

# Quality of Science at the Forefront of AACC International

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AACC International continues to dedicate itself to our primary mission—the global advancement of grain science. Almost two years ago, AACC Intl. chose Seven Key Scientific Initiatives on which to focus. These initiatives guide the association in providing members with relevant information, strong scientific communities, and significant opportunities for disseminating research findings. Through this focus, we are increasing the quality of research and working to satisfy

the diverse needs of our membership. Serving the global membership was a major focal point during the Board of Directors' midyear meeting held in May.

Staying on top of emerging issues is a high priority for AACC Intl. During the midyear meeting, the board dedicated a large portion of time to reviewing the list of topics provided by the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP). Over the years, SAP has built a large database of emerging issues and trends. This is not an easy task, and SAP relies on many sources to ensure its database is as comprehensive as possible. The highest priority items brought to the board relate to the future cereals industry workforce, obesity, global warming, food safety, feeding the world, GMOs, school nutrition, health, water shortages, and digestibility indices. These issues are broad in scope, and AACC Intl. can have only a limited impact on issues such as global warming or obesity. However, within our scope we may be able to find ways to impact these and many other issues as they relate to cereal grains and the industries they support. The board is now busy allocating resources to ensure that the membership has access to knowledge in these areas. By expanding our knowledge base, we will increase our chances of making progress against these large issues.

AACC Intl. is all about making connections, and the board is currently creating additional ways for you to connect with colleagues with similar interests. A number of formal communities (e.g., divisions, technical committees, sections, etc.) are in place within AACC Intl. to connect members across broad areas of expertise. These communities have functioned well for many years

and continue to serve the membership. We are now also working on developing a new style of community within our organization. Interest groups will be launching at the 2010 Annual Meeting and will provide another platform for you to connect with others who hold the same interests as you. For example, Board Member Craig Morris will be leading a Mapping Quality of Small Grains Interest Group. This community of researchers will connect those engaged in mapping end-use quality traits in wheat and will facilitate the sharing of information and strategies for population development, phenotyping, marker development, and marker-trait validation. Watch for details on this interest group and others forming at the annual meeting this October.

As a member-run organization, we greatly value your volunteer time. Based on the current priorities and feedback from members, we will be streamlining some of our administrative committees. A few committees will be consolidated while others will be eliminated or put on hiatus for now. The board will be meeting with committee leadership in the coming months to prepare for this transition.

Finally, it is not too soon to start planning for your attendance at our October 24–27, 2010, meeting in Savannah, Georgia, U.S.A. We have included a special pre-meeting section in this issue of *Cereal Foods World*. In addition, you can view the abstracts as an online supplement to this issue. To view this open-access PDF, go to [www.aaccnet.org/cerealfoodsworld/tablescontents.asp](http://www.aaccnet.org/cerealfoodsworld/tablescontents.asp). We've added more scientific content to the annual meeting and more time is scheduled each day to attend the sessions. Speakers and presenters at the meeting represent almost 100 companies and organizations,

74 universities, and more than 30 countries worldwide. In addition to the scientific sessions, all members are welcome to sit in on any of the technical committee meetings. Technical committees contribute to future methods and many see them as the heart of AACC Intl. The annual meeting is an excellent venue for learning new strategies to tackle today's challenges, as well as a place to build strong relationships through networking events.

The scope of research performed by our members has changed drastically since our association was founded in 1915. As the field of grain science evolves and intertwines with many other areas, AACC Intl. will also continue to evolve. Members will all benefit from these efforts and this evolution.

**AACC INTERNATIONAL'S  
SEVEN KEY  
SCIENTIFIC INITIATIVES**

- Analytical Methods & Quality
- Biotechnology & Sustainability
- Cereal & Polymer Chemistry
- Engineering & Processing
- Food Safety & Regulatory
- Health & Nutrition
- Ingredients & Cost of Goods Sold