NEWSLETTER

Issue 57 – August 2020

FOREWORD

Under normal circumstances an ordinary August Newsletter would have included information on the 2020 Congress with details of the four-day working programme, election procedures, the social networking arrangements and the reasons why travel to Vienna is a must. However, the circumstances are not "normal" and nothing in 2020 seems to be "ordinary"!

For the first time in its 60-year history, the CORESTA Congress has had to be cancelled, much to the regret and disappointment of all concerned, both scientifically and administratively. The CORESTA Board made this very difficult decision, in liaison with the hosts of the Congress, Japan Tobacco Inc., after considering both the health and economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and the prevailing and future uncertainties. CORESTA takes this opportunity to sincerely thank Japan Tobacco Inc. and its affiliates for all the efforts in organising what was to be an amazing Congress and for its courage in deciding to cancel the event. CORESTA is also grateful to Japan Tobacco Inc. for allowing the original Congress design, colours and logo, to be adapted for the new Congress arrangements.

"Integrated Science: Opportunities and Challenges": taking what was to be the Congress theme to heart, the CORESTA governing bodies have risen to the challenge of the current situation. All has not been abandoned and all is not lost. In order to sustain research vitality, honour the research efforts of scientists, and keep communication lines active, the CORESTA Board and Scientific Commission investigated different possibilities for presenters to share their work. You will discover in this Newsletter the details concerning the "alternative" Congress that is being arranged online in October/November. Herein you will also read about the decisions taken concerning the General Assembly (a statutory requirement), and the elections of the Board and Scientific Commission.

The world lockdown has not dampened the enthusiasm of CORESTA members, and neither has it curtailed the activities of the various Sub-Groups and Task Forces nor the commitment of the CORESTA Secretariat to provide the best possible service to members. Although scheduled physical meetings were cancelled, online gatherings were convened and successfully held with the use of modern technology. This Newsletter contains reports from a few of the working groups outlining the progress of their various activities and projects, and news of the evolution of the Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC), Smoke Analytes (SMA) and Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes (TTPA) Sub-Groups.

Publication of Technical Reports, Guides and Recommended Methods, and the launch of new projects, continues unimpeded and are as usual listed in this Newsletter.

The next months will be interesting, but CORESTA remains confident that by working together in a spirit of mutual cooperation and assistance, the association and its members will emerge stronger and more determined to face the future, and we look forward to what will hopefully be a return to normality in 2021.

2020 Online CORESTA Congress

2020 CORESTA CONGRESS ONLINE
12 October – 12 November 2020

VENUE

The online 2020 CORESTA Congress will be "held" on the CORESTA website. Details are available on the Congress webpage at www.coresta.org/events/coresta-congress-33774.html.

WORKING PROGRAMME

Following the decision to cancel the physical Congress in Vienna, authors who had submitted abstracts were consulted to gauge their interest in moving to a virtual environment. Significant feedback was received and an encouraging number of presenters agreed to adapt and prepare their talks and posters to a virtual format. The online Congress was confirmed and the Scientific Commission convened the Reading Committee meetings mid-June to make the final abstract selections.

A total of **89** abstracts were selected for presentation:

- Agro-Phyto: 28 papers and 14 posters (Total: **42**)
- Smoke-Techno: 30 papers and 17 posters (Total: **47**)

The programme sessions will cover the following topics:

- Agro-Phyto: Biotechnology, Diseases, Low Nicotine, Nutrition, Organic / Sustainable Production, Production, TSNAs
- Smoke-Techno: Cigarette Design, E-Vapour, Heated TobaccoProduct (HTP) Aerosol Analysis, HTP and E-Vapour Design, *In vitro* Toxicology, Nicotine Pouches, Non-Targeted Analysis of Smoke Free Product Aerosols, Product Use, Risk Assessment, Smoke and Tobacco Analysis, Cigarettes and Cigars, HTP and E-Vapour Analysis, Tobacco and Smokeless Tobacco, Toxicology
- CORESTA Sub-Group and Task Force annual reports

Presentations, both oral and poster, will be in the form of videos with audio narration. Presentation preparation instructions have been communicated to authors.

The preliminary Working Programme with the list of papers to be presented has been published on the Congress webpage on the CORESTA website and will be regularly updated.

PARTICIPATION

Registration will not be necessary and no fees will be charged to "attend" the Congress.

Access to the 2020 Congress is reserved for persons from CORESTA Member Organisations only, and an active CORESTA website account is required. Instructions to set up an account are outlined on the Congress webpage (see link above).

Persons from Non-CORESTA Member Organisations who wish to participate in the Congress and view the presentations are invited to contact the CORESTA Secretariat directly.


12 October - 12 November 2020

CORESTA Congress

Online

2020 CORESTA ONLINE

12 October - 12 November 2020

Open for free to all belonging to CORESTA Member organisations
For Non-Members, please contact the CORESTA Secretariat

Preliminary Congress Programme

Instructions for Presenters

Congress theme: "Integrated Science: Opportunities and Challenges"

The Covid-19 pandemic and its global repercussions are driving change and innovation and indeed creating "opportunities and challenges". Activities continue, and thanks to science and modern technology, many conferences this year are being held online.

Following the cancellation of the scheduled CORESTA Congress in Vienna, Austria, the CORESTA Scientific Commission investigated alternative possibilities to replace the highlight of the association's meeting year and honour the research work of scientists. Together with the Board, the decision has been made to bring the CORESTA Congress into the virtual arena.

CORESTA wishes to thank all the authors of abstracts for their submissions. Despite the uncertainty of the situation, a large number of abstracts were received for both oral and poster presentations. Abstract authors responded very positively to the proposed change in event organisation and over 90 have indicated their willingness to maintain their presentations and share their scientific work in an online Congress.

CORESTA is committed to keeping scientific communication active, to promoting cooperation and to providing you with the best possible online Congress experience during these exceptional times.

Cancellation of Physical Congress in Vienna: Communication from Board President published on 8 June 2020

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

According to the CORESTA Statutes and Rules, the *"Ordinary General Assembly meets at least once every other year"*. However, this year, due to the cancellation of the physical Congress, the CORESTA Board investigated the other possibilities available to hold the General Assembly that ensures the continuity of collective decision-making.

CORESTA being an association based in France and governed by French law, the exceptional measures taken by the French government were noted and legal advice sought on how best to follow the statutory requirements during this exceptional period.

Consequently, a virtual General Assembly will be organised. Normal proceedings will not be possible, but, together with the approval of the CORESTA Activity Report and the Accounts, two additional resolutions will be submitted for approval by the Members:

1. The exceptional two-year extension of the term of office for the members of the Board
2. The exceptional two-year extension of the term of office for the members of the Scientific Commission

The objective of the first resolution is to keep the normal tenure of the Board during this exceptional situation (the exceptional extension of the Board does not include the mandate of the President or that of the Vice-President of the Board who will be designated according to the Statutes and Rules). The objective of the second resolution is to avoid unfair exclusion of potential candidates and to maintain the continuity in the management of scientific work during the pandemic.

Official Delegates of CORESTA Member Organisations have been notified of the modalities of the General Assembly and provided with a timeline of the different actions that will be required. An official electronic convocation will be sent to Official Delegates mid-September, voting will be over a period of several days mid-October, and the General Assembly will be held mid-November.

The current 2018-2020 Board is as follows:

ELECTED MEMBERS

A) Members elected in 2016 (for 4 years)

Alliance One International, Inc. (USA)
British American Tobacco (UK)
China National Tobacco Corporation (China)
Imperial Brands (UK)
Japan Tobacco Inc. (Japan)

B) Members elected in 2018 (for 4 years)

Borgwaldt KC GmbH (Germany)
delfort (Austria)
Reynolds American Inc. Services Co. (USA)
Swedish Match AB (Sweden)
Universal Leaf Tobacco Company (USA)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS (for 2 years)

Alternative Ingredients, Inc. (USA)
KT&G Corporation (South Korea)
SWM International, Inc. (USA)
University of Kentucky (USA)

The current 2018-2020 Scientific Commission is as follows:

Agronomy & Leaf Integrity

Lea SCOTT (Universal Leaf Tobacco)
Anthony JACKSON (Premium Tobacco Ltd)
Masahiro MIYOSHI (Japan Tobacco Inc.)
Marcos LUSSO (Altria Client Services)
Limeng ZHANG (CNTC Yunnan Tob. Grp Co., Ltd)

Phytopathology & Genetics

Dongmei XU (Altria Client Services)
Susan DIMBI (Zimbabwe Tobacco Research Board)
Fabienne LALANDE (JT International)
François DORLHAC (Imperial Tobacco)
Colin FISHER (University of Kentucky)

Smoke Science

Martin BLUMENSTOCK (British American Tob.)
Paul HARP (RAI Services Co.)
Rob STEVENS (RAI Services Co.)
Xavier CAHOURS (Imperial Tobacco - SEITA)
Kei YOSHINO (Japan Tobacco Inc.)

Product Technology

Karl WAGNER (Altria Client Services)
Bin HU (CNTC Zhengzhou Tob. Research Inst.)
Bernhard EITZINGER (delfortgroup AG)
Guy JACCARD (Philip Morris International)
Jutta PANI (Imperial Tobacco)

CORESTA REPORTS

The following reports have been published on the CORESTA website at **www.coresta.org**:

- **2013 Collaborative Study for Selected Phenolic Compounds in Mainstream Cigarette Smoke**
  Technical Report [SMA-162-1-CTR] – *April 2020* (Sub-Group Smoke Analytes)

  In 2013, a collaborative study (CS) was conducted to establish a robust method for the determination of select phenolic compounds in mainstream cigarette smoke by RP-HPLC-FLD. Repeatability and reproducibility (r&R) values, calculated from combined smoking machine data, were determined to be acceptable and resulted in the publication of the CORESTA Recommended Method (CRM) No. 78 in July 2014 (updated in December 2018). This technical report serves to provide details in support of the CS and CRM.

- **Agrochemical Residue Field Trials Second 3-year Cycle Programme Report**
  Technical Report [RFT-136-CTR] – *April 2020* (Sub-Group Agrochemical Residue Field Trials)

  Guidance Residue Levels (GRLs) have been developed by the CORESTA Agro-Chemical Advisory Committee (ACAC) to provide guidance to tobacco growers and those in the tobacco industry with interest in the application of Crop Protection Agents (CPAs) that are in compliance with the implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). Residue data from field trials complying with label instructions are an essential part of the process to establish GRLs. To this end the Agrochemical Residues Field Trials (RFT) Sub-Group carries out field residue trials and analyses. This report describes the second 3-year trial programme and the main achievements from 2016 through to 2018.

- **2019 Small Group Collaborative Study on Aromatic Amines in Mainstream Cigarette Smoke**
  Technical Report [SMA-048-1-CTR] – *May 2020* (Sub-Group Smoke Analytes)

  From 2014 to 2017, analytical methods (GC/MS and LC-MS/MS) for quantitative measurement of aromatic amines in mainstream cigarette smoke were evaluated. The GC/MS method was taken forward for a collaborative study (CS) but the results obtained did not support the development of the method into a CRM. A focus group continued to work on the method but concluded there were no significant improvements to r&R to warrant another collaborative study. This report documents the CS and captures the work of the focus group.

- **2019 Stability Study Protocol for Sample Handling of Smokeless Tobacco and Smokeless Tobacco Products - Collaborative Study**
  Technical Report [TTPA-176-1-CTR] – *May 2020* (Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes)

  In 2018, a collaborative long-term stability study of the substances listed in CORESTA Guide No. 11 was carried out in order to add the scientific data to support the storage condition claims. This Technical Report includes tabulated data for different compounds in smoke-free tobacco samples stored in the refrigerator and at room temperature during a period of twelve weeks. Based on these data, an interpretation of the influence of storage on compound stability was given, and the Guide No. 11 updated accordingly.

- **Metals Analysis Method for E-Liquids**
  Technical Report [EVAP-184-CTR] – *May 2020* (Sub-Group E-Vapour)

  A study was carried out to determine if current in-house laboratory methods were sufficient for the analysis of metals in e-liquids. The results of the study were used to determine if method accuracy is impacted by the choice of sample preparation. The data suggested that either the digestion or dilution technique could be used for the determination of metals in e-liquids, although specific attention to detail to reduce potential sources of background contamination is necessary regardless of the technique used.

- **Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs): Standardized Terminology and Recommendations for the Generation and Collection of Emissions**
  Technical Report [HTP-259-CTR] – *July 2020* (Task Force Heated Tobacco Products)

  This technical report provides recommended standardized terminology for the heated tobacco product category and sub-categories as well as the product attributes for each sub-category to aide with the classification of HTPs. The report also provides recommendations for the generation and collection of emissions from HTPs to ensure consistent analytical comparisons across the product categories within the scientific community.

- **2020 Collaborative Study for the Determination of Menthol in Cigarette Smoke Condensates**
  Technical Report [RAC-237-CTR] – *July 2020* (Task Force Routine Analytical Chemistry)

  A collaborative study was carried out for the determination of menthol in mainstream cigarette smoke condensates generated under ISO 3308 (non-intense) and ISO 20778 (intense) smoking conditions. Menthol was determined following ISO 13110. The results of the study demonstrate that ISO 13110 is suitable for the analysis of menthol in smoke condensates generated under both non-intense and intense conditions.

CORESTA REPORTS (continued)

- **CORESTA 2009 Reference Products - 2019 Analysis**
  Technical Report [TTPA-219-CTR] – *July 2020* (Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes)

  An inter-laboratory study was designed to assess the stability of the four CORESTA Reference Products (CRPs) manufactured in 2009. Participating laboratories reported the levels of nicotine, pH, moisture (oven volatiles), tobacco specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) in the CRPs using CORESTA Recommended Methods (CRMs). The data were evaluated for stability by examining trends over time in the analyte levels and measures. The results from this 2019 stability analysis of the 2009 CRPs generally compared well to the stability analysis for the 2009 CRPs last conducted in 2015, thus demonstrating that the products are stable when held at the recommended storage conditions of −20 °C.

- **2018 Metals Collaborative Study**
  Technical Report [TTPA-170-1-CTR] – *July 2020* (Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes)

  A first metals proficiency study was carried out in 2015 and a second in 2017. The objective of the proficiency studies was to assess laboratory capabilities for the analysis of specific trace elements in tobacco and tobacco products. The analysis of the data from these studies led to the decision to conduct a collaborative study (CS) using only newer technology, specifically ICP-MS with collision cell/reaction cell capabilities. The results of the CS showed that the method described was fit for the determination of select elements in a range of tobacco products and the CORESTA Recommended Method (CRM) No. 93 was subsequently produced.

- **2019 Collaborative Study of CORESTA Monitor 9 (CM9) for the Determination of Test Piece Weight, TPM, Water, Nicotine, NFDPM, Carbon Monoxide and Puff Count Obtained under Mainstream 'ISO' and 'Intense' Smoking Regimes**
  Technical Report [RAC-224-CTR] – *August 2020* (Sub-Group Routine Analytical Chemistry)

  The Sub-Group Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC) is responsible for organising the annual testing of the CORESTA Monitor test piece. The 2019 study was designed to measure mainstream ISO (ISO 3308) and ISO Intense (ISO 20778) smoke yields of nicotine-free dry particulate matter, nicotine and carbon monoxide to verify the current monitor test piece CM9; to determine intra- and inter-laboratory variability for the measured ISO and ISO Intense smoke yields for the CM9; to verify the conditioned weight for the CM9. The analytical results for the CM9 test piece confirmed that it can be used as a monitor test piece in smoke analysis.

- **Collaborative Study on Crush Strength of Flavour Capsules for Filters**
  Technical Report [PTM-218-1-CTR] – *August 2020* (Sub-Group Physical Test Methods)

  The Physical Test Methods (PTM) Sub-Group developed the CORESTA Recommended Method (CRM) No. 94 on the Determination of Crush Strength of Flavour Capsules for Filters. This report covers the collaborative study that was carried out in order to determine repeatability and reproducibility (r&R) statistics of the newly developed method.

