Ongoing Advocacy

- Continue development of regular, in-depth relationship with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including providing continuing assistance to implement various provisions of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)
- Establishment of an informal working group with FDA to resolve day-to-day laboratory issues arising at ports of entry
- Continue to encourage FDA recognition of the significant percentage of food testing completed by independent testing laboratories, including under FDA detention
- Hosted the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)’s Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS)’s Director regarding the agency’s interim final hemp rule, along with addressing AMS’s lab accreditation programs and the agency’s attempt to oversee the impact of Self Declaration of Conformity (SDOC) in the laboratory marketplace
- USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FISI) addressed our membership regarding their lab accreditation programs and the impact of COVID-19
- Established a new dietary supplements working group to address the health and safety of these supplements in the marketplace
- Collaborated with the Center for Devices and Radiological Health’s (CDRH) Standards and Conformity Assessment Program (S-CAP), which encourages medical device sponsors to use FDA-recognized voluntary consensus standards in their product submissions. ACIL offered input to the ASCA Pilot, an accreditation scheme that capitalizes upon the role that standards play in regulatory science and practice and would potentially reduce the burden of individual premarket submissions when manufacturers rely on testing completed by ASCA- accredited testing laboratories
- Drafted a Guide to a Harmonized National Cannabis Laboratory Accreditation Program to provide inputs into a consistent approach to each state’s accreditation process by developing the basic quality requirements for the accreditation of laboratories testing raw cannabis plant material, cannabis-based products, or hemp across the nation
Policies and Practices (P2) Conference – Specific issues addressed include:

- FSMA Implementation
- Hemp Interim Final Rule
- USDA’s AMS and FSIS Laboratory Accreditation Programs
- Update on Pesticide Residue in Food Rule
- FDA Feedback on QC Issue

Annual Meeting – CEO-level leadership and other business education including:

- Continued visits to Capitol Hill and federal agencies
- Top 10 Non-Conformities in FSS Testing Laboratories

Monthly Webinar Series – Education and training in business practices open to all member company employees, which includes timely topics such as human resources, financial management and technology solutions for laboratories

ACIL Newsletter – A synopsis of timely and critical information for the independent laboratory industry, highlighting ACIL’s effort to protect and grow the market

Networking

ACIL provides several opportunities each year to network with peers, agency stakeholders, customers and industry experts resulting in long-term business relationships that provide direct benefits to member companies. Some of these opportunities include:

- Annual Meeting – Traditionally in October
- P2 Conference – Traditionally in March
- Section Meetings – Professionally facilitated monthly conference calls and meetings with peers from food sciences laboratories

Laboratory Support Services (Providing Fee-for-Service Value)

- Professional liability & general liability insurance program
- Complimentary human resources consulting
- Laboratory referral service, generating leads for new business
- Seal of Excellence, providing a framework to improve customer service
- Independence Mark, the only program certifying independent laboratories to a set of ACIL-established independence criteria