



FSSAI MoU topic at AOAC International's India Section's 5th conference

Dated: 26.02.2018 (Monday)

Pawan Kumar Agarwal, chief executive officer, FSSAI, will speak on the exchange of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the country's apex food regulator and AOAC International at the fifth annual conference of the India Section of the latter, which is slated to take place at The Park Hotel, New Delhi on February 28 and March 1, 2018.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for international educators, scientists, scholars, researchers, industry professionals, laboratory chemists, policy-makers and graduate students with the opportunity to explore, network and discuss issues in the topics on analytical sciences.

The findings of this conference would be effective and insightful for gaining technical information about the advances in analytical methodologies and regulatory compliance requirements and also for learning the new techniques and applications of advanced analytical tools from eminent experts.

Besides Agarwal, the inaugural session will be graced by the presence of Kaushik Banerjee, president, India Section, AOAC International; DeAnn L Benesh, president, AOAC International, and global regulatory affairs manager, 3M Food Safety.

The talk session will include such topics as Testing Strategies in the Modern Nutraceuticals Industry, Strengthening of Food Testing Systems in the Country, Botanical Integrity: The Importance of the Integration of Chemical, Biological, and Botanical Analyses, and the Role of DNA Barcoding, New Frontiers in Nutraceutical Analysis – From Quality and Safety to Research, Advanced Technologies for Pathogen

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and Toxin Detection in Nutraceuticals – Current Applications and Future Directions, 'Veterinary Drug Residues': Multi-class Multi-residue Methods for Veterinary Drugs, Regulatory Limits on Veterinary Drug Residue in India and its implications, US FDA Risk Based Surveillance Programmes, Current Methodologies for Veterinary Drug Residues, Introduction to the AOAC SMPR Process: A call to participate in the SMPRs development for Veterinary Drug Residues, Tolerances for Nutritional Declaration on Food and Food Supplements, Rapid Micro Methods and the Regulatory Environment, Evolving Role of Analytical Scientists in Fighting Food Fraud and Adulteration, Analytical Approaches to Assess Food Authenticity, Detection Methods for Food Allergens – Current State and Recent Advances, Protein Supplements: How Much Protein Are You Really Getting?, Advances in Detection of Microbiological Contaminants and Food Adulterants, The ISO 16140 Series: International Standards for Microbial Method Comparison, Taking Cutting Edge Laboratory Methods from R&D to the Food Microbiology Laboratory, Culture-Independent Methods for Food Safety, Analytical Strategies for Characterisation and Validation of Functional Dairy Foods, Capacity Building for Students: A Win-Win-Win Proposition.

Besides Agarwal, Banerjee and Benesh, the line-up of speakers at the conference include S K Saxena, director, Export Inspection Council of India, Erik Konings, immediate past president, AOAC International and global analytical method alignment coordinator, Nestlé Research Centre in Lausanne, Switzerland, Ranjan Mitra, head, scientific affairs and education manager, N Bhaskar, FSSAI, advisor, quality assurance (QA), Amit Chandra, manager, Chromatography Sciences Group, Analytical Sciences, Amway R&D, Jennifer Burgess, director, food and environmental markets, Waters Corporation, Anoop A Krishnan, assistant director (lab in-charge), Export Inspection Agency, Kolkata Laboratory, Paul Dewsbury, global marketing manager, food and beverage, Chromatography and Mass Spectrometry Group, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc, Viral Brahmhatt, Nestle Food Safety Institute India lead, Nestle R and D Centre India Pvt Ltd, Kavitha Kulkarni, technical manager, 3M India, Saurabh Arora, treasurer, India Section, AOAC International, Shila Jain, laboratory director, National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Lalitha R Gowda, chief scientist (retired), Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, Jie Xing, manager, Application Development & Support Centre, Shimadzu (Asia Pacific) Pte Ltd, Helen Mary Atkinson, business development manager, Sercon Limited, Vishal Arora, secretary, India section, AOAC International, K P Prathish, scientist, Dioxin Research Laboratory, CSIR - National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST), Sandhya Shrivastava, coordinator, Bhavan Research Centre (microbiology) and professor, microbiology, Bhavan's College, Suresh Kumar, managing partner, Ritcher Informatics and Technocrats, Yadvinder Kumar and Srikant

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Swain, application specialists, Perkin Elmer, R S Saini, managing director, Green Economy (P) Ltd, Monoj Ghosh, manager QA, QC and regulatory, Callisons India (P) Ltd, N Venkateswaran, director, NABL, S Dave, chairman, Surakshit Khadya Abhiyan, and former chairman, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Sudip K Pattanayak, associate professor, department of chemical engineering, IIT Delhi, Dipankar Ghosh, assistant professor, Special Centre for Molecular Medicine, Malay Kishore Dutta, joint head, ASET/additional director, ADET, Amity School of Engineering and Technology.

A panel discussion will also be held on the second day of the conference. It will be titled Capacity Building for Students: A Win-Win-Win Proposition. The India Section of AOAC International, true to its role of mentoring today's young people, is committed to disseminate analytical knowledge and expertise to the larger student community.

In this session, the panellists will share their experiences and deliberate on various topics related to capacity building for students, with focus on:

- Old-fashioned curriculum for analytical sciences in Indian universities and need of modernisation
- Lack of awareness of the teaching staff, and M Sc and Ph D scholars about the latest analytical innovations and technologies
- Ignorance about the national and international regulatory guidelines of analytical quality control, quality assurance, etc.
- How AOAC-India can partner with the Indian academia to improve analytical science education?

The final sessions of the conference will include a presentation by the young scientist awardee and the best three poster awardees, who will be selected by a special jury panel, and will be invited to present their work as a short oral presentation in this session, followed by an award session and valedictory address.

The AOAC International is a globally-recognised, independent, non-profit organisation that caters to the analytical needs of different sectors.

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It is the forum for finding appropriate science-based solutions through the development of microbiological and chemical standards. The India section of the AOAC International was founded in 2011 and since then it has been a medium between the AOAC International and the Indian Analytical Community.

AOAC standards are used globally to promote trade and to facilitate public health and safety.