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Dear IACM Members,

I am pleased to be writing to you as I return from a 12-week maternity leave. Some time away from the association has given me a unique perspective to reflect on the year and to enter 2019 invigorated and ready to hit the ground running. After the strategic session conducted by the Synthetic Color Committee three years ago, a similar effort for natural colors next year will help IACM achieve its mission and chief objective to think and act strategically for all colors.

IACM is pleased to have welcomed three new members in 2018: Lumen Bioscience, Persea Naturals, and Aakash Chemicals. Each of these companies brings a slightly new and different perspective to the association. [Lumen](#) is a biotechnology company focused on developing Spirulina as an industrial scale production platform for high-value molecules, [Persea](#) is focused on the commercialization of a patented process to produce various natural food colors and [Aakash](#) is a manufacturer and distributor of both natural and synthetic food colorants and ingredients. As startup companies, Lumen, based on new technologies, and Persea, from the realm of academia, both offer unique viewpoints to the world of flavor, while Aakash is expanding further into the industry as an established company. We look forward to each of these companies participating in the association and using the resources offered by IACM to augment their expertise.

The Natural Color Committee is exploring the ways to provide guidance on the US Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) fruit juice and vegetable juice as color additives regulations, via three options: working with the FDA on improved agency guidance; amending the existing regulations to provide clarity; or by simply providing members with an association white paper. The Committee also continued to discuss the development of more color monographs and to expand the approval of natural colors globally. These efforts include a focus on spirulina extract both at the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA) and for the Food Chemicals Codex and the expansion of anthocyanin extracts approval globally in a collaborative effort with the European natural colors association, NATCOL. Looking forward, IACM's Natural Color Committee has also formed a Codex Working Group to develop strategy around moving natural colors at Codex.

IACM staff likewise continued to draft monographs for the JECFA re-evaluation of synthetic colors, with the final priority color, Brilliant Black, submitted earlier this month. Due to the safety information previously submitted by IACM, [JECFA confirmed](#) the acceptable daily intakes (ADIs) of 0.1 mg/kg bw for Erythrosine and of 5 mg/kg bw for Indigotine. In another joint effort with NATCOL, IACM's scientific staff submitted a monograph to JECFA for the evaluation of an increasingly important anthocyanin color, black carrot extract.

Other scientific activity included the creation of a new member resource encompassing all the published and un-published safety information in IACM's files. This project, which stemmed from the Synthetic Color Committee's strategic plan, is called the [Member Color Database](#), is focusing first on FD&C colors, and will eventually expand to all synthetic and natural colors.

IACM staff continues to seek opportunities to speak publicly on the safety of colors. We were pleased to have our Scientific Director, Dr. Maria Bastaki,

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present on the Safety Assessment of Color Additives from Botanical Sources at the Society of Toxicologists (SOT) annual meeting earlier this year. IACM also continues to participate in the US Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service's Emerging Markets Program, which took us this year to the Philippines and India. IACM Board Member Sue Ann McAvoy represented the association, explaining the importance of color lakes to the Philippines and of harmonized standards in India.

IACM has nongovernmental observer status at Codex and, in that role, has been conducting advocacy for more than five years to restart consideration of the more than 1800 draft color provisions that remain for discussion at the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) for adoption into the General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA). IACM finally succeeded in these efforts, with the consideration this year of approximately 60 draft color provisions in confection categories. We anticipate adoption of most of these provisions at the 2019 CCFA meeting as well as a proposal to consider additional draft provisions next year. I cannot overstate the importance of this activity, and we feel hopeful that with this progress we can reverse the recent trend of countries essentially banning some color additives that are widely approved and commonly used on a global basis due to their draft status in the GSFA.

2018 has also been notable as IACM hosted its fourth biennial [Global Color Conference](#). This year's event was the largest yet, featuring a slate of 14 engaging speakers and innovative networking events such as the Jeffersonian Lunch.

Before wrapping up the year, I would be remiss not to thank President Rohit Tibrewala, who is completing his three-year term as leader of IACM. His leadership has led the association to ground its activities through a new Committee-centric structure, which is now the backbone of our work. He also stressed during his term the importance of working with our partner associations, such as NATCOL, for an increasingly global industry. The fruits of this effort are apparent and will continue for years to come.

I look forward to new challenges and opportunities in 2019, and as always, IACM staff are here to assist in addressing all your color-related needs!

Sincerely,



**Sarah Codrea**  
Executive Director

## A Look Ahead to 2019:

- Launch of a new IACM website
- Continuing to support adoption of color provisions in the GSFA at CCFA 51
- Natural Color Committee strategic planning
- Submitting comments to California OEHHA in support of its synthetic color risk assessment
- Providing data to the European Commission in response to call for data on Indigo Carmine