



Newsletter

January 2024



Welcome to the first Coblentz Society newsletter of 2024! I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season. I'd like to begin the year by recognizing our Society's corporate sponsors for 2024. They will be recognized in our newsletters and other publications going forward. If you'd like to see your company's logo here, please contact the Society's [office](#). I'd also like to recognize that this is the Society's 70th anniversary year!!! Be on the lookout for promotional items advertising this major milestone.

As I was going through my email folder of items for this Newsletter, I happened across an item from Richard Crocombe regarding an upcoming Pittcon symposium *Spectroscopy for Wearables and Human Health*. With little other information provided, I delved into the Pittcon technical program for details and discovered that wearables are a major topic in next month's conference. A quick search of "wearables" in the technical program returned 22 talks! I'll highlight a few that our members are involved with in the Pittcon section of this newsletter, but you may want to check out more for yourself in the complete program online at the Pittcon website. As you may infer, we are still looking for a newsletter editor to replace Savitha – any volunteers?

~Mary Carrabba, Interim Newsletter Editor

President's message

Editor's note: Our Society's president, Luisa Profeta, is part of what is commonly referred to as the sandwich generation. Family obligations have prevented her from writing this month's message. Stay tuned next month when she will highlight Pittcon and other upcoming events.

Welcome to our new members!

Lifetime:

Frosch Torsten (TU Darmstadt)

Regular:

Forrest Empey-Kohl (Jasco, Inc.)

Jun Koshoubu (Jasco Corp.)

Yoshihito Narita (Jasco Corp.)

David Rouison (Kinectrics, Inc.)

Welcome to our new Board of Managers members!

As was mentioned briefly in our last Newsletter, the results of our recent elections are in – congratulations to our newest Board of Managers members **Mary Lewis** and **Barry Lavine**.

Mary Lewis has undergraduate degrees in mathematics and chemistry from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, TX and a Ph.D. from the University of Idaho. Her graduate work, conducted with **Peter Griffiths**, centered around anti-Stokes Raman spectroscopy of high explosives. She defended her dissertation as the mother of five (!) and took a career break as four additional children joined the family. Mary returned to work 6 years ago as a technician at Endress+Hauser and moved to managing the lab during 2020. She works with the R&D group and engineering with design of experiments for new product testing. She also tests customer samples and does project feasibility and presentations for customers. Since her return to the work force, she has had eight publications and been a part of a submitted patent and lead on a second patent.

She has been a member of the ACS for 25+ years and is a lifetime member of both Coblentz and the SAS. Mary is also an active member of Anachem and has served as a governing board delegate to FACSS representing Anachem. Since returning to the “paid” workforce, she has been a judge at various poster sessions, most recently the SAS Sunday poster session at SciX 2023, been an invited speaker at SciX discussing non-traditional career paths and is currently serving on the Lippincott Award selection committee for Coblentz. Welcome aboard, Mary!

Barry K. Lavine is a Regents Professor of Chemistry at Oklahoma State University where he teaches and performs research in analytical chemistry. Lavine’s research interests encompass many aspects of analytical chemistry including mid-infrared and Raman spectroscopy, forensic chemistry, and chemical data science (e.g., pattern recognition, multivariate curve resolution, multivariate calibration, genetic algorithms and other evolutionary techniques). Recently, Lavine’s research in vibrational spectroscopy and forensic chemistry has been the subject of a podcast, “Analytically Speaking,” by *Spectroscopy Magazine*.

Lavine graduated with his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the Pennsylvania State University in 1986. He has published approximately 125 research papers, 23 book chapters, 15 review articles and has edited 3 books. He has been or is on the editorial board of several journals and is also the Assistant Editor of *Chemometrics for Analytical Letters*. Lavine has served as Vice Chair and Chair of the Northern New York section (1997-2004) and the Oklahoma section (2006-2008) of the American Chemical Society. He has been Program Chair of several scientific meetings including the FACSS (1992), Northeast Regional ACS Meeting (1999), and the Pentasectional Meeting of the local Oklahoma Sections of the American Chemical Society (2005). In 2015, Lavine was awarded the Kowalski Prize for the best chemometrics paper by the Journal of Chemometrics and was made a Fellow of the SAS in 2016 and a Fellow of the ACS in 2022. Lavine received the EAS Award in Chemometrics in 2017. Currently, Lavine is Chair of the Chemometrics Technical Section of SAS and is also a member of its Governing Board. Welcome Barry!

