



# Newsletter

July 2021

Welcome to the late July edition of the Coblentz Society's Newsletter. Hopefully, everyone is starting to make plans to attend SciX 2021 in Providence. SciX is also the Coblentz Society's Annual Meeting. If you haven't yet checked out our new website, make certain to visit it soon. While you're there, please make certain your membership dues are up to date.

~ Savitha Panikar, Editor

## President's Message

Contributed by Ellen Miseo

Now that the new website is launched, we are working on the booth. At SciX, be prepared to see the next piece of the Society's rebranding. Based on what we are doing, I think it will set the Society's image. We are also redoing polo shirts and T-shirts. If you want one of the old ones, go to the store and purchase one now! Otherwise wait until SciX to see the new ones. We promise size inclusivity and we will not lose "Spectroscopists Do It with Frequency and Intensity". It will look a little different.

We are running a membership campaign and you may have seen ads on LinkedIn for the Society. We are not sure how well this will work but it will certainly put the Society into the minds of potential members. We also are running ads on YouTube targeting YouTube channels that we know and trust. If you know of a YouTube channel that has credible spectroscopy information, please let us know for both resources and for targeted marketing.

Again, our members are active in promoting the Society and education. On July 27 and 28th we are co-sponsoring and co-organizing "**Molecular Spectroscopy in Practice: Raman and IR Imaging Theory and Applications**". Our members who will be presenting are **Peter Larkin, Zachary Schultz, Rohit Bhargava**, and **Yukihiro Ozaki**. For more information and to register click [here](#).

I mentioned last month that several of our members were working with Wiley to produce webinars and now they are available on-demand. Look for them.

As to SciX we are still committed to significant participation. The Society will be sponsoring a number of events - look for information next month.

Finally, on the membership front, we have had a record number of new members join us since our last newsletter. To the 14 new members (listed below), welcome to the Society!

Finally, a request, with the launch of the new website, we need to keep the new announcements current. If you know of something happening where a Society member is involved, please let [Mary](#) know so she can put it on the website.

## **Welcome to our new members!**

### **Lifetime:**

Kristine Saffrin (PerkinElmer)

### **Regular:**

Chris Dyer (Cranfield University)

Julia Gala de Pablo (University of Tokyo)

Sonja Gamsjaeger (Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Osteology)

Jose Luis Gonzalez (Universidad de Guadalajara)

Shweta Hegde (SABIC)

Mark Henson (Takeda)

Bruce McCord (Florida International University)

Antony Nzioka (Silla Entech Co., Ltd)

Asal Peydaei (Nationalmuseum)

Scott Sayre (Arizona State University)

Daniel Tabor (Texas A&M University)

Stephanie Zaleski (California State University East Bay)

### **Student:**

Taylor Payne (Ohio State University)

## **Awards!**

### ***The Williams-Wright Award***

The Coblenz Society is pleased to announce that **Dr. Paul Pudney** of Unilver has been selected as the recipient of the 2022 Williams-Wright Award. The Williams-Wright Award is presented annually to an industrial spectroscopist who has made significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy while working in industry. The award will be officially conferred during the Williams-Wright Award Symposium at the Pittsburgh Conference, which will be held March 6-10, 2022, in Atlanta, Georgia USA. The 2022 Award Symposium will feature an award address by Paul and talks from his invited speakers. To read more, click [here](#).

### ***Coblenz Student Awards***

As announced last month, this year's winners of the Coblenz Student Awards are [Isabella Goodenough](#) (Eric Borguet, Temple University), [Paulina Koziol](#) (Tomasz Wrobel, Jagiellonian University, Poland), and [Chris Warkentin](#) (Renee Frontiera, University of Minnesota). [Pauline Koziol](#) has also been recognized with the 2021 William G. Fateley Student Award.

[Paulina Koziol](#) is currently in her third year of PhD studies of Biophysics at the Faculty of Physics, Astronomy and Applied Computer Science of Jagiellonian University in Krakow. After MSc studies, Paulina worked for a year as a research technician within a project led by Prof. Tomasz P. Wrobel and focused on the development of histopathological models for cancer detection based on IR imaging and machine learning. She is currently

in a PhD program under Prof. Wrobel's supervision. She is working on classification models, mostly focusing on pancreatic cancer, including translation from FT-IR to a faster QCL modality. Paulina has also done extensive work on denoising influence on IR spectroscopic data quality and classification results. This research resulted in a series of optimization-themed publications for both FT-IR and QCL imaging. Currently, her work interest is leaning towards implementing polarized infrared light to determine macromolecular orientation and level of ordering, mainly for fibrous tissue, which may play a significant role in cancer microenvironment.

