technical Leadership Committee Vice-Chair Paul Wehling.

Q. Why publish the new 11th edition of the AACC International Approved Methods of Analysis now?

A. AACC Intl.'s online methods are the only absolutely current methods available—every lab risks being out of date without the online edition. The old model of simply offering a print edition is outdated in international usage and the Approved Methods Technical Leadership Committee opted to go with the online-only format because of the many benefits this delivery model has to offer.

Q. What are the benefits of an online-only edition of the approved methods?

A. There is so much our technical committees can do for methods users with the online format, including calculators, videos, audio PowerPoint presentations, and even something as basic as color imagery—the sky's the limit. Most importantly though, labs will always be current and everyone will have 24/7 access. The new 11th edition is subscription based, which means no passwords or permissions, just click-in to gain access to AACC Intl.'s most up-to-date methods. And of course, methods can be printed on demand to facilitate those with print file requirements in their quality programs.

Q. Which companies will benefit most from subscribing to the 11th edition?

A. Any company concerned with producing or purchasing high-quality products and ingredients that involve grains as a constituent will benefit. The beauty of online delivery is that AACC Intl. can provide licensing to different-sized labs with the same high-quality methods and enhancements in real time. Small labs will also pay a lower subscription rate than larger companies. A small lab in South America will find it as easy to use our

methods as a major lab at a U.S. company with hundreds of scientists.

Q. Are the AACC Intl. methods useful worldwide?

A. Yes, they are extremely useful. As chair of the AACC Intl. Technical Leadership Committee, I believe that our methods are second to none. Our methods are being used in labs across Europe, South America, and the Pacific Rim, among others. Our 22 technical committee members are primarily in North America, but we also have members in Europe, Australia, the Philippines, and Japan—wherever there are AACC Intl. members. I participated in the International Codex meetings earlier this year (AACC Intl. Report, May/June CEREAL FOODS WORLD) and AACC Intl. continues to work closely with ICC, as well as other organizations, to ensure international compliance and acceptance.

Q. What can subscribers to the 11th edition look forward to? What's new?

A. We've added new methods to the online edition in the past year and there are many methods in the online version that never appeared in print—these are only available in the 11th edition. Our Soft Wheat Flour Committee recently completed their collab on a new sugar-snap cookie micro method just in time for the launch of the new 11th edition. Our Rice Milling and Quality Committee is finishing up their new pasting temperature of rice flour method, which we hope will get a calculator and a demo video. Next, they are tackling a collab on a new gelatinization of rice flour method.

We have also formed a new Bioactive Compounds Methods Committee, so look for something from them in the future. Anyone interested in joining bioactives or any other technical committee may contact me or the committee chairs. Two other committees—Pasta Products Analysis and Asian Products—are teaming up on a noodle firmness method and two more are

planning a pancake method collab. There's a new internationally validated PCR method coming out soon from the biotech group and our Chemical Leavening Agents Committee is planning to test a new bicarbonate method. Our technical committees are busy and the new edition will be updated rapidly, in real time, as methods are approved.

Q. Anything on the horizon in the area of analytical methods?

A. Food safety is huge. Melamine, salmonella ... who knows what we'll be dealing with next? We are reorganizing our Food Safety and Microbiology Committee under the direction of Charlene Wolf-Hall and we are also recruiting new members. This is a great opportunity to be part of something significant. We hope others will tell us what methods they need. There is an online form to propose new methods for the 11th edition and the Technical Leadership Committee will consider everything that is submitted.

Q. How many methods are in the 11th edition?

A. I'm not sure. I think someone told me there are more than 300. When methods are updated going forward they will also receive a new number that will trace back to their origin. In the new online edition we will archive old methods when they are replaced. This is important for those citing our methods in their research. Along with the new methods, we've completely updated the new edition's suppliers' guide.

Q. Describe your experience with working on the approved methods.

A. I'm excited about working with the methods team because I have learned that, when I provide advice or make a business decision relying on data developed with an AACC Intl. method, I have the confidence I am working with good, science-based information that I can trust.

AACC Intl. was founded for the purpose of developing approved scientific methods and it remains a core goal today as one of the organization's Seven Scientific Initiatives. I'm proud to be a part of that.

Editor's Note: Labs that purchased the 10th edition print and CD versions of the *Approved Methods of the American Association of Cereal Chemists* are eligible for a significant discount on a subscription to the new, official *AACC International Approved Methods of Analysis, 11th Edition*. Vouchers with these discounts were mailed in July. Contact Linda Gold (lgold@scisoc.org or 1.800.328.7560) for more information.



Anne Bridges received her academic training in Australia and Canada. She is chair of the AACC International Approved Methods Technical Leadership Committee, which is responsible for standardizing testing methods in the grain sciences. She has helped organize international collaborative studies for large molecule biotechnology methods and reviewed their performance capabilities. She has participated in many international conferences and symposia focused on discussions around traceability, coexistence, the availability of testing methods, harmonization, and the appropriateness and challenges of testing for biotechnology events in food throughout the food supply chain. Recent activities include participation in the Codex Committee for Analysis and Sampling and presenting at the 6th meeting on ASEAN Genetically Modified Food Testing Network. Bridges has worked in health care and consumer food products for a number of companies, including 3M and General Mills Inc. She currently divides her time between consulting on food quality and humanitarian volunteer work. Bridges can be reached at annebridges001@earthlink.net.