



Newsletter

March 2023

Hello all, welcome to the latest Society Newsletter! I Hope everyone's doing well amidst the crazy and unexpected weather that the country (and world, in general) has been experiencing. We have the PITTCON conference taking place soon in person, finally! Read on for the details...

~Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor

President's message

Submitted by Zac Schultz, Society President

It is already March; the year seems to be flying by. A lot is going on and I hope Coblenz members can participate in a number of upcoming activities.

If you are going to Pittcon, there are several events to pay attention to. The **Williams-Wright Award Symposium**, recognizing **Craig Prater**, will be on Monday morning. Craig starts the day off early with his award lecture, "The Emergence of Super-resolution Photothermal Infrared Spectroscopy" and is followed by an international line-up of experts discussing diverse applications of infrared spectroscopy and imaging. I hope to see people there!

And if you are at Pittcon, we have planned an **informal, no-host networking event** at Iron Hill Brewery, Monday evening of Pittcon beginning at 7:00 pm. Come by and say hello. The Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) has tagged along and is holding its early career and SAS student event at the same location. It should be a good time to see old friends and make new ones.

The NY/NJ SAS, NE SAS, and Coblenz-sponsored **3-Minute Thesis** event is back this month. On March 16, approximately 20 students will be presenting their research with the opportunity to earn an oral presentation at SciX up for grabs. This is the continuation of last year's effort, and special thanks to Mike George (Coblenz) and John Wasyluk (SAS) for keeping this going this year. I hope people will participate in the online event.

The mentoring mission of Coblenz is also in full swing. Online **Speed Mentoring** is happening April 3rd. Thank you to Jim Rydzak for keeping this program going. This is a great opportunity for all the members of our community to interact. As of writing, there is still space for mentors and mentees to sign up. See our [mentoring page](#) for details.

Shortly after Pittcon, Coblenz is sponsoring a symposium at the **Spring ACS Meeting** in Indianapolis on "Bridging the Gap: Using Gas-Phase and Cluster Studies to Model the Dynamics of Complex Systems". I encourage you to check out this session if you are at the ACS meeting. On a related topic, ISMS is in June. Check out the ISMS [website](#) for more details. Registration for ISMS is now open.

Remember, if you are organizing a meeting on a topic supported by the Coblenz Society, let us know. We want to support our members.

Congratulations to **Peter Griffiths** on being named the **2023 Lippincott Award** winner. We are excited to celebrate his accomplishments at SciX this fall. As always, I appreciate all the efforts involved in nominating, selecting, and celebrating outstanding vibrational spectroscopists.

Speaking of SciX, this fall marks the 50th conference. The FACSS Governing Board is looking to feature historical items that have contributed to the conference. If you have ideas or items that you think might contribute to this display, please let us know.

The year is off and running, and I look forward to seeing members at these events. Please feel free to let me know how the Society is doing. I continue to invite anyone interested in becoming more involved in the society to reach out to me or one of our board members. I look forward to keeping everyone informed about the Society's activities in the coming months.



2023 Lippincott Award Winner
Dr. Peter R. Griffiths
Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of
Chemistry, University of Idaho



2023 Coblenz Award Winner
Prof. Dr. Wei Xiong
Professor and Kent Wilson Faculty Scholar,
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,
University of California, San Diego

2023 Coblentz Award Announcement

As first announced last month, the recipient of this year's Coblentz Award is **Prof. Wei Xiong**. Wei is a Full Professor and Kent Wilson Faculty Scholar in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego. Wei received his B.S. degree from Peking University, China, in 2006. He then joined Prof. Martin Zanni's group at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and completed his Ph.D. degree in 2011. At Madison, Wei focused on developing novel 2D vibrational spectroscopy (transient 2D IR and heterodyne 2D SFG spectroscopy) to study molecules on solid-state material surfaces. Wei then moved to the University of Colorado, Boulder, and JILA, in 2011, where he worked with Prof. Margaret Murnane and Henry Kapteyn to develop the table-top XUV source for ultrafast measurements and time-resolved photoelectron spectroscopy for nanoparticles. He joined the faculty at the University of California, San Diego in 2014.

At UCSD, Wei's research focuses on using and developing ultrafast nonlinear spectroscopic and imaging tools to reveal molecular structures and dynamics of materials, including ultrafast dynamics of polaritonic systems, guest molecule adsorptions in self-assembled materials, femtosecond charge transfer dynamics on organic material interfaces. Specifically, he has pioneered the field of molecular polaritonics, where he applied multidimensional spectroscopy to reveal the underlying mechanisms of how molecular systems under strong coupling to photonic modes can modify chemical reactions. He has also developed hyperspectral vibrational imaging techniques to reveal microscopic molecular structures and mesoscopic morphology in materials, interfaces, and biological tissues.

Wei has received several awards, including the Sloan Fellowship, the NSF CAREER award, the AFOSR Young Investigator Program Award, DARPA Young Faculty Award, DARPA Director's Fellow, and PHYS/JPC Lectureship Award.

The Coblentz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist under the age of 40. This award is the Society's original award (first awarded in 1964). For more information and a list of previous winners, visit our [website](#).

2023 Lippincott Award Announcement

The 2023 Ellis R. Lippincott Award will be presented to **Peter Griffiths**, Professor and Chair Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, University of Idaho, USA. He is recognized for unique achievements and significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy. The award will be presented at SciX 2023 in Sparks, Nevada.

Peter Griffiths was born in England and spent the first 25 years of his life there. He received his doctorate in Physical Chemistry from Oxford University, UK, and spent two years doing postdoctoral research at the University of Maryland, USA, under the supervision of Ellis Lippincott. After brief stints with Digilab, USA, and Sadtler Research Labs, USA, he joined the faculty of Ohio University, USA, reaching the rank of Distinguished Professor. He moved to the University of California, Riverside, USA, before accepting the chairmanship of the Chemistry Department of the University of Idaho, USA, from which he retired in 2008.

His principal research area has been analytical vibrational spectroscopy with particular emphasis on FT-IR spectroscopy. Among the topics that his research group has worked on are diffuse reflection spectroscopy, open-path atmospheric monitoring, and the interface of FT-IR spectrometers with various types of chromatographs (GC, HPLC and SFC).

He has co-authored over 300 papers and has written, co-authored, or edited eleven books on these topics. He taught in a week-long course on the interpretation of IR and Raman spectra for over 30 years and acted as a consultant to several companies and organizations.

The Ellis R. Lippincott Award is presented annually to an outstanding vibrational spectroscopist. It is co-sponsored by the Coblentz Society, the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, and Optica (formerly OSA). The award is presented in memory of Professor Ellis R. Lippincott to scientists who have made significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy as judged by their influence on other scientists. For more information and a list of previous winners, visit our [website](#).

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