For over 90 years, AACC International has become an indispensable tool for scientists in the grain industry who want to build genuine, authentic relationships with others, meet and maintain contact with the top researchers in our field, and help others through volunteering and mentoring. In lean economic times, it is more important than ever to ensure that you are doing all you can to remain visible in your place of employment or your organization. Now is the time to get involved with AACC International by attending the 2009 Annual Meeting, September 13–16, in Baltimore, Maryland.

When you become involved with AACC International, you are investing in your future. Networking starts long before the job search and, if maintained, can be beneficial throughout all stages of your career and into your retirement. The many accomplished and distinguished AACC International members are living demonstrations of the progress and success our profession has experienced. They are also valuable resources, providing you with advice and moral support for career steps, while providing an outlet to vet and process your own work. Maintaining a diverse and active network of colleagues and contacts helps you make better, more informed decisions.

Networking puts you in control, setting the pace for your career and your research. AACC International offers ideal networking outlets. For example, as a benefit of your AACC International membership, you will receive discounted registration for the AACC International annual meeting. This meeting provides an opportunity to meet with peers and industry experts in a setting that is large enough to draw some of the best researchers and product developers in the world, but small enough to allow you to mix and mingle with them on a very personal level. In fact, 90.3% of 2008 annual meeting attendees said they were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall meeting. Consider the following testimonials from some of those attendees:

“Great—definitely the right conference to attend if you work in cereal chemistry.”

“I like attending AACC International because they have great technical sessions and I get to network with different people in the industry than in my daily functions.”

“AACC International is a small scientific meeting that becomes like a homecoming if you continue to attend. You get to know the experts on a personal level.”

“An excellent, well-constructed, balanced meeting that anyone with interests in cereal science and technology should attend.”

Whether you are a recent graduate or have been in the industry for many years, a referral is one of the best ways to help one another. You never know where your next opportunity will come from, but without a referral, it is often difficult to get your foot in the door. According to the career consulting firm CareerXroads, “Referrals (employee, alumni, vendor, etc.) make up 28.7% of all external hires and are arguably the number one external source. Alumni and other types of referrals appear to be growing rapidly. The efficiency of referrals, i.e., ’every third referral turns into a hire’ is one of the single most important characteristics of U.S. hiring practices” (1).

AACC International not only gives you the opportunity to learn from the best scientists in our field, it helps you to become the best. You can be sure that AACC International will remain under the leadership of the top scientists in the field and will continue to be the place for them to gather and share their research. This year, AACC International will unveil an all-new program format designed around seven scientific initiatives that keep science and learning at the forefront while helping to shape the grain-based food industry with clarity and focus. We’re looking forward to an exciting year at AACC International and we hope you’ll be there with us.

Reference


1 2009 Annual Meeting Program Chair, Food Technologist, Cargill, Inc., Plymouth, MN, U.S.A.; jodi_engleson@cargill.com.