



Newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to the February Coblentz Society newsletter! Let's get started.....

~Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor

President's message

Submitted by Zac Schultz, Society President

Greetings Coblentz Society! The year is quickly getting moving and activities are picking up.

Pittcon is next month in Philadelphia. In addition to presenting the Williams-Wright Award to Craig Prater and the associated award symposium, several members are presenting short courses, and we are looking into some kind of Coblentz member event (editor's note – see Pittcon section below). Keep your eyes on your email as we figure out how we can bring our members together at this spring meeting.

Following Pittcon, there is 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" that we are sponsoring. If you are planning to attend this meeting, we encourage you to check out this session. Also, if you are organizing a meeting on a topic supported by the Coblentz Society, let us know. We want to support our members.

Congratulations to Wei Xiong (UCSD) on being named the 2023 Coblentz Award winner. We are excited to celebrate his accomplishments. In addition to congratulating the winner, I also want to thank all the people who take time to nominate candidates, write letters in support, and serve on the selection committees. There is a lot of work that goes into awards, by the winners to distinguish themselves and by those who volunteer to recognize the awardees. I appreciate all the efforts involved.

We are trying to build on recent successes. We plan to continue the graduate student research exchanges, "Elevator talk Zoom Symposium", in collaboration with New England and NY/NJ SAS sections. These are great ways for students to network and share their research. Please stay tuned for future announcements regarding these events.

There is a lot going on in the next couple months, and I hope to see members at some of 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.

Welcome to our new members!

Regular:

Natalie Belsey (National Physical Laboratory)
Dimitrios Tsikritsis (National Physical Laboratory)

2023 Student Awards - Nomination Deadline: February 28, 2023!!

The Coblenz Society is still continuing to accept nominations for the 2023 Coblenz Student Awards and William G. Fateley Award, but there is only one day left! Get those nomination packages ready for outstanding students in vibrational spectroscopy and send them out soon. For details, go to the Society website (<https://www.coblenz.org/awards/>).

2023 Coblenz Award Announcement

It is the Society's pleasure to announce that **Wei Xiong** is the 2023 winner of the Coblenz Award. The Coblenz 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). Wei is Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry and a Kent Wilson Faculty Scholar at the University of California, San Diego. Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will feature a more extended bio of Professor Xiong and his research accomplishments!

Deadline!! NY/NJ SAS, NE SAS, & Coblenz Graduate Student Slam Presentations

We are pleased to announce, based on last year's two very successful Graduate Student Slam Presentations (aka. Elevator Talks or 3-minute Thesis Presentation) we are doing a repeat performance for 2023! Graduate students from around the world are invited to provide a 3-minute summary of their research particularly focused on vibrational spectroscopy. We invite topics ranging from biomedical applications to forensics to space exploration, to instrument development and any other areas with a spectroscopy focus.

This webinar will feature up to 20 speakers and will be followed by a 30-minute open Q&A session. This provides an excellent networking opportunity for Ph.D. students and a great showcase for talent in spectroscopy. Last year this event culminated in a sponsored session at SciX 2022 for the winning presentations and it is our intention that this will be repeated in 2023. The event will be held on March 16th at 12 noon EDT; **the abstract submission deadline is March 6th!**

More information may be found [here](#). Abstracts may be submitted [here](#). Watch the event live on Zoom [here](#).

Pittcon 2023 – It's almost here!

After two years of the virtual format, PITTCON will finally return in person March 18-22, 2023, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA. The Williams-Wright Award will be presented to **Craig Prater** of Photothermal Spectroscopy Corp at the traditional award symposium. Non-traditionally, the symposium will be held first thing Monday morning, so make your travel plans accordingly! Craig has a great line-up of speakers and talks:

Ferenc Borondics - Principal Beamline Scientist, SMIS beamline, SOLEIL Synchrotron - Infrared spectromicroscopy at and below the diffraction limit

Rohit Reddy - professor/cancer researcher at University of Houston - Tissue Segmentation using Optical Photothermal Mid-infrared Spectroscopic Imaging and Machine Learning

Roy Goodacre - Professor of Biological Chemistry at University of Liverpool - Making sense of microbial systems at the single cell level using simultaneous Raman and infrared spectroscopy.

Andrea Centrone - Project Leader at NIST - Nanoscale IR Spectroscopy: From Recent Technical Advances to Nanoscale Mapping and Identification of Metal Soaps in Oil Paints

Craig Prater - Photothermal Spectroscopy Corp - The Emergence of Super-resolution Photothermal Infrared Spectroscopy

More details on the talks may be found at this [link](#).

We will be holding an informal, no-host members **networking event** at Iron Hill Brewery, Monday evening beginning at 7:00. Iron Hill Brewery is about a 5-minute walk from the convention center. More information about the venue may be found [here](#). We look forward to everyone stopping by to meet up with old friends.

Also make plans to stop by the Society's booth **1948** to catch up with old friends and see what's happening in the Society.

Speed Mentoring is Back!

The Coblentz Society is providing a virtual speed mentoring event on April 3rd at 11:45 a.m. EDT. Find out what it's like to work in different industrial, academic, and government areas. Mentors will offer views on what it is like to work in their business and answer questions from the mentees.

Reviews of our live mentoring events have been very positive, but we reach a small audience at conferences. Take advantage of this virtual event! Whether you'd like to be a mentor or a mentee - click [here](#) to sign-up!

Note: we are always looking for more mentors. Please consider serving your Society in this manner. Contact [Jim Rydzak](#) for more information.

Job Board!

The Coblentz Society now has an active job board! If you have an open position, please send the information to [Ellen Miseo](#) and/or [Mary Carrabba](#) and we will post it on the board. After the position is filled, please let us know. Any posting older than 4 months will be automatically removed. We can also accommodate "Positions Sought" in an anonymous format, so send us your job-seeking information.

News from the Society Office

Yet another reminder, 2023 is the 50th anniversary of FACSS/SciX. A historical display celebrating the milestone is planned for the exhibit hall. Our Society has formed an ad hoc committee to prepare a Coblenz contribution for this display at SciX; if you'd like to volunteer, please contact the office.

Speaking of SciX, in cooperation with SAS's education efforts, the Coblenz Society is also seeking proposals for short courses to be taught at SciX 2023. See the SciX website for current course offerings; if you are interested in providing a *complimentary* course, email [Ellen Miseo](mailto:Ellen.Miseo).

~ Mary Carrabba and Savitha Panikar