



NEWSLETTER

Issue 59 – April 2021

FOREWORD

More than a year has passed since our lives were changed by a virus that is still haunting our existences. Lockdowns, remote working, masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, tests, hospitalisation and death figures, and now vaccines, have become part of the “new normal” for the vast majority of the world’s peoples. Incessant media coverage of the Covid-19 crisis and often conflicting information have rendered decision making difficult and the future remains uncertain.

However, it is when the “going gets tough, that the tough get going”! At CORESTA, we believe that the current situation is a challenge that can only be turned into an opportunity. An opportunity to strengthen contacts, to build new communication routes, to seek new tools in order to enhance productivity, and to develop alternative ways of achieving common goals.

Online meetings have become widespread and have enabled increased participation by members previously curtailed by budget and travel impediments; conferences are being organised with new tools allowing virtual attendance; and administrative processes are being rationalised to improve efficiency.

You will see in this Newsletter that CORESTA has maintained its work momentum. Working groups continue to meet, and two new groups, Smoke Analysis (SA) and Nicotiana Germplasm Collection (NGPC), have been formed. Projects continue to be launched, work is ongoing on existing projects, and reports and recommended methods continue to be published. The usual CORESTA Conferences are scheduled for October in a virtual format with live Q&A sessions, and the CORESTA abstract submission system has been reviewed and upgraded.

May the coming months bring a light at the end of the Covid-19 tunnel, and in the meantime, CORESTA looks forward to “meeting” you all virtually at the conferences later this year.

Joint Study Group Conferences 2021

4-8 October 2021 – Agronomy and Leaf Integrity & Phytopathology and Genetics

18-22 October 2021 – Smoke Science & Product Technology

The 2021 CORESTA Joint Study Group Conferences will be held virtually, similarly to the successful Congress held in 2020.

This time, the Conferences will consist of daily, 2-hour sessions or workshops (1 pm to 3 pm CET) focused on a specific topic area with pre-recorded 10 to 15 minute oral presentations followed by a live Q&A with the presenters.

Videos will remain available for a month after the events and the presentations will be published on the CORESTA website.

The Call for Papers is published and the online abstract submission is available. Scientists and students are encouraged to take part and to contribute to the quality and diversity of the scientific programme by submitting one or several abstracts, especially those who do not normally have the opportunity to travel and present at international events.



TIMELINE

Call for Papers and Abstract Submission:	Now on CORESTA website
Abstract Submission Deadline:	Friday, 14 May
Abstract selection by Reading Committee:	Early June
Author notifications:	Mid- to late June
Programme Publication & Conference Registration:	Available end of June

CORESTA Scientific Commission and Board Meetings

The **BOARD** met on 3 February 2021 for a virtual meeting during which the new composition and chairmanship of the four committees were decided. A “Strategy House” structured around four strategic areas was endorsed. These areas are “conventional products”, “emerging products”, “regulation” and “sustainability”.

Strategy Committee: Four meetings had been held since November 2020 during which productive discussions took place on the Strategy House, a subject score card and the related processes. ■ The work conducted by the Strategy Committee led to the development of several useful tools, whose compilation into a unique file would facilitate the overall management of the outputs. A new global framework is under development to facilitate the alignment of the Board strategic view and the work conducted by the SGTFs. This is being done with the oversight of the Scientific Commission.

Events Committee: A guideline for hosting events was prepared, reviewed and approved. Another guideline for virtual events will be developed on the basis of the key learnings from the 2020 Congress and 2021 Conferences. ■ The plan is to return to physical Congresses/Conferences as from 2022. The preparation of the 2022 Congress is progressing well and discussions are well engaged with two member organisations for hosting the AP and SSPT Conferences in 2023.

Science Communication Committee: Guidance for external publications is under development. This will be communicated to the working groups when finalized. ■ Options for virtual booths and top management newsletters are also being investigated.

Administration, Finance and IT Committee: A surplus is expected this financial year due to significant savings on travel budget. ■ Decision was taken to keep membership fees unchanged for the next financial year. ■ A 24-month IT plan was approved which includes new CASS and CARD tools, server and website

migration and transition to Office 365 for the CORESTA staff. ■ In view of the 2022 General Assembly, the Board decided to start a review of the Statutes which could lead to potential resolutions submitted to a vote.

The SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION (SC) has met virtually three times since the beginning of the year.