Apart from her studies, Paulina works at the SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre in Krakow, where she is a part of a team of beamline scientists constructing the Solaris Advanced IR (SOLAIR) beamline. She is also PI of her own research grant from the National Science Centre Poland entitled "Improving 3D macromolecule orientation determination based on polarized IR chemical imaging by optimization of scattering removal algorithms".

***Isabella Goodenough*** is a graduate research assistant earning her PhD in physical and analytical chemistry with a focus in vibrational spectroscopy of complex nanoporous materials. She is involved in a collaborative project between the University of Pittsburgh and Temple University, which seeks to develop superior sorbents capable of capturing and degrading hazardous chemical agents, such as chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals. Outside of the laboratory, Isabella serves as the Chair of the Philadelphia Younger Chemists' Committee (YCC) and is a founding member of the Eastern US YCC partnership.

***Christopher Warkentin*** Chris Warkentin is currently a Ph.D. candidate in experimental physical chemistry at the University of Minnesota. His research interests center on using surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS) to investigate the dynamics of plasmon-driven chemistry in a variety of plasmon-molecule systems. Chris' work uses ultrafast (ps) time-resolved SERS and steady-state (ms) SERS to understand both the fast energy-transfer dynamics that occur on the timescale of plasmon decay and the slower reaction kinetics that result from the cumulative effects of continuous irradiation. Chris is currently an Institute on the Environment Renewable Energy Commercialization Fellow, an active member of the Analysis and Compliance committee for the Departments of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science Joint Safety Team, and involved with various student groups within the department.

Congratulations once again to all our student awardees! Be certain to read more about them on our website by clicking on their names!

## **Call for Nominations**

### ***2022 Coblentz Award***

The Coblentz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist under the age of 40. Nominations for the 2022 award were due by July 15<sup>th</sup> but will be accepted through the end of July. If you thought you were too late, there's still a few more days to get those nominations in! More information may be found on the Society's [website](#).

### ***2022 Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award***

Selected by an independent scientific committee, the ***[Emerging Leader in Molecular Spectroscopy Award](#)*** recognizes the achievements and aspirations of a talented young molecular spectroscopist who has

made strides early in his or her career toward the advancement of molecular spectroscopy techniques and applications. The winner must be within 10 years of receiving his or her Ph.D. The submission deadline for the 2022 award is December 3, 2021.

## **ICAVS 2021**

The 11th International Conference on Advanced Vibrational Spectroscopy ([\*\*ICAVS 11\*\*](#)) **will be held virtually** August 23-26, 2021. Two of our Society members are presenting plenary talks. *Kathleen Gough* of the University of Manitoba (Canada) will be speaking on Polarized Infrared Spectroscopy of Collagen from Nano-scale Fibrils to Tissues and Scaffolds. *Bayden Wood* of Monash University (Australia) will present a talk titled 'A Spectroscopic Investigation into Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2.'

Other Coblenz Society members have also been invited to present their work - *Francois Lagugné-Labarthe* of Western University (Canada), *Young Mee Jung* of Kangwon National University (Korea), *Jürgen Popp* of Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology (Germany), *Boris Mizaikoff* of Ulm University (Germany), *Yukihiro Ozaki* of Kwansei-Gankui University (Japan), *Francesca Palombo* of University of Exeter (UK), *Ishan Barman* of Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering (USA), and *Yukio Furukawa* of Waseda University (Japan). All our participating members will make it a program worth participating in. For more info and to register click [here](#).

## **Travel and Childcare grant applications due soon!**

The Society has travel grants designed to assist conference attendees in defraying costs for travel and childcare. The application deadline is August 15 for fall and winter conferences. Those interested should request an application from the Society's [office](#).

## **Bulletin Board**

Looking to sell or donate a used instrument? One of our members in the UK is looking. Please contact [Derek Robson](#) for details.

Any "dinosaurs" or small libraries out there looking for paper copies of *Applied Spectroscopy*? Contact the Coblenz Society's [office](#).

## **Coblenz Society Merch**

If you noticed the new Coblenz Society logo and liked it, there will be new logo styled polos and t-shirts coming soon to the virtual store. In the meantime, there are still some vintage tees with the classic logo that has been iconic of our Society for decades. You can select from an assortment of colors and styles, so get them for all times sake before they run out!

The Society is also offering a discount on our classic Desk Book series. Books may be purchased individually for \$80 or \$350 for the five-volume set. See the education page on our website for more details or go directly to our [store](#) to purchase.

## **Final thoughts.....**

In closing, join our LinkedIn group to get our latest news bytes or follow us on Twitter @CoblentzSociety to show your support for the Coblentz Society. We're always looking forward to hearing of all the fun applications with spectroscopy in school, work, and elsewhere.

~ Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor