

Dear IACM Members and Friends,

2023 has been an eventful year for IACM and the color industry. IACM's members have never been more innovative, sustainable, or progressive while facing extensive misrepresentation about the value and safety of their products. I am proud to support all IACM's member companies for their role in continuing to ensure that consumers have safe colored food, drug, and cosmetic products, from the medications and supplements that keep us all healthy, to the candy that we enjoy as a sweet treat at our holiday celebrations, to the beverages that keep us refreshed.

We were pleased to welcome two new members this year, [Michroma](#) and [Chromologics](#), as our first Affiliate members. Both companies are working to produce colors from fungi using biotechnology methods. We encourage all companies meeting IACM's membership requirements to visit our [new page](#) to showcase the association's value and provide information to prospective members.

Among the new initiatives IACM launched this year is our [Monthly Roundups](#), which provide members with a snapshot of association activities, industry updates, and resources.

In support of our objective to protect and expand the worldwide use of colors, IACM engaged with regulators in Europe, the Middle East, and the United States to support the continued safe use of color and advocate for global harmonization of standards and regulations. After ten years and many studies conducted at the European Food Safety Authority's (EFSA) request, IACM achieved a final [EFSA opinion](#) on indigo carmine, confirming prior specifications. IACM also engaged at the Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA), providing data supporting relevant use levels of beta carotenes in food categories where their use is technologically justified.

Domestically, IACM submitted comments to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) supporting the continued safe use of [titanium dioxide](#) and [FD&C Red No. 3](#), and supporting a [reasonable increase](#) in color certification fees. IACM met with representatives from the Office of Food Additive Safety to discuss priorities for Color Additive Petition (CAP) modernization and visited the Certified Color Lab, receiving a tour of the facility. The association also conducted advocacy at the state level, engaging with lawmakers and regulators in California to provide [education](#) on how FDA approves colors and why the colors currently approved for use in the U.S. by FDA remain safe for use and [should not](#) be subject to precautionary labeling.

Sadly, IACM bade farewell to our Meetings & Member Services Associate, Samantha Lee, who passed away unexpectedly after suffering a heart attack earlier this year. Samantha tirelessly supported IACM, its members, and our mission for 18 years. I want to thank IACM's Board of Directors, who contributed to a college fund to support Samantha's daughter.

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Additionally, I want to recognize our Board, along with those colleagues who volunteer their time and expertise to lead our committees and support our initiatives. Without such dedicated members, none of our achievements would be possible. I look forward to continuing working on behalf of the association for another successful year.

Looking Forward:

- 2024 Global Color Conference & Biotechnology Forum
- Updates to Key Member Resources
- CCFA 54 and International Advocacy
- Ongoing Engagement with FDA on Color Safety



Sarah Codrea
Executive Director