



# Newsletter

June 2022

Hello all! Welcome to the Coblentz Society's June newsletter. The winners of several of the Society's awards have been announced; read on to know who they are.

~Savitha Panikar, Newsletter Editor

## **President's Message**

*Contributed by Zac Schultz*

With summer upon us, I hope people can get out a bit and perhaps experience an in-person conference, family trip, or a vacation. There are several events that seem to be happening, providing opportunities for people to be out and about. As people become more comfortable, it is nice to see people and reconnect after the height of the pandemic.

At a recent in-person conference, I was talking with a lapsed Coblentz member who was interested in becoming more involved in the Society. This got me thinking about what members can do as part of the Society. The Society always needs members to serve on committees. Our awards are decided by individual committees, all volunteers, who do a great job recognizing the achievements in vibrational spectroscopy. Our mentoring program continues to grow, and recent successes with virtual speed mentoring suggest a demand for this service. Serving as a mentor or a mentee, this program has space for all career stages. The Society is also actively pursuing educational programs, from webinars to short courses and workshops. Here we are looking to leverage the expertise of our members, and we welcome new ideas.

Most importantly, I think it is important to remember that we pursue the activities our members are interested in. If there is a need that the Society can help with, we need our members to let us know. I encourage anyone interested in becoming more involved to reach out to me or other members of the board of managers; we are happy to help you get involved.

I also want to highlight a few recent events. The Society held the second Joint SAS-Coblentz Virtual Student Meeting on May 26th. Again, we had participation from a diverse group of scientists connecting through a common interest in spectroscopy. This event is an example of initiatives led by our members.

The International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy (ISMS) is beginning as I write this (June 20-24). We are recognizing the 2021 Coblentz Award winner, Prof. Dr. Sandra Luber, and exhibiting. In addition to presenting the Coblentz Award and a Plenary Lecture by Prof. Luber, there is a Coblentz Society sponsored contributed session.

Looking ahead, please pay attention to the upcoming deadlines for SciX 2022. Poster abstracts are being accepted until Aug. 1. This should be a great conference in Covington, Kentucky, just across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. The 2022 Craver Award winner Wei Min (Columbia) will be presenting a plenary lecture and we hope to see members in person. More info is available at <https://scixconference.org/>.

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

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

### **Regular**

Bisirat Araya (Harrick Scientific Products)  
Henry Everitt (Army Research Lab)  
Carlos Morillo (Jasco, Inc.)

### **Student**

Matthew Berry (University of Strathclyde)  
Jodie Fergusson (University of Strathclyde)  
Samantha McCabe (University of Strathclyde)  
Deben Shoup (Ohio State University)

## **2022 Craver Award Recipient**

Dr. Wei Min, currently Professor of Chemistry at Columbia University, is the proud winner of this year's Craver Award conferred by the Coblenz Society. Among his numerous accomplishments, Dr. Min has made important contributions to the development of Simulated Raman Scattering (SRS) spectroscopy and has employed it to open up a broad range of applications. Further details about Dr. Min and his many accomplishments can be found on the Society website's [Awards Page](#).

## **2022 Coblenz Award Winner**

The Coblenz Society is pleased to announce that **L. Robert Baker** of Ohio State University has been selected as the recipient of the 2022 Coblenz Award. The Coblenz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist and is the Society's original and most prestigious award. Due to delays arising from the COVID-19 situation, the 2022 award will be presented next year, along with the 2023 award, venue(s) to be determined. More details about Dr. Baker and his accomplishments will be reported in the July Newsletter.

Please note that nominations for the 2023 Coblenz Award are currently being considered and must be received by the July 15, 2022 deadline. More details can be found [here](#).

## **2022 Coblenz Student & Fateley Award Winners**

Hot off the presses! This year's winners of the Coblenz Student Awards are **Lamyaa Almeahmadi** (Igor Lednev, University at Albany, SUNY), **Sayantana Mahapatra** (Nan Jiang, University of Illinois Chicago), **Ethan Perets** (Elsa Yan, Yale University), and **Yamuna Phal** (Rohit Bhargava, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). **Yamuna Phal** has also been recognized with the 2022 William G. Fateley Student Award. Watch for our July Newsletter for more details. Congratulations to all our student awardees!

## **2022 EAS Award for Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy**

The Society is pleased to announce that long-time member (and former Governing Board member) **Dr. Richard Crocombe** is being recognized with the 2022 EAS Award for Outstanding Achievements in Vibrational Spectroscopy. Richard worked on early applications of FT-IR including time-resolved spectroscopy and GC-IR, as well as infrared laser photolysis. Over the years he has worked with Digilab (Bio-Rad), Axsun Technologies, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and PerkinElmer, most recently concentrating on miniature, portable and handheld spectroscopic instruments. He now owns his own consulting company, helping to commercialize new miniature spectroscopic technologies. The award will be presented at EAS this fall; more program details will follow in a future newsletter. To read more about Richard's accomplishments, click [here](#).

## **International Diffuse Reflection Conference (IDRC)**

The Council for Near Infrared Spectroscopy (CNIRS) is pleased to announce that the International Diffuse Reflection Conference (IDRC) will be held this year, from July 30 to August 4, in an on-line format. The intention of the organizing committee is to retain as many of the features of "live" IDRC as possible.

Leading up to the conference, the bulk of communications between organizers, attendees and exhibitors will be on-line. It is therefore important for all interested parties to keep a close eye on the conference [website](#) for relevant announcements.

## **UV-Vis-NIR workshop**

Perkin Elmer is conducting a UV/Vis/NIR spectroscopy workshop in Rochester, NJ on July 11, 2022, which will feature guest speaker, Peter van Nijnatten, Ph.D., R&D Director at OMT Solutions. Get expert advice on solving real-world challenges and learn techniques you can implement in your lab immediately. This workshop is offered both live and digitally. For details on the agenda and to join the workshop, click [here](#).

## **Travel Grants for SciX 2022**

SciX is coming up fast! Don't forget that the Coblenz Society awards Travel and Childcare Grants for early-career professionals to assist in defraying the cost of travel to SciX and other conferences. The application deadline is August 15 for fall and winter conferences and January 15 for spring and summer conferences. For more details, see the Society website's [Grants & Scholarships page](#).

## **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. And don't miss out on our old merchandise –check out our store for discounted prices while supplies last! As always, shipping is free for members.

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

Thanks for reading! Hopefully, everyone is making plans to attend SciX.

~ Savitha Panikar & Mary Carrabba