CORESTA RECOMMENDED METHODS

New

- **CRM No. 93** – Determination of Selected Metals in Tobacco Products by ICP-MS *(July 2020)* [TTPA-170-2-CRM-93]

  The CRM is applicable to the determination of arsenic (As), beryllium (Be), cadmium (Cd), chromium (Cr), cobalt (Co), nickel (Ni), lead (Pb) in tobacco, cigarette filler, smokeless tobacco (e.g. moist snuff, snus, chewing tobacco, and dry snuff), and ground cigars. Selenium (Se) is included for informational purposes due to the difficulty in effectively removing isobaric interferences.

- **CRM No. 94** – Determination of Crush Strength of Flavour Capsules For Filters – Definitions and Measurement Principles *(August 2020)* [PTM-218-2-CRM-94]

  The CRM specifies a physical test method for the determination of the crush strength of flavour capsules for filters.

All CORESTA Recommended Methods can be downloaded in PDF format at www.coresta.org

CORESTA GUIDES

All CORESTA Guides may be downloaded in PDF format at www.coresta.org

Revision

CORESTA Guide No. 11
Technical Guideline for Sample Handling of Smokeless Tobacco and Smokeless Tobacco Products
(Second edition – May 2020) [TTPA-176-2-CTG-11]

The appropriate storage and preparation of tobacco samples is one of the most important factors with regard to the achievement of representative and reproducible test results. A laboratory can only produce high quality results if the integrity of samples is maintained. The Guide was developed to provide guidance to the tobacco industry and independent testing laboratories on sample storage and preparation of samples that have reached the laboratory. This second edition has been totally revised and is based on the Technical Report *2019 Stability Study Protocol for Sample Handling of Smokeless Tobacco and Smokeless Tobacco Products - Collaborative Study* also published in May 2020.

CORESTA Guide No. 12
Controlled Atmosphere Parameters for the Control of Cigarette Beetle and Tobacco Moth
(Fourth edition – April 2020) [PSMST-254-CTG-12]

Controlled atmosphere (CA) treatments are environmentally safe, leave no chemical residue, do not negatively affect commodity quality, have a low risk of resistance development, and treatment times are comparable to phosphine fumigations and freezing treatments. New controlled atmosphere treatment parameters were investigated and approved for the control of cigarette beetles and tobacco moths. These parameters were included in the fourth edition of Guide No. 12 by the CORESTA Pest and Sanitation Management in Stored Tobacco Sub-Group.

CORESTA Guide No. 15
CORESTA Reference Products - Production and Evaluation
(Third edition – July 2020) [TTPA-267-CTG-15]

CORESTA Reference Products (CRPs) are useful for monitoring the stability of analytical methodologies when conducting routine smokeless tobacco chemical analyses. In particular, they can be used to assess whether the analytical methods are in control. In 2009, four different CRPs were produced in an effort to have products that cover a wide range of smokeless tobacco product categories. A new batch of CRPs was produced in 2016 due to low supply of the 2009 CRPs. This updated edition describes the CRPs produced in 2016 and can be used as a guideline for the future remanufacture of the CRPs.

CORESTA PROJECTS

The following projects were approved by the Scientific Commission and launched:

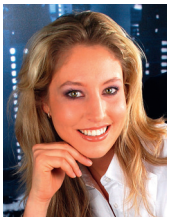
- **Project 257: CORESTA - Guidelines for Writing CORESTA CRMs (Revision)**
  CORESTA - Approved April 2020
- **Project 258: HTP Update ISO/TC126 WG22 Meeting**
  TF HTP - Heated Tobacco Products - Approved April 2020
- **Project 259: Heated Tobacco Products - Standardized Terminology and Recommendations for the Generation and Collection of Emissions**
  TF HTP - Heated Tobacco Products - Approved April 2020
- **Project 260: 4th Proficiency Test on Diffusion Capacity**
  SG PTM - Physical Test Methods - Approved May 2020
- **Project 261-266: CORESTA - Revision "Process of CORESTA Cooperation" and related documents**
  CORESTA - Approved May 2020
- **Project 267: Systematic Review of CORESTA Guide No. 15 - CORESTA Reference Products - Production and Evaluation**
  SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes - Approved June 2020
- **Project 268: Presentation "Review of Human Abuse Liability Assessment of Tobacco and Nicotine Products" at TSRC, Boston, MA, USA, Sept 2020**
  SG PUB - Product Use Behaviour - Approved May 2020
- **Project 269: Development of Consumer Reported Outcome Measures (CROM) Standards for the Tobacco Industry: Psychometric CROM**
  TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - Approved June 2020
- **Project 270: 2020 Collaborative Study of CORESTA Monitor 9 (CM9)**
  SG RAC - Routine Analytical Chemistry - Approved June 2020

