



# Newsletter

**February 2022**

Happy February, all! Firstly, nominations for the Coblentz Student Awards and William G. Fateley Award are due February 28, 2022, so please remember to send in your nominations for eligible student researchers soon. Read through the newsletter for details.

By now, you must have received the news flash email regarding the International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy (ISMS) accepting abstract submissions for the 75th meeting to be held June 20-24, 2022, in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. The deadline for these submissions is March 1, 2022, so make sure to submit your abstracts soon.

The results from the Society's 2021 Governing Board elections are out – continue reading to know the outcome. I extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our governing board.

Lastly, do consider the Coblentz Society's Newsletter and website if you wish to advertise a position or are looking for one. The Society aims to enthusiastically promote its members for professional opportunities that come our way, but we cannot do it without your help. So do let us know.

*~ Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor*

## **Job Board!**

Our Job Board is live! Several positions of interest to Society members have been posted. 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 job is filled, please let us know. Any posting older than four months will be automatically removed.

We also are working on a "Positions Sought" portion, so start preparing your information to post once that part is live.

## **President's Message**

*Contributed by Zac Schultz*

This month, I would like to call your attention to several upcoming opportunities for members to be involved and participate in.

The International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy put out a call for abstracts this month. The conference will be held June 20-24, at the University of Illinois. The Coblenz Society is interested in increasing our participation at this meeting and hopes to generate sufficient interest to sponsor a contributed session on vibrational spectroscopy. Abstracts and details can be found at: <http://isms.illinois.edu/>.

The Joint SAS-Coblenz Virtual Student meeting is happening at the end of the month (2/27). I encourage everyone to tune in and hear some of our students describe their research. We hope to have 20 students present 3 minutes each, followed by a discussion. We hope to pilot this kind of event to promote student involvement in the societies.

With Pittcon being canceled, we are looking for an alternate venue to recognize and honor our Williams-Wright Award winner, **Paul Pudney**. Rest assured, a plan is in the works and more details will be announced in the coming weeks.

A short month and a short note. As always, I welcome input and suggestions of things you would like to see our Society involved in.

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

### **Regular:**

Amanda Frank (SACO AEI Polymers)  
Calum Welsh (Mettler-Toledo)

### **Student:**

Sayantana Mahapatra (University of Illinois Chicago)  
Sevde Dogruer (Florida International University)  
Miharu Koh (University of Utah)

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

### **Research Scramble: Elevator Talks by 20 Select Graduate Students**

**NEW DATE: MARCH 3, 2022**, at 12:00 noon EST Virtual Meeting

Twenty graduate students will be presenting three-minute 'elevator' speeches on their research. Afterwards, there will be a 30-minute open Q&A session. Students will present concise highlights of their research which encompasses broad range of spectroscopy-related studies. The attendees will be treated to topics ranging from spectroscopy in forensics, biologics, food studies, as well as fundamental vibrational research and cutting-edge instrumentation. Prior to the presentations, we will make available the speaker's name, affiliation, graduate advisor, title and abstract.

This event is co-sponsored by The Coblenz Society, The New England and The New York Regional Sections of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. Click [here](#) for more information and Zoom link.

Due to the overwhelming response from graduate students, there will be a second RESEARCH SCRAMBLE in May. Stay tuned for more information!!!

## **Call for Nominations – William G. Fateley and Coblenz Student Awards**

***Nominations for Coblenz Student Awards and the Fateley Student Award are due by February 28<sup>th</sup>!*** Visit the Coblenz website and click on the Honors & Awards tab to start your nomination process.

Need more details? Check last month's newsletter or visit the website.

## **So many opportunities – demystifying career paths for early career spectroscopists**

Are you wondering what career path to pursue once you finish your studies? Or considering switching from the path you have followed so far? Or just wondering what it's like to work in different types of institutions or roles? Then this webinar is for you! The SAS Early Career Interest Group has gathered spectroscopists that represent a wide variety of different career trajectories to discuss their own personal career paths and experiences. This webinar includes spectroscopists representing careers in academia and government institutions, industry, including multi-national corporations, clinical trials management, business development, biotechnology, science communication, sales, and working abroad.

Join Coblenz members **Andrew Whitley, Sam Mabbott, Laura Bush, Rob Lascola, Bridget O'Donnell,** and **Tavis Ezell** along with others while they give 5–7-minute presentations detailing their career so far followed by a panel discussion. Attendees will be able to pose questions to any of the panelists.

***Live webcast February 24, 2022, at 11 am EST***

For more information and to register for this free webcast, go to [www.spectroscopyonline.com/spec\\_d/CP\\_EC](http://www.spectroscopyonline.com/spec_d/CP_EC)

## **Slack!**

*Contributed by Ellen Miseo*

Slack is a communication tool, similar to text messaging. Coblenz has set up a Slack channel and we invite you to join. There is one channel we have set up for mentoring and mentoring questions. We will also set up one for job hunting and are open to other suggestions for topical channels. To join the conversations on Slack please send your preferred email address to Ellen Miseo at [ellen.miseo@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.miseo@gmail.com).

## **Election Results!**

The ballots have been counted and the results are in – congratulations to our two new Governing Board members **Karin Balss** and **Isabella Goodenough!**

**Karin Balss** earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She joined Cordis, a Johnson & Johnson medical device company as a rotational scholar in 2004, where she developed

several spectroscopy-based methods to describe chemical and physical properties of the drug-eluting stent coating. In 2012, she was awarded the Johnson & Johnson Philip B. Hoffman Award, second highest level award at Johnson and Johnson for a spectroscopy-based tool to evaluate in vitro and in vivo samples.

In 2013, she joined Janssen Pharmaceuticals as part of the Advanced Technologies, Technical Operations Group within the supply chain organization. The team provides data analytics, modeling, PAT, and manufacturing and investigation support within the pharmaceutical sector. Her team responsibilities include implementing spectroscopic PAT methods for unit operations in solids manufacturing, cleaning verification, biopharmaceuticals, and cell and gene therapies. She currently leads the implementation of Raman in commercial scale production bioreactors for advanced process control and real time release.

**Isabella Goodenough** earned her Ph.D. in physical and analytical chemistry, with a focus in vibrational spectroscopy of complex nanoporous materials, from Temple University. Her research was part of a larger collaborative project between The University of Pittsburgh and Temple University, which focused on designing superior sorbents capable of capturing and degrading hazardous chemical agents, such as chemical warfare agents, with the goal of engineering protective equipment for military personnel using Metal-Organic Framework (MOF) nanomaterials. Her research developed fundamental insight on the temperature-dependent behavior of MOFs and MOF-analyte systems using in situ FTIR techniques under hostile environments of extreme temperature (100 K to 1400 K) and pressure (10<sup>-9</sup> Torr) to understand the adsorption, transport, and desorption phenomena in MOF-analyte systems. This research was recently recognized in 2021 with the 2021 Coblenz Student Award.

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. Her mission is to build a network of motivated young professionals that will empower and unite chemists in the community. She is passionate about pursuing social justice through community engagement and strives to advance accessibility, representation, and equality in STEM disciplines.

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

As part of the Society's rebranding effort, new t-shirts have been produced. 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 .....**

Thanks for reading! Stay well and stay safe!

~ Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor