

Dear IACM Members and Friends,

In 2024, IACM continues to be the only association representing the interests of the color industry and color use community, no matter the source, and on state, national, and international levels. Through the active engagement of our membership and the expertise of our staff, IACM provides tools to address challenges and opportunities facing the entire color industry value chain.

We were pleased to welcome Quality Ingredients Corporation as a new Affiliate member this year. We also held our sixth biennial Global Color Conference in the Washington, DC, area. This year's event included a Biotechnology Symposium and was our highest-rated conference yet. IACM also gave our members the opportunity to hear directly from the International Food Information Council on its recent data on consumer perceptions of food and color ingredient safety.

In support of our objective to protect and expand the worldwide use of colors, IACM engages with global regulators to support the continued safe use of color and advocate for global harmonization of standards and regulations. Notably, we hosted a web meeting this year, allowing our members to engage directly with officials from Health Canada on color additive topics. We also lead the effort to submit data to EFSA on use levels of lycopene as an additive in food and beverages.

Globally, the most important stage we engage in is the Codex Alimentarius Commission. IACM is an observer organization with Codex and attended the 54th Codex Committee on Food Additives (CCFA) meeting in Chengdu, China, this April. During the meeting, IACM successfully defended adopting all color provisions where members expressed support. Ultimately, 195 draft and proposed draft color provisions for colors such as paprika extract, annatto extract, curcumin, caramel, and tartrazine to food categories from the General Standard for Food Additives, such as fruits and vegetable-based products, cereals and cereal products, and meat and poultry products were endorsed for adoption. IACM is also engaged with the GSFA Electronic Working Group to support next year's CCFA, which includes another 100+ draft color provisions for the remaining food categories. By surveying our members on actual use levels and food category needs, we have been able to offer FDA delegates the information necessary to support including these important colors in the GSFA.

Domestically, IACM has also engaged with FDA to support the continued safe use of color additives. IACM staff and members of the Board of Directors met with Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods Jim Jones and his team in March to discuss color additive issues, including the development of a scientific process for prioritizing certain color additives for post-market assessment, the importance of a strong pre-market assessment process that informs and supports an efficient post market framework and encouraged FDA to act quickly in response to the current state activity. The association also conducted advocacy at the state level, including in meetings with lawmakers who authored legislation to limit colors in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and developed a state bill tracker to ensure members are aware of the various proposals to limit the use of color additives and how IACM engages with lawmakers. IACM and its

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partners were able to limit the spread of legislation beyond California by providing education on how FDA approves colors, why the colors currently approved for use in the U.S. by FDA remain safe for use, and the importance of regulatory certainty for the color and food industry to continue to innovate. Led by the Board, we continue to actively explore strategies to protect and defend the continued safe use of color additives in the U.S., including via FDA's proposed pre-market framework, understanding any U.S. federal or state action will impact the industry globally.

IACM is also proactively working to update U.S. exempt color regulations to modify the solvents allowed and the heavy metal limits. Two separate workstreams, one to petition the agency to modify the regulation for carrot oil and a second to prepare an abandonment petition to request the removal of methylene chloride, trichloroethylene, and ethylene dichloride as permitted extraction solvents used to manufacture annatto extract, paprika oleoresin, and turmeric oleoresin because the solvents are no longer used to manufacture these specific color additives will be ready for submission in 2025.

I want to thank Sue Ann McAvoy, who is about to complete her final term leading the association. Not only will she be stepping down from our Board of Directors, but she will also be retiring from Sensient Colors after a 45-year career. Both IACM and the color additives industry will miss her depth of knowledge of all things regulatory. During her term as IACM President, she made communication a cornerstone. With her guidance, the association has enhanced and streamlined its communications to members and key stakeholders, such as the launch of our Monthly Roundups, which provide stakeholders with a snapshot of association activities, industry updates, and resources, and we continue to pursue innovations to our communications active.

I also want to recognize our entire Board, along with those colleagues who volunteer their time and expertise to lead our committees and support our initiatives. The work that a small association like IACM continues to achieve is commendable. Without dedicated members, IACM's achievements would not have been possible. However, there is always more to be done, and we will continue to need your enthusiasm and support to continue building on this momentum.

A Look Ahead:

- Continued interest by stakeholders in the safety of colors
- Continued engagement with FDA on color additive regulations and on post-market framework
- Food additive submission to expand the use of Polysorbate 80 in Canada
- Lead Delegation to CCFA 55



Sarah Codrea
Executive Director