CORESTA PROJECTS (continued)

- **Project 271: 16th Round Robin Test on Pressure Drop Calibration Standards**
  SG PTM - Physical Test Methods - Approved June 2020
- **Project 272: Article on "Scientific Partnerships for Sustainable Change" for publication**
  CORESTA - Approved July 2020
- **Project 273: Definition of Use Behaviour and Exposure Terminology Across Product Categories**
  SG PUB-BMK - Product Use Behaviour & Biomarkers - Approved August 2020
- **Project 274: Development of CROM Standards for the Tobacco Industry: Descriptive CROM**
  TF CROM - Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium - Approved August 2020

Physical Test Methods (PTM) Sub-Group

Bernhard EITZINGER
PTM SG Coordinator



Patricia MÜLLER
PTM SG Secretary

The 30th meeting of the Physical Test Methods (PTM) Sub-Group was for the first time held as a web meeting on April 29, 2020. Originally planned to take place in Salzburg, Austria, the circumstances made it necessary to change the format of the meeting. Despite this change the meeting was well attended with 19 participants, which is more than the typically 12-15 participants attending a physical meeting.

Apart from the change in format, the work of the PTM Sub-Group continues as normal. As every year, the PTM Sub-Group will carry out its Collaborative Study on Physical Parameters, in which cigarettes and filters are tested for various parameters such as weight, diameter and pressure drop. This study is in progress and is expected to be completed at the end of 2020. In parallel, the PTM Sub-Group has also launched the 4th Proficiency Test on Diffusion Capacity. This study is well underway and is also expected to be completed late this year.

The membership in the PTM Sub-Group includes a few companies maintaining calibration laboratories, which carry out round robin tests on calibration standards for pressure drop, ventilation and air permeability. This is an ongoing process, in which calibration standards are permanently circulating between the laboratories, and which continues as planned.

As an important routine work item the PTM Sub-Group has reviewed all of its Technical Guides and CORESTA Recommended Methods (CRM) during the last two years. This work has now been completed and all documents have been brought up-to-date.

A major work item was the development of a new CRM for measuring the crush strength of flavour capsules for cigarette filters. The test method was drafted and a collaborative study carried out to determine r&R data. The new CRM and the accompanying Technical Report on the collaborative study were reviewed and subsequently published mid-August on the CORESTA website.

Further topics that were discussed at the meeting include the measurement of low pressure drops, which may be particularly relevant for Heated Tobacco Products (HTPs) or their components, the measurement of the permeability of pouch materials for smokeless tobacco products and testing of the tightness of packages for e-cigarettes. These topics will be re-visited at the next meeting.

The 31st PTM Sub-Group meeting will take place on September 22 and 23. The meeting will be held as two short web meetings instead of one full-day meeting to accommodate participation from a variety of countries at reasonable working hours. In any case, the PTM Sub-Group is already looking forward to again having a physical meeting in spring 2021.