On 11 and 12 January 2021 two virtual AP & SSPT breakout sessions were held. The liaison members were asked to report on SGTF progress and current issues. The objective was to conduct a comprehensive review of the 89 on-going projects. ■ **GMO:** A new project on identification and detection of new targets linked to the most recent and relevant biotechnologies may be launched in 2021. ■ **BIO:** New objectives and approaches were discussed and agreed. ■ **BKS:** New objectives and plans were agreed with the new SG coordinator. ■ The objectives of the **Smoke Analysis (SA) Sub-Group** were approved. A dedicated webpage and a group section will be created.

On 25 January 2021 a conference call was arranged to draft the Call for Papers for the 2021 AP & SSPT Conferences.

On 15 March 2021 a virtual plenary meeting was held to discuss 2021 perspectives. ■ **2021 Conferences:** Planning and Milestones were approved. The deadline for submitting abstracts was confirmed at 14 May and the reading committee meetings are planned for the first week of June. ■ **Alignment with the Board:** Work to improve the link between the Strategy House managed by the Board and the projects run by the SGTF continues. ■ **Systematic review of documents:** CRM 47, CRM 61 and CRM 80 need to be confirmed or revised. ■ **Liaison members:** the list of the current designated SC liaison members were reviewed and two were designated for the new SA Sub-Group and NGPC Task Force. Discussions also took place to find a better way to cascade information to the working groups.

CORESTA Abstract Submission System (CASS)

The CORESTA Abstract Submission System (CASS) is the tool used by CORESTA to collect and process the abstracts submitted by authors for the Conferences and Congresses.

The tool was initially designed by Japan Tobacco Inc. (JT) for the submission of abstracts for the 2012 CORESTA Congress in Sapporo, Japan. Inspired by its success, CORESTA, with permission from JT, developed a similar system with the help of a French IT company. This system has been in use ever since.

In 2020, the IT company responsible for the system informed CORESTA that it was gradually phasing out its web support services. The web developer that manages the CORESTA website has therefore taken over the abstract submission tool and incorporated it into the CORESTA website.

The form and submission page layout looks the same for authors submitting abstracts, but the back-office, accessible by the Secretariat and SC members, has changed to fit into the existing CORESTA website back-office format.

The image shows a screenshot of the CORESTA Abstract Submission System (CASS) form. The form is titled "CORESTA AP2021 CONFERENCE Abstract Submission" and includes a deadline for submissions: "Friday, 14 May 2021". The form asks for the following information (items marked with * are mandatory):

- Submission as: Agronomy and Leaf Integrity Phytopathology and Genetics
- Paper Type: Oral Poster
- Title of Paper: [Text input field]
- Main Author:
 - Family Name: [Text input field]
 - Given Names: [Text input field]
 - Organisation: [Text input field]
- Presenter:
 - Family Name: [Text input field]
 - Given Names: [Text input field]
 - Organisation: [Text input field]

CORESTA SUB-GROUPS & TASK FORCES

PHYTOPATHOLOGY & GENETICS Study Group

New: Task Force *Nicotiana* Germplasm Collection (NGPC)

NEW

Objective:

- To study potential systems for long-term support of public *Nicotiana* germplasm maintenance.

Genetic diversity within *Nicotiana tabacum* and related species has been essential for historical improvements in tobacco cultivars during the last 100 years. Reduced support from public institutions and governments for tobacco related activities during the last 20 years has made it difficult to maintain publicly-available tobacco germplasm collections. The intent of the new Task Force on *Nicotiana* germplasm is to stimulate a CORESTA-facilitated discussion amongst members of the tobacco industry regarding a pathway for sustainable maintenance of genetic diversity within the genus *Nicotiana*.

For more information please contact the group Coordinator, Ramsey Lewis, North Carolina State University, USA (rslewis@ncsu.edu).

Revised Objectives: Sub-Group Collaborative Study Black Shank (BKS)

UPDATE

Objectives:

1. To test available black shank resistant tobacco varieties in a global collaborative study.
2. To establish the relative resistances of various varieties in different locations.
3. To establish the causal pathogen race composition.
4. To determine conclusively that data received relate to black shank and not Fusarium wilt.

A change in coordinator and a restructuring of the work of the Sub-Group resulted in a revision of the objectives to more accurately define its goals.

