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High quality results for hundreds of pesticides and commodities are needed to meet world standards for trade, regulatory, risk assessment, and other scientific purposes. In 2003, Dr. Lehotay and a postdoc at the time, Dr. Anastassiades, first published the QuEChERS sample preparation approach. QuEChERS stands for “quick, easy, cheap, effective, rugged, and safe” and lives up to its name. A single analyst can use QuEChERS to prepare final extracts from a batch of 20 pre-homogenized food samples in about an hour (or a single sample in 10 min) using \$1-3 of disposable materials and <12 mL nonchlorinated solvent waste per sample. In the lab, QuEChERS reduces sample preparation labor, costs, time, space needs, and waste generation 2-4 fold over the traditional FDA method.

Drs. Anastassiades, Lehotay, and Mastovska have shown unique creativity, initiative, and diligence in actively transferring QuEChERS to achieve its widespread adoption around the globe. The gold standard in analytical methods is multi-lab validation under the auspices of independent, internationally recognized method accreditation organizations. AOAC International (formerly the Association of Official Analytical

Chemists) and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) are two such bodies. Major undertakings and tech. transfer activities organized independently by Drs. Lehotay and Anastassiades were: 1) an AOAC International collaborative study which involved 13 labs from 7 countries and the collection of nearly 50,000 data points, including those from Dr. Mastovska's analyses; and 2) CEN inter-lab studies in Germany, collecting >100,000 data points. Results from both thorough studies met statistical acceptance criteria, and QuEChERS was adopted as AOAC Official Method SM 2007.01 in Jan. 2007 and CEN Standard Method EN 15662 in Dec 2008. No pesticide residue approach has been validated before in so many labs for so many pesticides and foods, and approval of QuEChERS in 2 independent studies is unprecedented in demonstrating such outstanding method performance.

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