E-Vapour (EVAP) Sub-Group

Chuck GARNER
EVAP SG Coordinator

Gene GILLMAN
EVAP SG Secretary

On April 22 the EVAP SG held its first virtual meeting via Zoom. While the meeting featured less discussion (not uncommon with virtual meetings in our experience) due to the more “formal” format, the meeting was a success! The presenters were well prepared, and the meeting followed the agenda very closely. The technology worked perfectly. This included the sharing of visual material and the use of the “hand-raising” feature and messaging so the participants were not talking on top of each other when they had questions or comments. This was especially important since at one point there were approximately 100 people in the meeting. So, while we all certainly missed the personal interaction with our friends and colleagues afforded by a face-to-face meeting, in this strange world in which we currently live virtual meetings can certainly be productive. We would like to express our gratitude to PMI for organizing the meeting and to Eva Garcia for training us on the Zoom software. Lastly, thank you to the EVAP SG members for continuing their outstanding efforts to advance the science in key areas such as development of an EVAP reference product and standardized methods for the analysis of carbonyls and metals despite the unusual circumstances facing them and the rest of the world.

Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC), Smoke Analytes (SMA), Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes (TTPA) Sub-Groups

Proposed Reorganisation Plan

Earlier this year (January 2020), the CORESTA Scientific Commission met to monitor and review the current activities of Sub-Groups (SG) and Task Forces (TF), and to discuss perspectives on what is going well and where there exists opportunities to improve within CORESTA. The aim of such a systematic review was to monitor workload and trends, to identify options for optimising the use of competences and resources, and to continuously ensure CORESTA is evolving with the rapidly changing industry so that all are well equipped for future work.

In recent years, with the emergence of new technologies and next generation products, five new SG/TFs have been formed in CORESTA, including EVAP (E-Vapour), CVAR (Cigarette Variability), CROM (Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium), HTP (Heated Tobacco Products), and NGTX (21st Century Toxicology for Next Generation Tobacco and Nicotine Products). Although CVAR will soon be disbanded due to the completion of its objectives, the other SG/TFs are expected to be operational for the foreseeable future. To stay current and to align with the CORESTA strategy and direction as best as possible, the Scientific Commission looked for ways to consolidate workstreams, to make sure resources are used as effectively as possible, and to strengthen communication and decision-making.

This year, the Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC), Tobacco and Tobacco Product Analytes (TTPA), and Smoke Analytes (SMA) SGs were subject to specific discussions considering the similarities and overlap of their objectives, activities, and workflows. RAC was created 35 years ago, SMA was created 21 years ago (formerly Special Analytes Sub-Group) and TTPA was created 12 years ago (formerly Smokeless Tobacco Sub-Group). The Scientific Commission concluded that the RAC and SMA SGs should merge to form a new SG with three workstreams: 1) reference products, 2) cigar HPHC methods and 3) cigarette smoke methods. The new SG would be the Smoke Analysis SG, which would be led jointly by Jana Jeffery and Yamazaki Hiromoto. In addition, a few work items would be shifted to the new Tobacco and Tobacco Product Analysis SG. The overall work, including current NWIPs, would not change and the leadership of the new SGs would remain consistent to ensure continuity and continued success.

In order to smoothly manage the transition, and to agree on an action plan, conference calls were organised and held with the SG coordinators and Scientific Commission representatives in May and June this year. Currently, discussions are also on-going with coordinators, secretaries, and workstream leaders to define the future way of working including the upcoming SG meetings in the Fall 2020. This effort is simply a merging of expert resources and optimisation of the workload as CORESTA continues to evolve to the changing industry.

UPCOMING 2020 CORESTA MEETINGS / CONGRESS

The COVID-19 situation continues to disrupt CORESTA Sub-Group and Task Force meetings. Below are web meetings that are known to have been scheduled at the time of publication, but please visit the CORESTA website for the latest updates (www.coresta.org/meetings/upcoming).

Meeting	Date	Location
ACAC - Agrochemical Advisory Committee	11 September 2020	Online
SG AA - Agrochemicals Analysis	15 September 2020	Online
SG BIO - Efficacy of Biological and Eco-Friendly CPAs	18 September 2020	Online
SG PTM - Physical Test Methods	22-23 September 2020	Online
SG GMO - Proficiency Testing for Detection of Transgenic Tobacco	6 October 2020	Online
SG PUB - Product Use Behaviour	6 October 2020	Online
TF HTP - Heated Tobacco Products	7 October 2020	Online
SG BMK - Biomarkers	8 October 2020	Online
SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes	13 October 2020	Online
CORESTA CONGRESS	**12 October-12 November**	**Online**