Call for Nominations!

2024 Honorary Membership - Nomination Deadline: February 1, 2024

The Society's By-Laws state the following with regards to Honorary Members: *The Board of Management at its discretion, and by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Managers, may elect as Honorary Members of the Society individuals who are deemed to have made outstanding contributions to the field of vibrational spectroscopy or to any other field related to the purposes of the Society.* Nominations are solicited for Honorary Membership in the Society for consideration in the next year. Please send nominations to office@coblenz.org.

2024 Student Awards - Nomination Deadline: February 29, 2024

The Coblenz Society is accepting nominations for the 2024 Coblenz Student Awards and William G. Fateley Award, but there is only a little over one month 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/>).

Pittcon 2024

Register Early!

PITTCOON returns February 24-28, 2024, in sunny San Diego, California. Register before January 18, 2024, to receive a 30% discount on the registration price. The Williams-Wright Award will be presented to **Jun Zhao**, Director of Engineering at Metrohm Spectro, Inc., at the traditional award symposium. The symposium will be held Wednesday morning, so make your travel plans accordingly! Check next month's Newsletter for further details. Also make plans to stop by the Society's booth 1013 to catch up with old friends and see what's happening in the Society. We do have a limited number of free registrations available, so if you're in need, please check in with the Society office.

Short Courses being taught by (or of interest to) Coblenz Society Members:

- Introduction to Quantitative Spectroscopy for Near Infrared and Raman Instrumentation, **Deborah Peru**, DP Spectroscopy and Training, LLC
- Industrial Applications of Raman, Mid-/Near-/Far-Infrared Spectroscopy in Material and Life Sciences, **Heinz Wilhelm Siesler**, University Duisburg-Essen
- Process Analytical Technology: Out of the Lab and Into the Line, **Jim Rydzak**, Specere Consulting
- Handheld Near-Infrared Spectroscopy: Anywhere, Anytime by Anybody, **Heinz Wilhelm Siesler**, University Duisburg-Essen
- Industrial Problem-Solving Using Surface FTIR Techniques, Anthony Parker, A. A. Parker Consulting, LLC

Pittcon Symposia and Sessions on Wearables and Spectroscopy

Spectroscopy for Wearables and Human Health – organized by **Richard Crocombe** (Crocombe Spectroscopic Consulting) – Monday afternoon at 2:30, Room 33C.

- *Photonic Integrated Circuits: Industry Roadmap, Applications, and Use Cases for Spectroscopy*, Pouya Dianat (Optica - formerly Optical Society of America)
- *Optical Spectrometers and Multispectral Sensors in Consumer Goods and Wearables*, **Richard Crocombe** (former Society Board member and Secretary)
- *Everybody will eventually have spectrometers in their homes*, **Bob Messerschmidt** (COR Health and former Coblenz Society President)
- *Silicon Photonics Enabled Wearable Health Sensors*, Ben Ver Steeg (Rockley Photonics)

Member News!

Society member **Juergen Popp**, Scientific Director of the Leibniz Institute of Photonic Technology, Germany and chair for Physical Chemistry at the Friedrich-Schiller University Jena, Germany, was recently interviewed by *The Analytical Scientist*. Read the discussion of clinical spectroscopy's exciting AI-enabled future [here](#).

Coblenz Society–Society for Applied Spectroscopy Three-Minute Thesis Talks

Three-Minute Thesis Student Slam Coming in March 2024!

We are pleased to announce, based on the last three very successful Graduate Student Slam Presentations (a.k.a., Elevator Talks or Three-Minute Thesis Presentations), we are doing a repeat performance for 2024! The first three events resulted in outstanding presentations from across the world with 42% of presentations from USA and Canada with the other 58% from Europe. So far, we have had 56 talks from 11 countries, 29 universities, and one high school. Abstract submission information and form are available [here](#); more information is available [here](#).

News from the Society Office

The Society Office has been in the process of moving from Ashland, Oregon to Napa, California. My apologies for the lengthy response times when it comes to shipping out items from our store. Boxes seem to be moved into new piles every time I turn around. Hopefully, everything will be up and running smoothly in a month or so. In the meantime, please visit the Society's **STORE** and pick up a new t-shirt to advertise your membership in our Society at Pittcon and other events. In honor of our 70th anniversary year, we will also be selling re-branded polo shirts on an individual order basis. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

~ Mary Carrabba