

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Posman: Advancing Analytical Science Dialogue

Inside Laboratory Management's volunteer spotlight series offers a glimpse of just a few of AOAC's many exceptional and dedicated members who give their time and expertise to the Association. From authors and special guest editors to working groups, expert review panels, and much more, AOAC is able to provide a suite of analytical solutions that give confidence in results due to the commitment of its volunteers.

*This issue, we spotlight **Kevin Posman**, associate director of Bigelow Analytical Services and a winner of the 2025 AOAC contest for first-time poster presenters. He shares the value of AOAC membership to engage more directly in the process and connect with other dedicated scientists to exchange and advance analytical science dialogue.*



Professional and Organizational Benefits



Joining AOAC in 2025 was a straightforward decision because it allows me to engage more directly in the process behind the methods informing my work and aligns closely with my responsibilities at Bigelow. My involvement with AOAC began following my promotion to assistant director of Bigelow Analytical Services after many years in Bigelow Laboratory's research programs. Advancing analytical capabilities and applying them to emerging scientific and regulatory needs is a core part of my role, and AOAC provides a forum where institutional research connects directly to community standards.

In this new role, my work expanded beyond hands-on research to include analytical strategy, method development, and external partnerships. As my scope grew, I increasingly relied on AOAC guidance and validated methods. Being a part of the process adds even greater value.

Membership has also been valuable at an organizational level, allowing me to point colleagues toward relevant methods, guidance documents, and professional contacts when new questions arise.

As part of the research at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, I was fortunate to visit the North Pole, approximately 4000 miles north of San Diego, California, USA, where I attended my first AOAC Annual Meeting last year.

AOAC Provides Valuable Exchanges and New Perspectives

One of the highlights of my first year as an AOAC member was attending the AOAC Annual Meeting, where I presented our group's work on "Quantifying Bromoform in Feed Additives, Livestock, and Food Products Using Robust, Validated, and Standardized Methods." It was a great opportunity to showcase our research, which ended up winning a poster contest award.

In addition, the Annual Meeting provided high-quality and well-run technical sessions, unique perspectives on advances in analysis of food, and insight into new and emerging food safety issues. I also appreciated the opportunity to meet many of the AOAC staff with whom I had corresponded. Everyone was welcoming and approachable.

But perhaps what stood out most to me was the conversations. I connected with colleagues across disciplines and had thoughtful discussions about very different analytical challenges. Those exchanges underscored the value of being part of a community committed to applied science and public safety.

Rigorous Method Reviews Lead to Confidence in Analytical Results

Being a part of the AOAC process gives me an even greater appreciation for AOAC-validated methods and guidance—and a deeper understanding of the importance of volunteering. Since joining, I have become involved as a member of the AOAC Expert Review Panel (ERP) for Bromoform in Seaweed, Oil, and Animal Feed, which is currently reviewing candidate analytical methods for consideration as AOAC First Action *Official Methods*SM. The ERP recently approved a GC-MS method for bromoform as AOAC *Official Method*SM **2026.01**.

The work is both detailed and practical. I am impressed by the depth of discussion and the care taken in evaluating candidate methods. The dedication to rigorous review and real-world applicability is clear throughout the process, which is a good example of what I enjoy most about volunteering—working with others who care deeply about analytical quality and are willing to spend time on the details that make methods reliable. Contributing to this work has been a valuable way to apply my experience while learning from those who approach the same problem from different technical perspectives.

“Don’t Overthink It”

Before getting involved, I did not fully appreciate how much AOAC’s work depends on volunteers. Attending the AOAC Annual Meeting and serving on an ERP made that clear very quickly.

For members considering getting involved, my advice is simple: don’t overthink it. AOAC offers many accessible ways to contribute, whether through attending AOAC Annual Meetings; presenting research; or serving on working groups, ERPs, or committees. Getting involved has been professionally rewarding, and I plan to stay engaged as my role continues to evolve.

—Kevin Posman

Contributing Writer

Bigelow Analytical Services

Inspired to get involved? Visit the AOAC [Call for Volunteers](#) for more information on volunteer opportunities. ■