Revised Objective: Sub-Group Efficacy of Biological and Eco-Friendly CPAs (BIO)

UPDATE

Objective:

- To test and collect existing data for promising biological and eco-friendly control agents, compared with current control practices, in order to identify and propose suitable alternatives to conventional CPAs.

After a lull in its activities and the appointment of a new Coordinator, the BIO Sub-Group objective and project approach were revised to better cover the scope of the work involved.

CORESTA RECOMMENDED METHODS

New

- **CRM No. 95** – Determination of Aromatic Amines in Mainstream Cigarette Smoke by Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry with Negative Chemical Ionisation (GC/MS(NCI)) (January 2021) [SMA-048-4-CRM-95]

The CRM is applicable for determination of seven aromatic amines in mainstream cigarette smoke by Gas Chromatography / Mass Spectrometry in Negative Chemical Ionization mode (GC/MS(NCI)). The method was also shown to be appropriate for analysis of aromatic amines in mainstream cigarette smoke (both ISO and intense smoking regimes) up to 14 mg/cigarette ISO Nicotine Free Dry Particulate Matter (NFDPM).

- **CRM No. 96** – Determination of Formaldehyde and Acetaldehyde in E-Vapour Product Aerosol (February 2021) [EVAP-127-3-CRM-96]

The CRM describes the procedures used for quantitation of formaldehyde and acetaldehyde in electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) aerosols utilising liquid chromatography coupled with Ultraviolet or Diode Array Detector (LC-UV or LC-DAD).

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

CORESTA SUB-GROUPS & TASK FORCES (continued)

SMOKE SCIENCE & PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY Study Groups

To consolidate workstreams, optimize the use of resources and strengthen communication and decision making, the Scientific Commission, together with the members of the Sub-Group Smoke Analytes (SMA), Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC) and Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes (TTPA) considered the groups' similarities and the overlap of their objectives, activities and workflows.

It was decided to merge the SMA and RAC Sub-Groups into one single new group and to rename the TTPA Sub-Group.

Disbanded: Sub-Group Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC)

DISBANDED

The RAC Sub-Group, part of the Product Technology Study Group, was created in 1985, with the objectives "to develop and update CORESTA Recommended Methods as requested by the Scientific Commission, and to check on an annual basis the CORESTA monitor test piece by conducting collaborative experiments". The RAC Sub-Group carried out a tremendous amount of studies over its 35 years of existence and was responsible for the publication of numerous reports and recommended methods.

Disbanded: Sub-Group Smoke Analytes (SMA)

DISBANDED

The SMA Sub-Group, part of the Smoke Science Study Group, began in 1999 as the "Special Analytes" Task Force with the objective "to develop methods for the determination of some components of cigarette smoke to be specified by the Scientific Commission. In the first instance these components are tobacco specific nitrosamines [...] and benzo(a)pyrene". It evolved into a Sub-Group, revised its objectives a few times, changed its name, and similarly to the RAC Sub-Group, it published many articles, reports and recommended methods during its 21 years of activity.

New: Sub-Group Smoke Analysis (SA)

NEW

Objectives:

1. To propose and maintain CORESTA Recommended Methods (CRMs) and related documents for the analysis of smoke constituents from combustible tobacco products other than cigar TNCO.
2. To organise the manufacture of and maintain CORESTA Monitor Test Pieces.

The new Sub-Group, under the Smoke Science Study Group, takes over the current projects of the former Smoke Analytes and Routine Analytical Chemistry Sub-Groups, and is divided into three workstreams: reference products, cigar HPHC methods, and cigarette smoke methods.

For more information please contact the group Coordinators, Jana Jeffery, British American Tobacco, UK (Jana_Jeffery@bat.com) and Hiromoto Yamazaki, Japan Tobacco Inc., Japan (hiromoto.yamazaki@jt.com).

Change of Name: Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analysis (TTPA)

UPDATE

The Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes changed its name to "**Sub-Group Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analysis**" to better reflect the scope of its work following the merger of the Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC) and Smoke Analytes (SMA) Sub-Groups.



UPCOMING 2020 CORESTA MEETINGS / CONGRESS

CORESTA Sub-Group and Task Forces continue to organise meetings online for the moment. Below is a list of planned meetings, but as some are planned at short notice, please visit the CORESTA website for the most up-to-date information (www.coresta.org/meetings/upcoming).

