



# Newsletter

**December 2021**

Welcome to December's newsletter – it's hard to believe that 2021 is quickly drawing to a close and that we have put out a monthly newsletter every month this year! Thanks to all our members who have contributed material – without your efforts we would not have been able to accomplish this feat. If you haven't contributed, please consider doing so in 2022.

In the meantime, sit back with a beverage of your choice and read about some of the past and upcoming Society events!

*~ Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor and Mary Carrabba, Virtual Office Manager*

## **President's Message**

*Contributed by Zac Schultz*

December has arrived, marking the end of this year and hope for the year to come. We saw a partial return to in-person conferences, with what many would describe as successful in-person Sci-X and EAS meetings. We saw the rebranding of the Society and the launch of our updated website. We have grown our mentoring initiatives and look forward to supporting the vibrational spectroscopy community throughout the diverse career phases of our members. While everything must be viewed in the context of COVID, there is much that we accomplished and exciting opportunities upcoming.

Over the past year, we have learned to use new technology platforms to communicate and reach out to each other. Our hope for the coming year is to leverage these platforms for inclusive programming while also supporting in-person opportunities where they are possible.

One exciting example is the upcoming Student Conference in collaboration with the New York & New England SAS sections being organized by Michael George and John Wasyluk. This virtual meeting offers an opportunity to include our members in the UK (and elsewhere) who were not able to join us for in-person meetings this year. See the announcement later in the Newsletter for more details.

We are working to re-ignite the collaborations that have existed between Coblentz and the Infrared and Raman Discussion Group (IRDG) in the UK to foster our common goals of advancing vibrational spectroscopy. This year we attempted to sponsor the Craver Award winner to present at the IRDG Christmas Meeting; but alas, new restrictions in the UK accompanying the omicron variant canceled the meeting, delaying our efforts for another year. Nonetheless, we look forward to future collaborations with the IRDG and other like-minded societies.

In the coming year, we hope to continue to make progress in supporting activities at in-person meetings and through virtual events. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with SAS and *Spectroscopy* magazine to organize and deliver online presentations. COVID permitting, we plan to increase our support and presence at the conferences we attend and where we present awards: PittCon, ISMS, SciX, and EAS.

In closing, I hope everyone has a chance to relax and enjoy the upcoming holidays. I particularly want to thank all the volunteers that make the Society run and look forward to continuing initiatives in the coming year.

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

### ***Lifetime:***

Naihao Chiang (University of Houston)  
Christian Pellerin (University of Montreal)

### ***Regular:***

Adam Malcom (Solis Applied Science)  
Bridget O'Donnell (Horiba)

## **Chemometrics Report from SciX**

*Contributed by Peter Harrington*

The SciX 2021 Annual Meeting was exciting and informative for chemometrics. A distinguished chemometrician (and Society member), **Roy Goodacre**, won the prestigious FACSS Charles Mann Award. Robert Spiers from John Kalivas's group won the SAS Undergraduate Student Award. Both awards were related to quantification by using multivariate chemometrics. There were five chemometric symposia, the first was *Bringing it All Back Home: Data Integration Through Chemometrics*, organized by Federico Marini of the University of Rome "La Sapienza". **Pete Harrington** (Society Governing Board member) presented on the ISO Standard 11843-2 for the statistical determination of detection limits. The second symposium was *Current Applications of Chemometrics* organized by the Section Chair, **Pete Harrington** of Ohio University. *Chemometrics for Food and Drug Analysis* was organized by Mengliang Zhang of Middle Tennessee State University. *Chemometric Opportunities in the Forensic Sciences* was organized by **Brooke Kammrath** (Society member) of University of New Haven. The final symposium was organized by SAS President (and Society member) **Karl Booksh** on *Chemometric Theory and Practice* that addressed the important topic of data discretization.

## **The First Student meeting of the Coblenz Society and NE & NY Society for Applied Spectroscopy (SAS) Sections: Call for Abstracts**

*Contributed by The Coblenz Society and the New England & New York Sections of SAS*

February 27, 2022, at 12:00 noon EST Virtual Meeting

The Coblenz Society, New York SAS and New England SAS Sections are hosting a conference for presentations by PhD students from across the world working in all fields of vibrational spectroscopy. We hope that this will provide an opportunity to showcase developments at the leading edge of vibrational spectroscopy and will cover applications of vibrational spectroscopy over a wide range of

disciplines. Presenters do not necessarily have to be a member of either The Coblenz Society, NE, or NY Sections of SAS. That means that the conference is open to all!

Researchers will have three minutes to present a compelling oration on their work and its significance. This will be a one-hour virtual meeting followed by a 30-minute open discussion. The idea behind this is to provide wide dissemination and exposure of work and stimulate discussion. It is also hoped that this type of presentation will increase researchers' academic, presentation, and research communication skills, and their capacity to effectively explain a research topic in three minutes and in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience.

Student applicants should request an application form from the Coblenz Society's [office](#). Please send your completed form including a title and short abstract (no more than 250 words) by January 21, 2022. There will be an award for the best presentation.

Please submit your form, or if you have any questions, to John Wasylyk ([john.wasylyk@bms.com](mailto:john.wasylyk@bms.com)) or Mike George ([mike.george@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:mike.george@nottingham.ac.uk)).

### **Call for Nominations – Flygare Award Lectures**

The International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy (ISMS) is calling for nominations for Flygare Award Lectures, which will showcase outstanding contributions in molecular spectroscopy by early career independent scientists. The first Flygare Award Lectures were presented at the 70th ISMS meeting and are given out biannually to a maximum number of two outstanding young molecular spectroscopists. To be eligible, nominees must have received their PhD between November 15, 2011 and November 14, 2016, must have presented at least one previous talk at the Symposium, and must be available to deliver a lecture during a plenary session at the 75th Symposium (June 20-24, 2022). Candidates will be evaluated based on their independent contributions relative to the time that has elapsed since their PhD.

Nominations must include a CV, a one-page summary of the nominee's independent research contributions, and up to three letters of recommendation (submitted separately). Self-nominations are encouraged, but nominations by senior molecular spectroscopists are equally welcome. For full consideration, all materials should be submitted by email to Birgit at [coordinator@isms.illinois.edu](mailto:coordinator@isms.illinois.edu) by December 31, 2021.

### **T-Shirts!!!**

As part of the Society's rebranding effort, new t-shirts have been produced. Hint to PIs, they'd make great Christmas gifts for your research group. Visit the Society's [store](#) to purchase yours now. As always, shipping is free for members. And don't miss out on our old merchandise – check out our store for discounted prices while supplies last!

### **In closing .....**

Have a joyful, peaceful, and restful holiday season. Of course, if you'd like to spend your down time writing up something for our January Newsletter, that would be wonderful too. Happy Holidays!

*~ Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor and Mary Carrabba, Virtual Office Manager*