Moving Forward

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Thus far, the feedback from members regarding the Seven Scientific Initiatives has been very positive. Our Cereal Science Knowledge Database has been redesigned to group presentations according to their respective initiatives. New presentations are added regularly and soon subscribers will be able to catch up on the Cereals & Europe (C&E) Whole Grain Global Summit held in Newcastle, U.K., in March. We realize that both financial and time constraints prohibit some members from attending meetings, so we are working very hard to provide you with information from our own meetings, including the recent Milling and Baking Division meeting in Albuquerque and our annual meeting in Baltimore.

Publications are our next area to evolve with the scientific initiatives. The Publication Panel Journal Committee has been expanded and charged by the Board of Directors to examine whether Cereal Chemistry adequately reflects our initiatives and to recommend to the board this September how best to involve the journal with the initiatives. Likewise, our bookstore will also advertise our books under their respective initiatives. The Quality of Science Committee, led by Gene Wisakowsky, has provided great leadership in refocusing the association’s scientific endeavors. If you have suggestions regarding the Seven Scientific Initiatives, please contact the committee and let them know your thoughts.

Serving the global membership was a focal point during the Board of Directors’ meeting in May. We have stepped up our efforts to serve our global membership from our headquarters in St. Paul, MN, U.S.A. The current economy made it necessary to close the European office in Belgium, but we stay very much committed to serving the global membership. This is being accomplished by offering several different payment options for those outside the United States, as well as by asking committees to evaluate how we can continually improve the membership experience. The newly created Membership Panel will also work across several committees to further develop member value, keeping in mind the various segments.

As an association run by the members for the members, we always need volunteers to serve on committees in order to further our mission. Opportunities range from participation on short-term projects to more high-level involvement, such as serving on one of our panels. Not only are committees a great way to make an impact within AACC International and the cereal grains community, but they are a way to expand your network. President-elect Khalil Khan has already begun making committee appointments; contact him at Khalil.Khan@ndsu.com if you are interested in joining a committee.

The Annual Meeting Technical Program Planning Committee, led by Jodi Engleson and cochaired by Christophe Courtin, has assembled an all-new program for 2009 designed around AACC International’s Seven Scientific Initiatives. Organizing both oral and poster presentations around these initiatives will make it easy for attendees to find the exact research topics, speakers, and posters that most apply to their individual work. A preview of the meeting is provided in this issue, as well information on where you can find the abstracts before, during, and after the meeting.

In response to members’ comments, several changes have been made to the annual meeting for 2009. There will be fewer concurrent sessions and the number of symposia has been reduced to focus the meeting more directly on original research. Several premeeting learning opportunities are available in Baltimore as well, including two premeeting workshops and two short courses. Premeeting opportunities such as these will provide attendees with the best chance to make the most of their time at the meeting by taking part in critical networking and social opportunities provided in a small group setting.

AACC International is committed to advancing grain science research, but research is not possible without funding. A special session on USDA funding will be held in Baltimore. National program leaders from USDA will provide an update on the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) competitive grants program that began this year, as well as other grant opportunities. This session is not just for researchers—attendees from industry are invited to attend and provide comments on how the grant program could best be leveraged to help the industry be more competitive globally.

All members are welcome to sit in on any of the technical committee meetings. Technical committees are seen by many as the heart of AACC International and your involvement means you are playing a critical role in the future of our industry. Joining a technical committee helps you to build your personal and professional network by working with others in the industry who share your specialties and areas of interest. The AACC International Approved Methods of Analysis, 11th Edition, debuts online in July. You can contribute to future methods by participating in committees at this year’s meeting.

Finally, it is not too soon to begin planning for our October 24–27, 2010, meeting in Savannah, GA. If you have an idea for a session, please contact Christophe Courtin. The 2010 Annual Meeting Technical Program Planning Committee will be meeting several times in Baltimore to build the meeting schedule.

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