Meeting	Date	Location
SG PTM - Physical Test Methods	20-21 April 2021	Online
SG TTPA - Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analysis	27 April 2021	Online
SG PUB - Product Use Behaviour	4 May 2021	Online
SG BMK - Biomarkers	5 May 2021	Online
AGRONOMY & LEAF INTEGRITY and PHYTOPATHOLOGY & GENETICS	4-8 October 2021	Online
SMOKE SCIENCE and PRODUCT TECHNOLOGY	18-22 October 2021	Online

CORESTA PROJECTS

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

- **Project 279: Black Shank Collaborative Study**
SG BKS - Black Shank Collaborative Study – Approved February 2021
- **Project 294: Determination of PAH in Cigarette Mainstream Smoke**
SG SA - Smoke Analysis - Approved January 2021
- **Project 295: Determination of NO_x in Cigarette Mainstream Smoke**
SG SA - Smoke Analysis - Approved January 2021
- **Project 296: Determination of HCN in Cigarette Mainstream Smoke**
SG SA - Smoke Analysis - Approved January 2021
- **Project 297: Study Options for Long-Term Public Maintenance of *Nicotiana* Germplasm**
TF NGPC - *Nicotiana* Germplasm Collection - Approved February 2021
- **Project 298: Guide No. 18 Sample Handling and Sample Collection of E-cigarettes and E-Vapour Generating Products: Revision**
SG EVAP - E-Vapour - Approved January 2021
- **Project 299: 8th Proficiency Test for Detection of Transgenic Tobacco**
SG GMO - Proficiency Testing for Detection of Transgenic Tobacco - Approved January 2021
- **Project 300: Guide No. 3 Good Agricultural Practices (GAP): Revision**
ACAC - Agrochemical Advisory Committee – Approved February 2021

CORESTA REPORTS

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

- **Literature Review on the Use of Biotechnology and Omics**
Technical Report [TBO-151-1-CTR] – December 2020 (Task Force Tobacco Biotechnology and Omics)
This document consists of a description, summary and interpretation of the scientific literature concerning the use and application of biotechnology, genomics, and other so-called “omics” technologies in crops and agriculture around the world; a science-based assessment of the potential use of biotechnology and omics (such as genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, and metabolomics) in tobacco to reduce the risk of tobacco products; and a glossary that provides definitions of terms and nomenclature used in the report.
- **Genome Editing and Plant Breeding**
Technical Report [TBO-151-2-CTR] – December 2020 (Task Force Tobacco Biotechnology and Omics)
This document provides plant breeders with a more detailed understanding of the current state of genome editing in plants (information current as of June 2020). The emphasis is on how genome editing works in nature, how the CRISPR-Cas systems have been repurposed for use in eukaryotic cells, and the applications of genome editing to plant breeding in some of the major food crops as well as in tobacco. This report summarises and extends the descriptions of genome editing technologies that are included in the main text of the *Literature Review on the Use of Biotechnology and Omics* document [TBO-151-1-CTR].
- **5th Round Robin Test for Air Permeability Calibration Standards**
Technical Report [PTM-152-CTR] – January 2021 (Sub-Group Physical Test Methods)
The Sub-Group Physical Test Methods (PTM) organises a nominally annual series of round robin tests that are open to the member laboratories that have a calibration laboratory to compare their capability to calibrate standards used in physical test instrumentation. This testing provides a baseline of air permeability instrument performance across the industry and each laboratory is also able to use the result set in internal and external audit assessments. This report covers the results of the fifth round robin test on air permeability (AP) standards conducted between June 2017 and October 2020.

CORESTA REPORTS (continued)

- **13th Collaborative Study (2020) on Physical Parameters of Cigarettes and Filter Rods**

Technical Report [PTM-240-CTR] – January 2021 (Sub-Group Physical Test Methods)

The Physical Test Methods (PTM) Sub-Group annual inter-laboratory study on physical parameters of cigarettes and filter rods monitors the repeatability and reproducibility of the test methods used to measure certain physical parameters of cigarettes and filters, such as weight, diameter, pressure drop, draw resistance and ventilation. The study results allow each laboratory to fulfil accreditation requirements, evaluate performance in comparison to other laboratories, to derive actions for improvement and to fulfil accreditation requirements. This report covers the results of the 13th collaborative study on physical parameters carried out in 2020.

- **15th Round Robin Test for Multi-Capillary Pressure Drop Calibration Standards (2019/2020)**

Technical Report [PTM-209-CTR] – February 2021 (Sub-Group Physical Test Methods)

A nominally annual cross-check is organised for calibration laboratories to compare their capability to calibrate standards used in physical test instrumentation. The testing provides a baseline of pressure drop instrument performance across the industry, since this standard type is used in the pressure drop instrumentation of each supplier. Each laboratory is also able to use the result set in internal and external audit assessments. The results of this 15th round robin test continue to conform to the historical performance of the method presented in ISO 6565:2015 and to the results of previous round robin tests.

- **2019 Collaborative Study: Reference Device for e-Cigarette Aerosol**

Technical Report [EVAP-231-1-CTR] – January 2021 (Sub-Group E-Vapour)

A collaborative study was initiated for the evaluation of a tank and power unit combination for consideration as a recommended Reference Device for use as a monitor product during e-cigarette aerosol collection and analysis. The preliminary recommendation is to have CORESTA provide, as a Reference Device, the Aspire Nautilus™ Tank and Evolv™ power unit for future e-vapour studies.

- **Mouse Lymphoma Assay Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Study**

Technical Report [IVT-164-CTR] – January 2021 (Sub-Group *In Vitro* Toxicity Testing)

An inter-laboratory Mouse Lymphoma Assay (MLA) proficiency study was conducted by four laboratories. The study evaluated the proficiency of each participating laboratory in conducting the MLA and to determine the discriminatory power of each laboratory's assay in relation to combustible tobacco products. The lack of statistically significant findings between the responses induced by the test pieces across this study meant that the ranking of mutagenic potencies was not possible. The data however were used to calculate the minimal detectable differences of each laboratory's MLA.

- **Neutral Red Uptake Assay Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Study**

Technical Report [IVT-165-CTR] – January 2021 (Sub-Group *In Vitro* Toxicity Testing)

A Neutral Red Uptake (NRU) assay proficiency study was conducted to evaluate the cytotoxicity of a mainstream smoke extract of three cigarettes using a common basic study protocol, and using each participating laboratory's preferred cell lines and protocols. Laboratories were able to evaluate their method proficiency, to compare results with those of other laboratories and to obtain an external audit of documentation procedures that might identify potential areas for improvement. The proficiency study showed that the sensitivity of the NRU assay is good enough to differentiate the test pieces.

- **Ames Assay Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Study 2019**

Technical Report [IVT-245-CTR] – February 2021 (Sub-Group *In Vitro* Toxicity Testing)

An Ames Assay proficiency study was conducted by member laboratories of the CORESTA *In Vitro* Toxicity Testing Sub-Group. Given that different procedures (internal or regulatory) are followed by the participating laboratories, the purpose was to evaluate the mutagenicity of a mainstream smoke extract from two cigarettes using a common Study Plan. Each laboratory was able to benefit both technically and administratively from their participation.

- **Cigar Smoke Analysis - 14th Collaborative Study**

Technical Report [CSM-292-CTR] – March 2021 (Sub-Group Cigar Smoking Methods)

Since 2006, the CORESTA Cigar Smoking Methods Sub-Group conducts periodic collaborative studies in order to improve repeatability (r) and reproducibility (R) measurement methods of different cigar sizes and types. This 14th collaborative study was conducted on cigar smoke to establish mean values for NFDPM, nicotine and carbon monoxide for different sizes and types of cigar products and test pieces, and to provide a tool for participating laboratories to prove competence in cigar smoke analysis.

Smoke Analysis (SA) Sub-Group

The first meeting of the Smoke Analysis Sub-Group (SA SG) was held as a web meeting on October 21, 2020. Over 50 members from tobacco product manufacturers, instrument suppliers, non-tobacco material suppliers, commercial analytical laboratories, academia and others participated in this virtual meeting.

This new Sub-Group was formed by merging the Routine Analytical Chemistry (RAC) and the Smoke Analytes (SMA) Sub-Groups in 2020 to consolidate workstreams, optimise the use of resources, and strengthen communication and decision-making (*also see report in Issue 57 of the CORESTA Newsletter*). This information was shared with CORESTA members by the Vice-President of the Scientific Commission and the Q&A sessions for the SA SG were conducted in August and September 2020. The objectives of the SA are as follows:

1. To propose and maintain CORESTA Recommended Methods (CRMs) and related documents for the analysis of smoke constituents from combustible tobacco products other than cigar TNCO.
2. To organise the manufacture of, and maintain, CORESTA Monitor Test Pieces.

The SA SG was split into three workstreams:

- Cigarette Smoke Methods (lead: Rana Tayyarah, ITG Brands, USA)
- Cigar Smoke HPHC Methods (lead: Anthony Brown, Altria Client Services, USA)
- Reference Products (lead: Thomas Schmidt, Borgwaldt KC, Germany)

Currently, the SA SG is developing the CRMs for menthol, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), nitrogen oxides (NO/NO_x) and hydrogen cyanide (HCN) in cigarette mainstream smoke in the cigarette smoke methods workstream and benzo[a]pyrene (B[a]P) and tobacco specific nitrosoamines (TSNAs) in the cigar smoke workstream.

The annual TNCO Collaborative Study (CS) and Ignition Propensity CS for 2021 will utilise CORESTA Monitor Test Pieces (CM9 / CM IP2) and will be conducted in the Reference Products workstream.

Furthermore, the SA SG has also identified two new projects that are being prepared for launch: Nicotine in Smoke of Very Low Nicotine Cigarette and CORESTA Monitor Test Pieces #10 production.

The second SA SG meeting will take place in spring 2021 using a virtual platform. Whilst we are very grateful for technological advancements allowing us to meet (albeit virtually), we are looking forward to having a face to face meeting and seeing all participant members, after the termination of the current unusual circumstances.

Finally, the RAC and SMA Sub-Groups were disbanded after completion of the transition of all projects into the SA SG workstreams or Tobacco and Tobacco Products SG (TTPA). We would like to express our gratitude to all the RAC and the SMA members, the Scientific Commission and the Board who supported the RAC and SMA activities over many years.



Jana JEFFERY
SA SG Coordinator



Hiromoto YAMAZAKI
SA SG Coordinator

Physical Test Methods (PTM) Sub-Group

Despite the difficult situation, the Physical Test Methods (PTM) Sub-Group made progress on its projects and also held its 31st meeting on 22 and 23 September 2020 in a virtual format. The meeting was divided in two parts each lasting two hours to reduce the effect of time differences between countries and to allow wide participation. In fact, the meeting was well attended by more than 20 participants, which is more than for most physical meetings.

The status of the 13th Collaborative Study on Physical Parameters of Cigarettes and Filters and of the 4th Proficiency Test on Diffusion Capacity were discussed. Both projects proceeded as planned and have already been completed with the publication of the corresponding Technical Reports in January 2021 and November 2020, respectively.

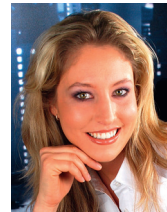
Work also continues on the round robin tests on calibration standards for pressure drop, filter ventilation and air permeability. Two Technical Reports have been published in January and February this year, reporting the results of the 15th Round Robin Test on Pressure Drop Calibration Standards and on the 5th Round Robin Test on Air Permeability Calibration Standards. As these are routine projects, the circulation of the calibrations standards is ongoing in the meantime involving laboratories in China, USA and Europe.

Some of the topics that have been discussed during the last meetings will be revisited at the 32nd PTM Sub-Group Meeting for further evaluation. These topics include the measurement of low pressure drops, in particular the calibration of instruments, which may be important for measuring the pressure drop of heated tobacco products or their components. Another topic is the air permeability of pouch materials for oral tobacco products. Some preliminary experiments have been carried out and it will have to be seen, if the PTM Sub-Group will find an opportunity for cooperation based on these results.

The 32nd PTM Sub-Group Meeting is scheduled for 20 and 21 April 2021. It will again be held as a series of two virtual meetings, each taking two hours, to allow for easy participation.



Bernhard EITZINGER
PTM SG Coordinator



Patricia MÜLLER
PTM SG Secretary



Virtual CROM Symposium 2020
Consumer Reported Outcome Measures in Tobacco and Nicotine Research
 December 10, 2020 | 4:00 to 7:00 pm CET



On December 10, 2020, the Consumer Reported Outcome Measures Consortium (CROM) Task Force held its first symposium virtually. There was a good turnout of global attendees from within CORESTA, industry, independent consultants, and academia (96 participants from 46 organisations in 18 countries).

Professor Donald Patrick (University of Washington) made a keynote presentation that provided the background for the regulatory science underlying the development and validation of outcome measures and how it could be applied to the use of CROMs in tobacco regulatory decision-making processes.

We also had a series of CROM case studies presented by colleagues in the industry and academia on:

- Using qualitative research and consumer interviews to capture relevant health and functioning concepts in users of tobacco and nicotine products and support the development of a new CROM (Esther Afolalu, Philip Morris Products SA, Switzerland)
- Quantitative psychometric assessments to evaluate the reliability and validity of e-cigarette dependence measurements in youths (Ryan Black, JUUL Labs, Inc., USA)
- Bridging interpretations between a newly developed CROM and existing CROMs measuring dependence on tobacco and nicotine products (Thomas Salzberger, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

The audience raised substantial questions which resulted in engaging discussions on how to meaningfully use and assess CROMs in tobacco research studies. Overall, it was a successful first symposium with valuable insights and feedback, and greatly applauded by attendees. Details of the event and all presentations are available on the CORESTA website <https://www.coresta.org/events/virtual-crom-symposium-2020-34075.html>.

Those interested in learning more or joining the CROM Task Force are encouraged to reach out to Christelle Chrea (christelle.chrea@pmi.com). Further information is also available on the CROM webpage on the CORESTA website at <https://www.coresta.org/groups/consumer-reported-outcome-measures-consortium>.

CORESTA COMMUNICATION AT EXTERNAL EVENTS

Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco (SRNT 2021)



SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH ON NICOTINE & TOBACCO

A poster entitled “Development of Consumer-Reported Outcome Measure (CROM) Best Practices and Guidelines for the Tobacco Industry with Respect to Psychometric CROM Using a Consortium-Based Approach: Methodology and Scope” was presented on behalf of the Consumer Reported Outcomes Measures (CROM) Task Force at the 27th Annual (Virtual) Meeting of the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT), held from 24-27 February 2021.

The above presentation can be viewed in the Information/CORESTA Communication section of the CORESTA website.

Acronyms / Abbreviations used in the Newsletter

ACAC..... CORESTA Agrochemical Advisory Cttee	GC-MS.... Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry	Q&A Question and Answer
AP Agronomy & Leaf Integrity and Phytopathology & Genetics	GMO..... Proficiency Testing for Detection of Transgenic Tobacco (CORESTA)	r&R..... repeatability & Reproducibility
B[a]P..... Benzo[a]pyrene	HCN Hydrogen Cyanide	RAC Routine Analytical Chemistry (CORESTA)
BIO..... Efficacy of Biological and Eco-Friendly CPAs (CORESTA)	HPHC Harmful and Potentially Harmful Constituents	SA Smoke Analysis (CORESTA)
BKS Collaborative Study Black Shank (CORESTA)	IP..... Ignition Propensity	SC Scientific Commission (CORESTA)
CARD..... CORESTA ACAC Residue Database	ISO..... International Organization for Standardization	SG Sub-Group
CASS..... CORESTA Abstract Submission System	IT Information Technology	SGTF Sub-Group and Task Force
CET Central Eastern Time	IVT..... In Vitro Toxicity Testing (CORESTA)	SMA Smoke Analytes (CORESTA)
CM CORESTA Monitor	JT Japan Tobacco Inc.	SRNT Society for Research on Nicotine & Tobacco
CORESTA Cooperation Centre for Scientific Research Relative to Tobacco	MLA Mouse Lymphoma Assay	SSPT Smoke Science and Product Technology
CPA Crop Protection Agent	NCl..... Negative Chemical Ionisation	TBO Tobacco Biotechnology and Omics (CORESTA)
CRM CORESTA Recommended Method	NFDPM ... Nicotine Free Dry Particulate Matter	TF Task Force
CROM Consumer Reported Outcome Measures (CORESTA)	NGPC Nicotiana Germplasm Collection (CORESTA)	TNCO Tar, Nicotine and Carbon Monoxide
CS Collaborative Study	NOx Nitrous Oxides	TSNA Tobacco Specific Nitrosoamines
CTR CORESTA Technical Report	NRU Neutral Red Uptake	TTPA Tobacco and Tobacco Products Analytes (CORESTA)
DAD Diode Array Detector	PAH Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbon	UK United Kingdom
EVAP E-Vapour (CORESTA)	PTM Physical Test Methods (CORESTA)	USA United States of America
GAP..... Good Agricultural Practices	PUB Product Use Behaviour (CORESTA)	UV Ultraviolet
		WG Working Group

